KEEPING STUDENTS SAFE.

THE GUIDE TO KEEPING HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES SAFE - **PART ONE**

PUTTING STUDENT
SAFETY FIRST.

For a long time, universities, colleges and other higher educational facilities were perceived to be safe environments – places where new students could attend to develop academic, social and life skills. However, with publicised threats that the 21st century offers on a global scale, higher educational facilities have become more focused on attendee security. Yet, within the corporate sector, building regeneration has made security a focal point of functional building design for a number of years already, with now higher education facilities following suit, where overall building security has become not merely a requirement, but a necessity.

AN INTRODUCTION TO
SECURITY IN EDUCATION.

So, why has security become such a necessity in this sector? For one, the demand for live news reporting at a global scale has made people in the UK, increasingly aware of the need for advanced security solutions in these institutions. No longer is the promise of an excellent degree programme enough for prospective students and their parents to settle on selecting their college or university of choice. How safe a university is, has become one of the key considerations regarding student recruitment. So much so, that a list of the safest UK universities was added to the Times Higher Education guide.

The number of crimes committed is one measurement of how secure a higher education facility is, but it's perhaps not surprising that a vast majority of universities do not make this type of information readily available. Yet, where a continuous demand for the information exists, persistence can encourage more information to be made publicly available. Bodies such as The Complete University Guide compile yearly tables taken from police data for the type and number of crimes committed in each town where a campus is located.

If security is becoming a distinctive consideration for recruitment, universities and other higher educational facilities are increasingly needing to prove to prospective students and parents, that safety is at the forefront of student life at their institutions.

The regeneration of existing universities has healthy competition with new and emerging educational facilities. As of August 2019, there are 132 registered universities within the UK, with 51 only being introduced from the year 2000 on-wards. With a dramatic increase in competition, how can you ensure your university ranks highly against others?

The good news is that advances in security provide facilities with new, innovative and cost-effective ways to better protect students and staff, but the typical one size fits all method is gradually wearing thin. Your university is unique and so a unique approach is needed to best meet its security needs. Your university needs a physical security plan.

Crime figures around universities can seem concerning. About 20% of student robberies occur in the first few weeks of the academic year, as people get accustomed to their new surroundings, and studies show that 19% of full-time students were victims of crime over a one year period.

A NATIONWIDE SECURITY ISSUE
WITH STUDENT CRIME.

In response to this, many universities implement security measures to help keep both employees, students and the premises themselves safe. This can be an additional expense, and potentially an additional weight on university staff, but this should not outweigh the benefits of prioritising safety and security on university campuses.

Students face an increased risk of crime compared to the general population. Around one-third of the student population become victims of crime during their time at university, which means that universities need to have solid processes and procedures in place to help protect these vulnerable young people. Due to increased costs, students are shopping around more and more when it comes to choosing a place to study. It's no longer a decision simply based on the quality of a facility's academic reputation.

Now, prospective students are interested in what quality of services, and security and safety measures are being considered.

Experts acknowledge that while some universities are taking steps to improve student safety, there is a lack of consistency across the sector. This can prove to be particularly off-putting for international students, who make up 19% of all UK university students, as they want to feel safe in a new country.

A university campus can, and should, feel like a safe place for people. The other side of this issue is that, unfortunately, it can lull people into a false sense of security. This may mean that people leave personal belongings at risk of theft, including electronic items like laptops and smartphones, as well as potentially leaving halls accommodation unsecured when leaving the building.

To mitigate these concerns around personal belongings and criminal damage or theft, many universities have adopted card entry systems, such as speed gates and tripod turnstiles for areas like halls of residence and campus libraries, to limit access to only people who have an activated access card. This can help to reduce outsiders gaining access to secure areas. •••

"Studies show that 19% of full-time students were victims of crime over a one year period with around 20% of student robberies occurring in the first few weeks of the academic year"

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Universities are often composed of a lot of different departments - all of which can require specialist equipment. From expensive machinery and specialised tools to the vast amount of computers, cameras, laptops and other technology that's housed within a university campus it is essential for security to be prioritised in order to keep these valuable items safe.

SECURING THE SAFEST
UNIVERSITIES IN THE UK.

