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For immediate release

INTO UNIVERSITY NETWORK GROWS WITH NEW VENTURE IN MANCHESTER

A three-way partnership between the private sector, City College Manchester and the University of Manchester will strengthen the appeal of Europe's higher education capital to international students.

INTO University Partnerships today (May 28) announced the launch of INTO Manchester in a partnership with City College Manchester and as a provider to The University of Manchester.

Plans are being prepared for a new international student centre that will accommodate up to 1,000 students, forming part of INTO's £1 billion, five-year global programme of investment in international higher education.

The City College's large and well established International Pathway business becomes a 50/50 joint venture with INTO.

This is linked to a long term agreement under which INTO Manchester will be a major provider of pre-university education for international students wishing to enter The University of Manchester.

The creation of the partnership marks the conclusion of a competitive tendering process by the University.

INTO Manchester is the latest addition to the rapidly expanding group of institutions that have chosen to work with INTO to support their internationalisation objectives. The centre will offer a broad range of English language and academic pathway programmes for prospective undergraduates and postgraduates of many nationalities. Programmes will be designed and delivered to the University's specification.

INTO Chairman Andrew Colin said: "We are proud to be working with both institutions in an initiative that will boost demand and improve the quality of the international student experience of Manchester. The partnership will provide major investment for expansion, helping Manchester to establish itself as a world education capital."

The centre is already one of the largest in the UK with more than 450 international students.

Manchester, with Europe's largest concentration of students, is a natural destination of choice for international students and is widely recognised as home to one of the world's top 20 universities.

Monica Box, Principal and Chief Executive of City College Manchester, said: "City College Manchester is building on its excellent track record and reputation for working with overseas students through its partnership with INTO.

"We believe that our expertise in developing and delivering high quality programmes with superb success rates will be very well complemented by INTO's recruitment and marketing expertise."

Director of International Development at The University of Manchester, Dr Tim Westlake said:

"Manchester is delighted to be engaged in a partnership with INTO that will give increased opportunities for international students to study with us. The University's aim is to develop our international community and our global presence. The INTO initiative, its outreach into all continents and the growing network of institutions that are becoming involved all complement our internationalisation strategy."

Information for editors:

- INTO launched in February 2006. It has four centres, at the Universities of East Anglia, Exeter and Newcastle in England and at Glasgow Caledonian University in Scotland.
- INTO plans to invest up to £1 billion in higher education as the company continues to build its network of partnerships in the UK and overseas over the next five years.
- Each INTO partner university defines, assures and is responsible for the quality of the courses.
- INTO partnerships are not privatisation. The company establishes joint venture partnerships with universities, with shared board and management responsibilities and provides marketing infrastructure, working closely with its partners' International Offices.
- Existing City College Manchester staff who work within INTO Manchester will continue to be employed by City College.
- INTO centres can run alongside existing university pathway operations or integrate them within a single unit.

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