



# Case Study: **Imprest** King's College London

## Optimising Estate Utilisation with Scientia's Project Management System

**KING'S**  
*College*  
**LONDON**



Currently among the top 25 universities in the world, King's College is one of England's oldest universities and a founding college of the University of London. Regarded as a leading research institution, its 27,000 students - including more than 10,000 post-graduates - come from 150 countries.

The university has more than 6,500 staff, five London campuses and six Medical Research Council Centres spread across its three teaching hospitals. It is also a member of King's Health Partners, the UK's largest Academic Health Sciences Centre.

### **The Challenge**

Like all higher education institutions in the UK, King's is experiencing changes to student funding and expectations. As part of its efforts to improve the student experience, the University is working to make sure its halls of residence, facilities and teaching spaces are world class.

As well as managing maintenance and refurbishment projects—between 100 and 200 every year—the University's Estates and Facilities Department has plans to transform its estate with a multi-million pound redevelopment programme.

Brendan Cahill, Senior Programme Manager, said: *"Our work is now much more strategic as we oversee multi-million pound capital plans. Because of the way funding to universities has changed, there is much more focus on budgets, accountability and ensuring we deliver to the original investment appraisal. We need total control over the project portfolio, including a full audit trail and streamlined governance mechanisms."*

*"Using Imprest software has brought significant strategic and financial benefits to King's. It is a hugely powerful tool that allows us to save time and money, while reducing risks and improving the way university projects are managed."*

### **Brendan Cahill**

Senior Programme Manager  
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#### **The Solution**

King's needed a software solution that would drive efficiency improvements in project monitoring, control and delivery. In early 2014, King's chose to move forward with Scientia's leading project portfolio management software, Imprest. Developed specifically for higher education institutions, Imprest enables the university to effectively manage their project budget and documentation in one secure place, saving time and money.

One of the features that appealed to King's was that Imprest is highly configurable. The University has been able to tailor the solution for their specific needs, enabling both a broader view and the ability to drill down to look at the finer detail.

#### **The Outcome**

King's uses Imprest as a client-focused project tool, providing structured reporting, governance, orders invoicing, auditability, and data storage. The provision of timely dashboard reports to senior managers allows them to make proactive decisions and mitigate risk. When risks are controlled by one individual they are often 'hidden', but with Imprest everything is visible and collaborative.

Imprest's dashboard email reports have also had a dramatic effect on reducing the time taken for approvals from senior managers who can now question, challenge and scrutinise a project at the appropriate time.

Brendan commented. *"We have over 100 locations around London so it's simply not possible for me to spend time travelling to meet with the different project managers. Relying on Excel spreadsheets simply isn't good enough when you are working with projects at this level. With Imprest, I can investigate any given project and see a complete picture of the governance whenever I need to. The great thing is that the information presented in Imprest is in a form which can be understood by everyone."*

Imprest provides regular and detailed updates on the current progress of the project against the programme and current budgets. It includes a list of all orders placed and payments authorised, along with a list of actions required with appropriate timeframes. A project risk and issue log is also included as well as access to all project information including minutes, cost reports, design information and approvals. Simply put, there is no better way to manage your university's building and maintenance projects.