Student safety has become an industry in itself. With those whose role it is to protect educational buildings, the employees that work there and those who attend, innovation in secured entry solutions is key. The Times Higher Education asked a crucial question to students across the country: How do you rank your current university for safety? This study provided information on what assets might contribute to a student's opinion of 'good safety', and why we at Boon Edam are helping facilities achieve a higher safety status.

Data for the Times Higher Education University Safety Survey was taken from students based in 116 universities that cover the United Kingdom. Each person contributing to the study was simply asked to rate the extent to which they believed their university provided them with 'good security'. Topping the rankings was the University of Surrey, while Middlesex University found itself at the bottom. Yet the question still remains - what constitutes 'good security' at a university? The answer may lie in the effective use of entryways.

Every university possesses its own unique challenges regarding safety. Challenges can result from individual campus layouts, location of institutions and environmental factors. Obviously, the more open the campus and facilities are to the general public, the higher the risk of security breaches. Finding security that can not only be unobtrusive in design for students and staff but offer an achievable prevention of unauthorised access can be a difficult balancing act.

Previously only utilised in work places across the country, entryways such as security lanes have been welcomed in all industries. A proven, affordable and easy to use security product makes them a perfect solution for universities that need that extra bit of safety within their buildings.

Perhaps it comes as no surprise then that over 10 universities included in the Times Higher Education security survey use Boon Edam entryway products to help prevent unauthorised access on their campuses. A common denominator of all universities in the top 50% is the installation of security lanes and authorisation products in high activity areas of campuses. Due to their bright design and user friendly technology.

Universities during term time are incredibly busy places, with campus libraries, receptions and sports centres being the highest active areas. Entryways should have the ability to comfortably cope with high levels of traffic, without disrupting user throughput, yet increasing overall security levels.

"We're proud to have products in 43 of the top 100 safest universities in the UK and 189 of their higher education facilities."

THE TIMES TOP UK
SAFEST UNIVERSITIES.

RANK	INSTITUTION	SCORE	RANK	INSTITUTION	SCORE
1	The University of Surrey	86.9%	53	The University of Glasgow	77.7%
4	Lancaster University	85.6%	57	Birmingham City University	77.4%
5	The University of St Andrews	85.5%	58	Teeside University	77.3%
8	Loughborough University	84.2%	59	The University of Liverpool	77.3%
9	The University of York	84.2%	61	The University of Manchester	77.2%
10	The University of Reading	83.6%	64	The University of Sussex	77%
13	The Royal Veterinary College	82.4%	65	Coventry University	77%
15	Bagnor University	82.3%	68	Manchester Met University	76.7%
17	Falmouth University	81.7%	69	UCL	76.6%
20	The University of Leeds	81.3%	73	The University West of England	76.2%
21	The University of Sheffield	81.1%	79	Bournemouth University	75.9%
22	Newcastle University	81.1%	80	The University of Leicester	75.7%
23	The University of Warwick	81%	81	Leeds Beckett University	75.7%
25	The University of Dundee	80.9%	82	Glasgow Caledonian University	75.6%
27	The University of Kent	80.6%	83	London School of Economics & Political Science	75.5%
32	The University of Nottingham	80%	84	Plymouth University	75.4%
37	Nottingham Trent University	79.5%	87	The University of Birmingham	74.8%
40	Heriot-Watt University	78.9%	88	Keele University	74.8%
41	Imperial College London	78.9%	89	The University of Huddersfield	74.8%
43	Cardiff University	78.6%	95	The University of Salford	74.1%
45	The University of Edinburgh	78.6%	99	London South Bank University	73.3%
46	Sheffield Hallam University	78.3%			

* Data taken from the Times Higher Education - Student Experience Survey: The Safest Universities in the UK - https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/best-universities/student-experience-survey-2018-safest-uk-universities#surveyanswer

OUR REACH
IS GLOBAL.

We have been in business for 150 years, manufacturing premium aesthetic and security entrance solutions in The Netherlands, the United States of America and China. We can confidently say that we cover every corner of the globe with subsidiary companies in major cities across the globe. Furthermore our global export division not only partner with our distributors, but also offer direct sales and service to every territory. This wide net allows us to have a strong global footprint and a personal grasp of local markets and their unique entry requirements.

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