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CASE STUDY

Wright Building

For the University of Hertfordshire

Delivered via NHS SBS PS-Works: Public Sector Construction Works Framework Agreement.

Ashe Construction was asked to strip out and refurbish 300sq m of underused office space in the University's Wright Building and transform it into a state-of-the-art clinical simulation centre for use by the School of Health and Social work.

> **The project will make such a difference to the Health and Social Work School. We have already had lots of positive feedback. I look forward to working with Ashe again in the future on more University projects.**
>
> **Helen Buck**
> University Building Surveyor

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Major strip out and refurbishment

The £1.2m project involved an initial first phase of demolition and enabling work which included careful specialist removal of floor finishes containing asbestos followed by installing new partition walls to convert the old offices to simulation wards for teaching adult nursing students.

The wards have been designed with four beds arranged to reflect a standard hospital setting. Each bed space is fitted with all the mechanical trunking, simulated gas and suction, overhead lighting, nurse and emergency call and equipment found in a real hospital environment.

The programme was short therefore Ashe had a team of up to 33 people on site at times to ensure completion ready for the start of term.

THE CHALLENGE

Challenges on the project included difficulties in distributing the building materials to the first floor via the staircase because the windows could not be removed due to the presence of asbestos. Being a live site, it had its challenges, with many visitors unfamiliar with the site trying to navigate the area.

Live site

The works were carried out over a four-month period and although most students were on their summer vacation, the site was live with teaching and assessments, and summer schools underway therefore it was essential to keep disturbance to a minimum.

THE SCOPE

Works also included; forming two multi-use rooms for students to learn practical skills including a bed with simulation trunking and tables and chairs for tabletop skills sessions, two immersive rooms which will have a series of projectors to simulate real life scenarios for training, a new accessible WC to replace a WC now used for simulation, new gents WCs and a much-needed laundry room. These will be used by the whole school.

Audio/video trunking has been installed for teaching screens, and ceiling mounted cameras installed for recording students to review their practical scenarios and moderation of assessments.

There is a control room between the wards for the technicians to be able to change the set up and control manikins and scenarios.

The refurbishment will provide the ideal space for groups of 12-24 students to contribute to the practical learning hours required to complete their nursing degree courses. The teaching spaces are expected to be in use five days a week, from 9am to 6pm.