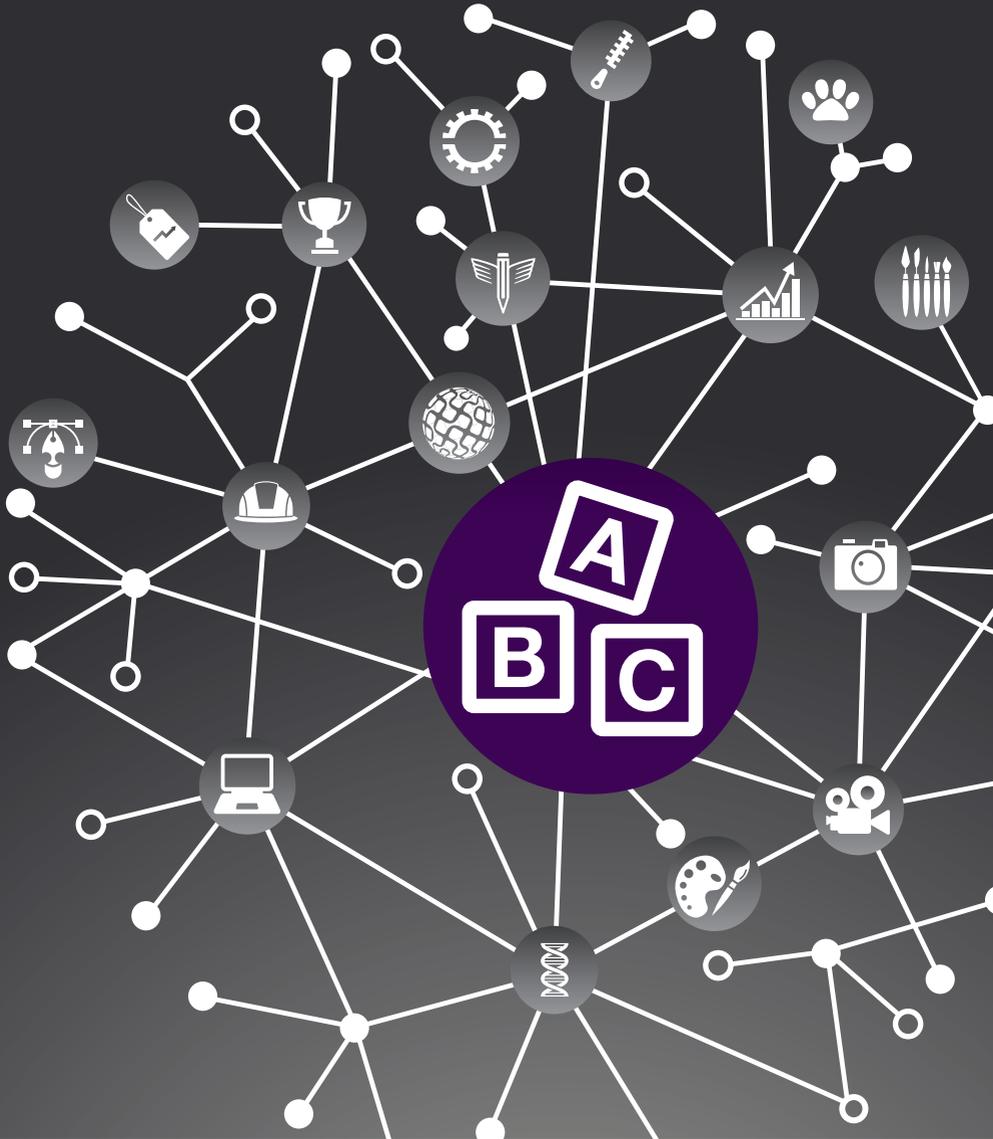


Hertfordshire Higher Education Consortium

Early Years

- Foundation Degree



Foundation Degree

What is a Foundation Degree?

Foundation Degrees are university level degree courses that offer an exciting work-based alternative to the traditional university route. They are:

- A stand-alone recognised qualification.
- Equivalent to studying the first two years of an honours degree programme.
- Highly valued by employers.

How does this work?

Foundation Degrees in Hertfordshire are accessible through your local college, as part of the Hertfordshire Higher Education Consortium*. On graduation you will be awarded a University of Hertfordshire validated degree, and depending on your chosen course you even get letters after your name... FdA, FdSc.

Benefits to studying a Foundation Degree

- **real-life projects** which enable you to gain valuable work experience whilst allowing you to apply your skills and knowledge.
- **support** that's available throughout your course from tutors and advisors in College and mentors in your place of work.
- **affordable** because you can choose from one of four colleges to study at you will never be far from home, saving you money on living costs.
- **funding** through student tuition fee loans will cover the cost of your programme – so there's nothing to pay up front.

Who can study a Foundation Degree?

