



**FOUNDATION DEGREES
IN
THE SURREY AREA**

Aimhigher...
Surrey

Introduction

Aimhigher Surrey is part of a national government funded outreach programme which aims to raise awareness of educational opportunities for young people. Through a variety of activities and publications, it seeks to raise aspirations and attainment and increase the number of Surrey young people entering higher education.

Foundation Degrees are relatively new qualifications which offer excellent opportunities for young people and adults to progress through vocational routes in higher education and employment.

This guide gives a brief overview of the Foundation Degree programme and provides information about Foundation Degrees available in Surrey and surrounding areas.

Foundation Degrees:

What is a Foundation Degree?

Foundation Degrees are higher level industry led qualifications with a work-based focus. They were introduced in 2001 and have grown in popularity, with new courses being developed every year. They are designed in partnership with employers, further education colleges, sector skills councils and universities. The aim is to produce highly trained staff with the relevant technical and professional skills needed for the modern workplace.

How does a Foundation Degree differ to a Higher National Diploma [HND]

HNDs are a well established work-related qualification usually offered in further education colleges. They are very similar to Foundation Degrees and are usually studied over two years, although there are opportunities to study part-time as well.

HNDs are available in a wide range of subject areas and can be used as a route into employment or further study, just like a Foundation Degree. Many HND students choose to progress on to the second year or third year of a first degree course in a related topic.

Not all Surrey colleges provide HNDs, but visit Edexcel.org.uk for a full list of HNDs on offer in England and Wales.

Who can do Foundation Degrees?

Foundation Degrees are ideal for:

- People already in employment wanting to gain higher level qualifications or wanting a career change
- Young people who have recently completed Level 3 qualifications [such as A-Levels, International Baccalaureate, Advanced Apprenticeships, NVQ3, BTEC Higher Diploma or the new 14-19 Diploma [level 3]]



Where can I do a Foundation Degree?

Many universities, in partnership with employers, higher education colleges and further education colleges, now offer Foundation Degree programmes. Courses will either be delivered at the university or at a local further education college. See list at back.

How long is a Foundation Degree?

A full-time Foundation Degree should take two years to complete or three to four years if studied part-time. In some cases a work based Foundation Degree can be completed in two years and includes part-time study with full time work-based practice and reflection within the employees' workplace. It is best to check with individual providers* and discuss the best route for you.

How will I study?

Foundation Degrees offer flexibility in terms of access and study, though the number of full-time students is growing all the time as the number of degree opportunities increase. As there is a strong work-based focus to the Foundation Degree programme, assessments will tend to include practical tasks such as presentations and projects

* includes F.E Colleges, Universities, Learning Providers and Sector Skills Organisations

linked into your work experience, as well as traditional essays.



On a full-time course, you are likely to be in college or university for between 10 and 25 hours of study per week. As a part-time student, you will find a range of options for study depending on your work commitments and personal life.

Many courses will offer evening and weekend sessions, intensive summer schools, web-based delivery, distance learning and work-based study with support from workplace mentors.

Part-time Foundation Degrees are designed to be flexible courses which fit in with the many commitments of work and family life.

What are the entry requirements?

Universities and Colleges set their own entry requirements. Foundation Degrees often have lower entry requirements than for a First Degree.

If you are in employment, you don't necessarily need traditional academic qualifications to gain entry to a course as your work experience may count. The process is called the Accreditation of Prior Experience and Learning (APEL) and it is worth enquiring if you would be eligible.

How do I apply?

If you want to study locally in Surrey, then it is a good idea to contact the university or college in which you are interested and ask for further information about the course to make sure it is right for you.

Most universities and colleges now have an online prospectus, or you can contact them to send an undergraduate or Foundation Degree prospectus.

Most universities and colleges will also have Open Days where you can go along and find out about courses on offer – details will be on their websites.



How do I apply to a full-time course?

All full-time courses offered at a university or college in the UCAS scheme will need to be applied for through UCAS online at www.ucas.com

If the course is not in the UCAS scheme, you should apply directly to the university or college offering the course.

How do I apply to a part-time course?

You will need to apply directly to the university or college offering the Foundation Degree course.

Each university or college will have its own method of entry, but it is likely that you will have to complete an application form.



Can I continue working whilst I do my Foundation Degree?

Many students choose the part-time route which allows them to continue working whilst they gain a relevant higher level qualification. These students are often supported in their studies by their employer or sector skills council.

Work-based study and assessment are a major part of the Foundation Degree programme. A key focus is on how you apply your knowledge to the workplace and how you relate your work experience within a wider economic and professional context.

How much does it cost to do a Foundation Degree?

