

## Project Case Study

### University Centre Yeovil (UCY)

#### **| The Challenge...**

To comply with legislative requirements and provide an adequate level of service for hearing impaired students

#### **| The Solution...**

A range of Univox induction loop amplifiers and across counter systems from Gordon Morris Ltd

#### **| The Benefits...**

Enabled their hearing impaired students to access lectures in the same way as hearing students

*Univox hearing loop amplifiers have enabled the University Centre Yeovil to comply with disability legislation and give hearing aid users an adequate level of service.*

#### **Who are they?**

The small sized institution of University Centre Yeovil is a partnership between Yeovil College, Bournemouth University and University of the West of England. A number of part-time and full-time degree courses are run in a variety of subject areas, which can be studied to a foundation or honours degree level.

#### **Being Compliant**

Educational premises such as Universities, Colleges and schools are pressured to improve access for students with disability such as hearing impairment. Not only are they pressured by the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 and 2005 amendments (now known as the Equality Act 2010), they are also subject to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 (SENDA). This act demands that educational institutions take reasonable measures to avoid disabled students being disadvantaged in relation to accessing student services.

Along with striving to comply with these requirements, UCY not only wanted to provide an adequate level of service for hearing impaired students; improvements were required following site surveys that were performed. These showed that there were under performing loops, which were either ineffective or under powered and not reaching the British Standard of Induction Loops systems (BS 7594:1993), which states the level recorded should be between  $-3\text{db}$  and  $+3\text{db}$ .

#### **Providing the same access**

Hearing impaired students desire access to lectures at the same level as hearing students; this is the result that the solutions provided by Gordon Morris Ltd has given to those at UCY. The induction loop systems supplied in classrooms and counter loop systems for the library desk has eased the strain on hearing for students and improved the quality of service supplied by UCY.

#### **Professional service**

*'The service has been of a very high, very professional standard'*, this is the comment from Phil Hunt, a member of staff at UCY. The feedback has been positive, even in the sense that when there was a problem regarding interference from the active whiteboard speakers, this was quickly resolved by one of the Gordon Morris technicians.

UCY are now complying with British Standards and Acts offering a satisfactory service to hearing impaired students.

Gordon Morris Ltd would like to thank Phil Hunt for his kind cooperation with this article and wishes the students and staff at The University Centre Yeovil the very best for the future.

To find out more about what they can offer visit: <http://www.ucy.ac.uk/>