

WHO CAN YOU CONTACT FOR MORE HE INFORMATION?

AIMHIGHER

For advice on higher education visit www.aimhigher.ac.uk
(This website directs you to the direct gov University and Higher Education webpage).

UNIVERSITIES / COLLEGES

HE courses are offered at around 130 Universities & HE / further education Colleges. For course details visit www.direct.gov.uk/uni

UCAS

A central organisation for managing applications to UK HE courses. For course search facility visit www.ucas.ac.uk

CONNEXIONS

For advice on education, careers, housing, money for 13-19 year olds visit www.connexionsdirect.com/jobs4u

FINANCE

Information on financial support for further and higher education. For the online application service visit www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance

TEES VALLEY LEARNING PROVIDER NETWORK

For advice on education and training across Tees Valley visit www.tvwbl.net

FOUNDATION DEGREE / FOUNDATION DEGREE FORWARD

Users can search for a foundation degree course by subject area/ region, for HE student support visit www.findfoundationdegree.co.uk or www.fdf.ac.uk

DIUS STUDENT SUPPORT

HE student support visit www.dius.gov.uk/student-support

APPRENTICESHIPS

Information on apprenticeship programmes visit www.apprenticeships.org.uk

CAREER DEVELOPMENT LOANS

Information on further financial support visit www.lifelonglearning.co.uk/cdl

LEARNING PROVIDER

Speak to your Learning Provider for further information, advice and guidance or visit www.lsc/publications



TEES VALLEY
LEARNING PROVIDER NETWORK

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aimhigher...
Tees Valley



APPRENTICESHIPS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

WHAT IS HIGHER EDUCATION?

Higher Education (HE) is any qualification that is graded at level 4 or above. Most people think that the only route to a Degree is by going on a full time university course but there are alternative methods. The vocational route to higher education has never been easier with a great number of part-time higher level courses available.

Level	Qualifications relating to Level	Sector
Level 1	GCSE grades D-G Foundation level qualifications NVQ 1 Foundation Diploma	Further Education (commonly delivered by colleges and work based learning providers)
Level 2	GCSE grades A*-C Apprenticeship NVQ 2 BTEC First Diploma Higher Diploma	
Level 3	Advanced Apprenticeship NVQ 3 A Levels (including Vocational A Levels Advanced and Progression Diplomas BTEC National Certificate and Diploma	
Level 4	NVQ 4 Higher National Certificate	Higher Education (commonly delivered in universities and colleges)
Level 5	Higher National Diplomas NVQ 5 Foundation Degree	
Level 6	Honours Degree	
Level 7	Masters Degrees Postgraduate Certificates and Diplomas	
Level 8	Doctoral Degrees	

BENEFITS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- Employers prefer higher qualifications, especially ones that are combined with an Apprenticeship
- Higher education leads to higher level jobs
- Improved long term career prospects and promotion
- Raises self belief building skills and confidence
- Increased salary - Apprenticeship graduates earn around £150,000 more in a lifetime
- Socialising and making new friends is a key part of the higher education experience
- Flexible part-time courses can be combined with employment

QUALIFICATIONS

National Vocational Qualification: NVQ Levels 1-5

What is it? A work related qualification based on what an employee can actually do.

Where can it be studied? College or Training Provider.

How long does it take? Several years dependent upon which level an employee studies.

Where next? Learners who successfully complete level 3 can move onto level 4 or study towards a HND or Foundation Degree.

Higher National Certificate/Diploma HNC/HND

What is it? A vocational qualification, available in a wide range of subjects.

Where can it be studied? College or University.

How long does it take? 2 years +

Where next? Honours Degree.

Foundation Degree

What is it? An employment based qualification which combines academic and work-based learning.

Where can it be studied? College or University.

How long does it take? 2 years part-time. Distance Learning, online learning and fully work-based are other options that may be available.

Where next? Other Professional Qualifications or final year of specified Honours Degree.

Honours Degree

What is it? A subject based qualification and the most common kind of higher education. Sandwich courses include a year at work.

Where can it be studied? University or at a local college, where a university has validated the programme.

How long does it take? 3-5 years full-time, 8 years part-time or flexible learning.

Where next? Master's degree PhD.