

## Press Release – Issued by Newcastle University Press Office

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### Region's reputation for ship building set to live on

The North East's ship-building heritage is being given a new lease of life with the launch of Newcastle University's first overseas campus in marine technology.

Ship building may have been lost from Tyneside but its reputation as one of the world leaders in marine technology goes from strength to strength.

Now the region's expertise are being sought around the world and today sees the launch of NUMI Singapore - Newcastle University's new Marine International campus - located within the Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) in Singapore.

Internationally renowned for its work in marine technology, this is Newcastle University's first permanent off-shore venture, offering students the opportunity to take Newcastle degrees without travelling to the UK.

Professor Richard Birmingham, Head of the School of Marine Science and Technology at Newcastle University, said: "This is an exciting development for the University and the School, enabling us to respond to the huge global demand for marine technology graduates with high quality programmes delivered in two locations on opposite sides of the world.

"Shipping is a key industry in Singapore and this new venture offers benefits to staff and students based both here, and in Singapore. Vacation placements, study trips, and staff exchanges will enrich the quality of the student experience for all our undergraduates"

Shipbuilding has long been one of the region's most important industries and it was names such as Armstrong, Parsons and Swan that put the North East firmly on the map as a world leader in marine technology and engineering.

Now shipbuilding has been replaced with research and world-class expertise, with Newcastle University leading the way for marine technology.

Sixty Singaporean students will start at Newcastle's new campus this week.

Offering degrees in Naval Architecture with Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture with Off-Shore Engineering, NUMI has four full time resident staff, its own lecture theatre, study rooms and labs.

Professor Ehsan Mesbahi, Director of NU Marine International, said that while most of the lectures would be delivered by the permanent staff in Singapore, the idea was for the students to feel a part of Newcastle University – home and away.

"We have a long tradition of Singapore students coming to Newcastle to study but demand for the course is far higher than we can accommodate here in the UK which is why we have forged these new links abroad.

"Via email and video-conferencing students will be able to engage with our staff in the UK as well as the team based in Singapore. They will also be able to take part in lectures and projects alongside our British students – breaking down the physical barriers to become one global Newcastle University."

Part of the new degree programme will see the students in Singapore travelling to the UK for four weeks during the summer to experience life on the Newcastle campus in the UK.

It is also hoped that Newcastle students in the UK will benefit from the thriving maritime industry in Singapore through vacation placements and study visits.

Professor Oliver Hinton, Pro Vice Chancellor for the Faculty of Science, Agriculture and Engineering at Newcastle University, added: "We are delighted to build on our long standing tradition of excellence in the marine sector by working closely with Maritime Industries in Singapore, and by delivering the best Singaporean graduates for the future".

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