

University plans a £40m centre for advanced computing

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PLANS for a new £40 million centre for advanced computing at Edinburgh University have been unveiled. The five-storey School of Informatics will replace the former departmental building destroyed in the Cowgate fire 18 months ago.

Full plans for the centre, to be built over part of Crichton Street car park, have been unveiled by architects Bennetts Associates.

The School of Informatics is to be one of the "jewels in the crown" of the university, and will make a significant economic contribution to the university. It will be Britain's only five star A-rated School of Computing, and will be regarded as one of the top four in the world. The new building, which will house about 600 staff and students when it opens in 2007, is part of a wider plan by the university to regenerate the Potterrow area of Edinburgh, which is characterised by 1960s buildings and concrete underpasses.

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