



Barclaycard Business changes the way Anglia Ruskin do business

Anglia Ruskin University was founded in 1992 and has held University status for over ten years. Dating back to 1858, the University provides degree level qualifications in courses such as education, forensic science and law for over 28,000 students. Its major campuses are based in Chelmsford and Cambridge.

In 1998 the University began looking for a flexible procurement solution for their staff and after studying the market it was decided the Barclaycard Business Visa Purchasing Card (VPC) solution suited their needs most.

Ann Debney, Procurement Services Manager, explains:

“We needed a procurement system to suit the different university departments and faculties; Barclaycard Business products were the only ones to offer the diversity we needed.”

There are 170 Visa Purchasing Card holders at the University and these can be used by the members of staff who have received authorisation by the Dean of the Faculty. The cards are flexible and the settings can be adjusted to suit the individual employee’s needs.

Anglia Ruskin University decided to set single and cumulative transaction limits on the cards. This means there is a limit to the amount that any single member of staff can spend on one transaction on the VPC. However the limits are variable depending on the size of the department; there are for example cardholders who have bigger budgets and therefore spend more on the VPCs.

Last year Anglia Ruskin University spent over £2 million on their VPCs. The cards are used to buy a range of products including booking foreign travel, in particular flights. The only restrictions on the cards are using them to withdraw cash, purchasing traveller’s cheques and buying foreign currency. On a day-to-day basis the VPCs are used to buy stationery and computer equipment.



The VPCs are less costly than raising purchase orders and save time. Staff do not have to worry about expenses because all purchases are charged directly to the University. Ann Debney explains the financial benefits of the cards.

She says:

“Financially the University used to waste money by raising over 50 purchase orders a day, now that figure has been cut by 20%. Because the staff can buy what they need without delay and no longer have to use their own money to buy goods, it makes them happier.”

Anglia Ruskin has also cut financial accounting costs since implementing the VPCs. Barclaycard Business saves the University time by providing statements which can be uploaded straight onto the University accounting system.

Ann Debney says:

“The tools Barclaycard Business provides are excellent. We can upload their documents straight onto our systems, whereas before somebody in accounts would have to do this manually. Everything we do now is more transparent; members of staff can log-on and check statements at any time if they are unsure what they have bought.”

Barclaycard Business Customer Service provides Account Managers for all of their customers.

Ann Debney says:

“We have an Account Manager who is excellent at dealing with any queries we might have. If staff want to increase their card limits, Barclaycard Business does this quickly and efficiently.”

Anglia Ruskin University only choose suppliers who are willing to accept the VPCs.

Ann Debney explains:

“It saves our business so much time if we choose suppliers who accept the VPCs; we prefer to do business with those that will.”

Anglia Ruskin University is one of the major users of the VPC within the University sector.