You will pay tuition fees, but the costs tend to be lower than a First Degree, especially if you are studying at a local college. For 2008/09 approximate costs are £2,100 per year full-time and £1,295 part-time.

Contact individual universities or colleges for details or look in their prospectuses online.

Can I get help with fees and costs?

You can apply for a student loan if you are doing a full-time course, both for tuition fees and for your living costs.

If you are studying part-time, you may find that your employer or sector skills council will help with tuition fees.

Individual colleges and universities can also advise you on what help is available for both full and part-time students.



What can I do with a Foundation Degree?

Foundation Degrees are a qualification in their own right and over a third of students will go straight into full time work on completion of their degree. For those already in work, job satisfaction and opportunities for promotion are likely to increase. When you have successfully completed your course, you will be able to put the letters FDA or FDSc after your name.



Most Foundation Degrees will offer a progression or 'top-up' route onto a first degree programme - often with the university providing the Foundation Degree.

An increasing number of students take this option – it usually takes between 12 and 15 months of study.

Foundation Degrees can also offer a route to professional qualifications in some sectors such as accountancy, chartered surveying, librarianship, marketing and teaching. Visit websites of different Professional Bodies for a list of accepted entry qualifications.

Foundation Degrees on offer in Surrey for 09/10 entry

FOUNDATION DEGREES	Brook-lands College	East Surrey College	Guildford College	NESCOT	Roe-hampton University	UCA Farnham	North-brook College [Sussex]	Farn-borough College
AGRICULTURE & Land-Based Studies								
Sports Turf								
Horticulture								
Garden Design			Merrist Wood Campus					
Applied Environmental Practice								
Arboriculture								
Conservation Management								
ART and DESIGN								
Advertising Production								
Fashion Forecasting								

Photography								
Professional Photography								
Photo Imaging								
Festival, Site Specific and Street Arts								
BUSINESS								
Business								
Business and Finance								
Business and Event Management								
Business and IT Management								
Business and Leisure Management								
Business and Management								
Hairdressing Management								

HND COURSES:

The following colleges also offer a range of Higher National Diploma courses.

Brooklands College	East Surrey College,
Guildford College	NESCOT
Northbrook College	Farnborough College of HE

DISTANCE LEARNING:

The Open University also offers a range of Foundation Degrees and HND courses through distance or web-based learning.

Currently they are offering:

Foundation Degree in Business (G07)
Foundation Degree in Business Information Technology (G13) Foundation
Degree in Computing and its Practice (G06)
Foundation Degree in Early Years (G01)
Foundation Degree in Health and Social Care (G05)
Foundation Degree in Information & Communication Technologies (G04)
Foundation Degree in Leadership and Management (G08)
Foundation Degree in Sport, Fitness and Health (G10)
Foundation Degree in Working with Young People (G03)
Foundation Degree in Youth Justice (England and Wales) (G09)

For further details, contact The Open University at www.open.ac.uk or ring them on 0845 300 60 90

CONTACT DETAILS

COLLEGES

UNIVERSITIES

University of Surrey

Guildford
Surrey GU2 7XH
☎ 01483 300800
www.surrey.ac.uk

Roehampton University

Eramus House
Roehampton Lane
London SW15 5PU
☎ 0208 8392 3000
www.roehampton.ac.uk

University for the Creative Arts

Farnham Campus
Falkner Road
Farnham
Surrey GU9 7DS
☎ 01252 722441
www.ucreative.ac.uk

University for the Creative Arts

Epsom Campus
Epsom
Surrey KT18 5BE
☎ 01372 728811
www.ucreative.ac.uk

Brooklands College [Weybridge Campus]

Heath Road
Weybridge
Surrey KT13 8TT
☎01932 797797 www.brooklands.ac.uk

[Ashford Campus]

Church Road
Ashford
Surrey TW15 2XD
☎01932 797797 www.brooklands.ac.uk

East Surrey College

Claremont Road
Redhill
Surrey RH1 2JX
☎ 01737-788387 www.esc.ac.uk

Guildford College

[Stoke Park Campus]

Guildford
Surrey GU1 1EZ
☎01483 448500 www.guildford.ac.uk

[Merrist Wood Campus]

Guildford GU3 3PE
☎01483 884150 www.guildford.ac.uk

[Farnham Campus]

Farnham GU9 8LU
☎01252 716988 www.guildford.ac.uk

NESCOT

Reigate Road
Ewell, Epsom, KT17 3DS
☎ 020 8394 1731 www.nescot.ac.uk

Northbrook College

Goring by Sea, Worthing
Sussex BN12 6NU
☎0845 155 6060 www.northbrook.ac.uk

Farnborough College of Technology

Boundary Road
Farnborough
Hampshire GU14 6SB
☎01252 405555 www.farn-ct.ac.uk