

# ARCGIS CHALKS UP 25 YEARS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

For 25 years, universities and colleges in the UK and Ireland have been able to acquire Esri's ArcGIS software at a discounted price through the Chest agreement.

Twenty five years have elapsed since Esri UK first entered into a [Chest agreement](#) to make its [ArcGIS platform](#) available to higher and further education providers at a discount of up to 95% of the full commercial price. Since then, 134 institutions across the UK and Ireland have taken advantage of the agreement to acquire market-leading GIS software for teaching, research and operational purposes.

The use of ArcGIS has come a long way since the early days, when it was seen as a niche software tool to support teaching and research in the traditional areas of geography and geology.

Today, ArcGIS is used to support teaching and learning in engineering, archaeology and even business schools.

The ArcGIS platform has also evolved over this period, moving from a situation where GIS was used in isolation and outputs were usually paper maps, to a world where everything is connected through the internet. Students can now collect data on their mobile phones, analyse it on their desktops and publish their results as interactive web map applications.

This mirrors how Esri's public sector and commercial customers integrate their spatial information and means that tomorrow's graduates will be well equipped with the skills to succeed in a growing geospatial sector.

In the years ahead, the value that ArcGIS brings to the higher and further education sectors is set to

increase even further, because, under the terms of the latest Chest agreement, universities and colleges are now entitled to use ArcGIS for administrative and operational purposes as well as teaching. As a result, educational institutions can now use ArcGIS in more diverse ways to help them manage their properties and assets more efficiently, plan effective marketing activities and increase student recruitment.





**Professor  
Muki Haklay,**  
University College  
London

“ [University College London](#) was one of the first universities to acquire ArcGIS under the Chest agreement more than 20 years ago. Back then, employers recruited our students to create mapping products, but now these same companies are looking for graduates with more specialist GIS skills in areas such as geospatial data analysis. We can’t teach these advanced techniques using cut-down tools. However, with access to the full ArcGIS platform, we can ensure our students leave UCL with the market-ready GIS skills employers need. ”



**Phil Rees,**  
GIS Specialist,  
Dalcour Maclaren

“ After graduating with a Master’s degree from the [University of Leicester](#) I gained employment with [Dalcour Maclaren](#), a consultancy that provides specialist chartered surveying services for utility, energy and infrastructure companies. I really value the practical experience of ArcGIS I gained as a student, which allowed me to prove my skills during my job interview and helped me take my first step on the career ladder. I now use ArcGIS every day on a wide variety of client projects, ranging from planning gas pipe networks to managing land access permissions. ”