

## Edinburgh Napier University's Sighthill Campus has Vision

Vistamatic® secure vision panels have been specified for the redevelopment of Edinburgh Napier University's Sighthill Campus. The £60 million campus will bring the Faculty of Health, Life and Social Sciences under the same roof for the first time including University services. Designed by award winning architect RMJM, the new campus is a landmark building for Sighthill and a key aspect of the university's estate redevelopment.

A total of 40 vision panels have been installed to bring privacy to the specialist treatment rooms within the Sighthill Campus so that students are able to carry out treatment and studies in private. The Faculty of Health, Life and Social Sciences offer studies in psychology, sport and exercise science, toxicology, biomedical science and animal biology.

The Vistamatic® secure vision panels are of the same specification throughout and are operated from inside the teaching rooms. The panels enable the faculty's treatment wards, x-ray rooms and other specialist areas to operate in isolation, privacy and without unwanted disruptions. The ability to separate these working environments from the bustling corridors outside is important in creating a great learning environment.

When closed, the panels indicate that the room is occupied and indicate a 'do not disturb' message to anyone outside. The vision panels are also conducive to good way-finding and with an annual influx of new students who are unfamiliar with the environment, the open vision panels mean students can familiarise themselves with their new environment and know they have arrived in the right place by looking through the vision panel.

During the course of their training, students will perform some treatments, such as reflexology, to members of the public. Closing the vision panels during these treatments ensures they are carried out in private, while maintaining the dignity of their subjects in a professional environment.



Vistamatic® secure vision panels were specified because it was felt they were the only product on the market that provided an adequate solution. Sustainability was an integral part in the development of the new Sighthill campus. Vistamatic's lifetime guarantee on the working mechanism was a key factor in their specification and means facilities management need not worry about maintenance.

Aesthetically, the installed vision panels fit in well with this modern learning environment. The new campus buildings have a light, spacious feel and there are large open areas that fill with natural light, including a large central glazed atrium which provides a social area for students. The corridor where the vision panels are installed is not open to natural light, but the panels, whether open or closed, allow natural light into the corridor.

There is a huge range of benefits that comes with installing vision panels within an educational environment. Unnecessary disruptions are avoided because people do not have to open the door to see into a room. Lectures can be conducted in private and in isolation from the bustling corridors outside. Natural light reaches areas it previously could not, which brightens the atmosphere and opens up the building. In fact all these things come together to promote the overall smooth running of the learning environment and the psychology of those studying and working in it. The new Sighthill campus has been designed to create a great learning environment and the installed vision panels play an important part in this. The building has now been handed over to the university by the main contractors, Balfour Beatty, and 5,000 students will move to the campus in January 2011.

