

# THE UNIVERSITY OF BATH KEEPS CONTROL WITH HELVAR

Text: John Houston / Wildwood Public Relations  
Pictures: FAB Ltd / [www.fabcontrols.co.uk](http://www.fabcontrols.co.uk)

**As part of a wider refurbishment scheme, systems integrator FAB Controls has installed a Helvar control system at the University of Bath. The project included existing facilities and a new build extension at the campus with lighting controls being an essential part of the upgrade. The project required an intuitive system that would link together the lighting infrastructure in each building with a view to saving on emissions, and lowering the university's energy spend.**

The challenge was to connect the separate structures using a single lighting control system. The system needed to be effectively managed from a central location by the university's facilities team and would cover general teaching areas, lecture theatres, student accommodation, academic buildings, communal areas, the student union centre and Parade Bar.

## EASY INTEGRATION WITH DALI

FAB Controls opted for a DALI solution at Bath knowing that it would be best suited to communicate with the wide selection of fittings across the various sites and the new build space that was being constructed. Following 10 years' experience with Helvar products, FAB Controls was confident in the ability of Helvar's product range to execute the demands of the brief. As such, 910 Routers were specified to form the bridge between the DALI and Ethernet distribution, along with 312 Multi-Sensors and keypads from the 125 modular push-button panel range. ▶



The sensors were sourced to ensure efficiency, with absence/presence detection and daylight saving features added to the system. The 125 panel range offer intuitive control of the setup for the facilities team, as well as the staff and students, working at the university day-to-day.

“We selected Helvar DALI because its ability to integrate with any luminaire connected to the system. In addition we required integration into the university’s audio visual system for automatic scene setting and we are delighted with the finished system,” says Richard Hughes, Electrical Service Manager at the University. “The significant savings in energy will help us achieve our wider efficiency targets as well as saving us tens of thousands of pounds over the life of the installation.”

The solution uses open standards to ensure the entire system can be securely controlled from any remote location, allowing further integration with tablet and smartphone devices. This level of control was essential for the facilities team to both monitor and manage the setup and it includes the added features of automated test procedures and fault reporting for proactive support and labour saving.

### SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS, MEASURED REDUCTIONS

To meet the carbon reduction commitments of the university, the success of the installation has been measured, largely, against its energy saving credentials. The Helvar control system has rendered

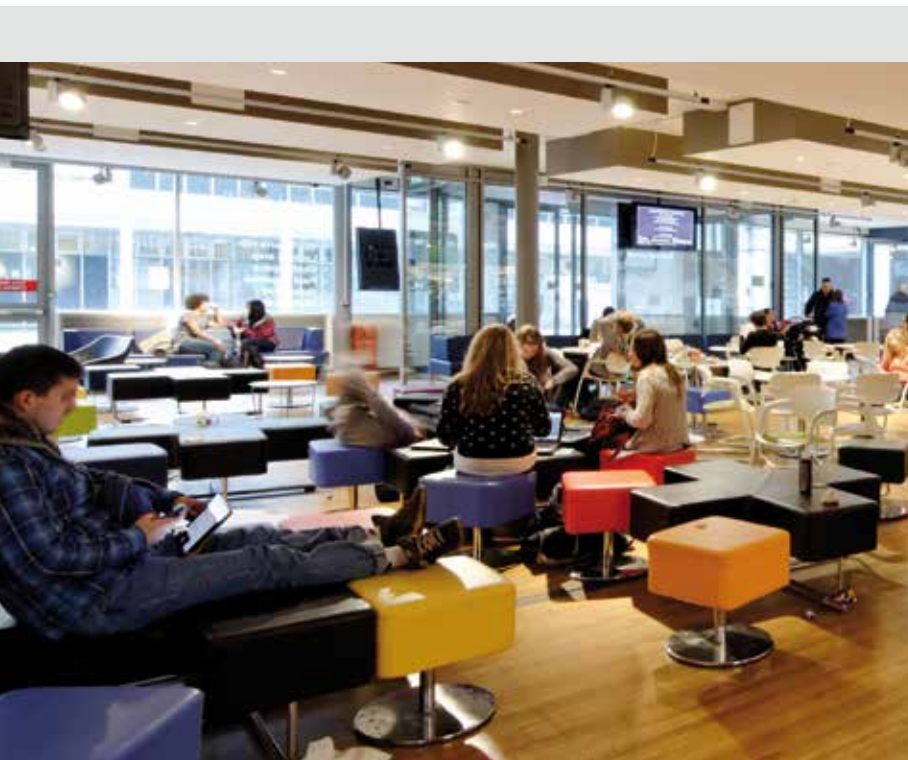




an average drop in consumption of 30% and, facilitated by DALI's compatibility, an extensive LED rollout has been put in place to maximise energy reduction.

Through effective pre-sets, the Helvar system has each fitting working at a maximum of 80 % to extend lamp-life and reduce energy. This feature also reduces the manpower required for prior levels of active maintenance and via the programming setup, further savings have been extracted with many scenes set to operate every other light fitting, thus halving the output.

The installation at Bath showcases how the wide-scale deployment of a Helvar control system can make significant savings to the energy spend of an organisation or educational facility. The particulars of the Bath project also highlights how a central control platform is not just for a single or series of connected buildings but can be implemented across a network of locations which are not physically joined to impact heavily, and positively, on spent energy. ■



## UNIVERSITY OF BATH

University of Bath has been ranked as the third best university in United Kingdom <sup>1</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> best in the world <sup>2</sup>. The university can trace its roots to a technical school established in Bristol in 1856. After having a long history of higher education in the area, the school received it's Royal Charter in 1966.

University's buildings are set in an attractive campus about two kilometres from the centre of Bath, a World Heritage City. More than 15.300 students from all over the world graduate in the areas of Engineering & Design, Humanities & Social Sciences, Management and Service. ■

<sup>1</sup>) *The Sunday Times University Ranking*

<sup>2</sup>) *The Guardian: "QS top 50 universities under 50"*