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For immediate release

UK's first A-level programme in a world-class university: nurturing our young scientists for tomorrow

The UK's first university campus based A-level programme has been announced by the University of East Anglia and INTO University Partnerships. Entitled the Newton programme, this collaborative venture opens up unique opportunities for top science students from around the world to study in a university environment ahead of their degree programme.

The pioneering course is specially designed to nurture gifted students, helping them to realise their potential and to prepare them for studying at the world's top universities. The programme offers the well-recognised Cambridge International (CIE) A-levels, to be taught by subject specialists and in some cases A-level examiners, and allows them a choice of pathways in medicine, engineering and the physical sciences, mathematics and economics.

Students will also benefit from the Cambridge Pre-U Global Perspectives module aimed to cultivate thinking by bringing in global perspectives and research skills. It will offer them unprecedented access to university facilities, laboratory resources, workshops, undergraduate practice lessons, as well as personal tutor support.

Professor Edward Acton, Acting Vice-chancellor, University of East Anglia, said: "Universities are the driving force behind individual development and social progress. Like all research-led institutions we are keen to attract the highest quality of students who are the future leaders of academia, industry and public service. Preparing students in our own A-level programme is a major and innovative step towards that goal."

Newton programme students will live and study in the state-of-the-art INTO Centre on the University of East Anglia campus. Opened in 2008, the 11,000 square metre, five-storey building offers ensuite accommodation, in-room Internet access, catering service as well as seminar and teaching facilities.

Andrew Colin, Chairman of INTO University Partnerships, said: "Getting into an elite university is increasingly competitive. Year on year, gifted students with multiple A grades are rejected by Oxford, Cambridge and other leading universities. The Newton programme will provide a new opportunity for gifted students to gain a further edge by experiencing and benefiting from university life during their A-level studies. This will not only enhance their

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chances of academic success by learning from leaders and professors in their fields but also provide an opportunity to gain life and study experiences to make them stand out from other students.”

The selected students will have the opportunity to mix with undergraduates and join campus activities. They will also benefit from personal coaching from specialists when applying to university, be it the University of East Anglia itself, Oxford, Cambridge, leading medical schools or US Ivy League universities.

With the innovative programme and the quality of a university campus environment, competition for places is expected to be high. Both home students and international applicants who meet the eligibility criteria will be considered. For candidates who demonstrate exceptional potential, a three-term fast-track option and a number of scholarships ranging £2,000-£8,000 are available.

Details can be browsed at <http://www.into.uk.com/uea-al/index.php>.

Notes to Editors

About University of East Anglia

The University of East Anglia (UEA) is a top 30 research-led university with over 14,000 students and around 3000 full-time staff. UEA has been in the top five English mainstream universities for student satisfaction in each of the four years since the National Student Survey was introduced and the 2009 WhatUni.co, awards rated the University best English university overall and top in the UK for our accommodation and Students' Union.

About INTO

INTO University Partnerships is a global organisation that works with universities worldwide to help them transform internationalisation strategies and student experiences in universities, through long-term joint venture partnerships. It has a strong marketing network of over 600 agents worldwide, a regional presence in 15 key countries, and over 4600 students have commenced INTO's academic preparation and English language programmes in 2008/09.

Since its commencement in 2006, its partnership alliance has grown steadily. Its university partners in the UK include the Universities of East Anglia, Newcastle, Manchester, Glasgow Caledonian, Queen's University Belfast and Oregon State University in the US. In the next five years, INTO plans to invest up to £1 billion in strengthening its facilities and infrastructure.

More information about INTO can be browsed at www.into-global.com.

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