

Story of the Co-operative College

Established in 1919 by the Co-operative Movement

- Aim: to extend the provision of education to co-operators. The focus on learning how to run successful co-operative enterprises and how to behave ethically as a co-operator.
- Began as a residential centre, with the first students coming from across the UK, Iceland and Australia. The idea of a college was not a new one, being first discussed in the 1830s.
- First home: Holyoake House, Manchester, with students living in local hostels.
- In 1945 moved to Stanford Hall near Loughborough to increase the facilities for residential students.
- In 2001, with new and innovative ways of running programmes, no longer needed the residential capacity and relocated back to Holyoake House.
- Established a reputation globally, developing into a centre of excellence for training, learning, consultancy and research.
- In the twenty-first century renewed connections with all sectors of the co-operative movement and beyond, providing high quality education for existing and emerging co-operators around the world.

"Education is desirable for all mankind, it is the life's necessity for co-operators."

Professor Stuart, Gloucester Co-operative Congress, 1879

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Dr Cilla Ross, Principal of the College, looks over its history

- and looks to the next 100 years

<https://www.thenews.coop/137746/topic/education/hundred-years-education-co-operative-college-built-future/>