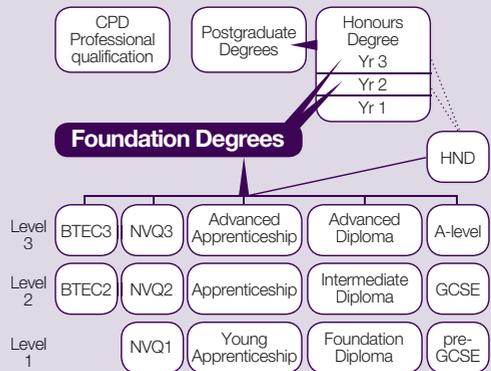
Foundation Degrees are suitable for all kinds of candidates including:

- Those with Level 3 qualifications (eg A Levels, Advanced Apprenticeships, BTECs, Access to Higher Education or City & Guilds).
- Those looking for a change in career.
- Those already employed but wanting to gain a Higher Education qualification either to progress their career or other aspirations.

What can I do with my Foundation Degree?

That really is up to you! Your degree will ensure that you are well equipped to start your career path and research shows that those with a Higher Education qualification earn 25% more than those without! However, if you have a taste for learning you can 'top-up' your Foundation Degree to a BA or BSc honours degree.

How do Foundation Degrees fit with other qualifications?



Hertfordshire Higher Education Consortium*

The Hertfordshire Higher Education Consortium is a partnership between the University of Hertfordshire, Hertford Regional College, North Hertfordshire College, Oaklands College and West Herts College.

The consortium provides innovative, high quality courses that support vocational higher education. Students get the best of both worlds – the benefits and support of studying at college, and access to University facilities including the libraries (LRCs), athletic and student unions all social activities, careers support and much, much more.

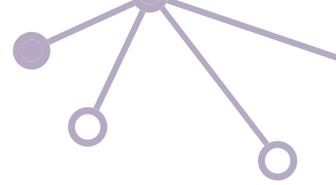


Part-time programme

A day-release course taught over two full years in three semesters per year
 A – September to January; B – January to April; C – April to September

Year One	Semester A	Legislation and Legal Responsibilities for the Children's Workforce (30 credits)	Continuing Personal and Professional Development (30 credits)
	Semester B	The Developing Child (30 credits)	
	Semester C	Developing Professional Practice in the Workplace (30 credits)	
Year Two	Semester A	Early Years Frameworks for children 0-7 (30 credits)	Approaches to Research in Early Years (30 credits)
	Semester B	Leading and managing in Children's workforce settings (30 credits)	
	Semester C	Integrated Working in the Children's Workforce (30 credits)	





Year 1 modules

Legislation and Legal Responsibilities for the Children's Workforce

This module provides an introduction to the key skills essential to managers in the children's workforce including how to collaborate with colleagues and parents. You will learn how to work within the framework of legislation and guidance that applies to the Early Years sector and contribute to safeguarding. You will build and develop your awareness of issues in the sector such as: equality and diversity, anti-discriminatory practice, inclusive practice, children's rights and interpersonal skills, and health and safety.

Continuing Personal and Professional Development

This module focuses on the development of your skills as an independent learner. You will identify your existing skills including your transferable ICT skills and plan for the development of additional skills. This will support both your learning and your work with children, and enable you to develop your own career planning and progression.

The Developing Child

In this module you will explore the development and learning of all children. You will focus on personal, social, emotional, physical, intellectual, cognitive and spiritual development with reference to inclusive practice and holistic development. Your observations from the workplace will be used to develop your understanding and implementation of evidence-based and ethical practice in this area. You will be able to apply the skills gained to the workplace and reflect on your effectiveness and application of knowledge in your work setting.

Entry requirements

You'll normally need either 48 UCAS points from a relevant level 3 qualification which includes appropriate workplace experience OR to be able to demonstrate significant relevant experience at an appropriate level. You'll also need GCSE English language and maths at grade 4 or above (or University of Hertfordshire acceptable equivalent such as Functional Skills), satisfactory references and a current enhanced CRB/DBS. For anyone subsequently wishing to use this route to progress onto a teaching qualification, GCSE Maths, English and Science at grade 4 or above will be required in order to practice as a qualified teacher.

How will I be assessed?

We'll be assessing you through a combination of assignments, case studies, observations and presentations. All modules will be taught using a blended learning approach and you will use the programme handbook and StudyNet for guided learning as well as participating in lectures and seminars.

What will I learn?

You will be building on your existing knowledge to develop the skills required to become a senior practitioner. This will include: increased critical thinking and reflection skills, recognition of appropriate leadership and management skills, research awareness and process. These skills will help to build your confidence when presenting information to colleagues and peers, affirming your high levels of expertise within the Early Years' sector.

When and where will I study?

You can study this programme part-time if you are employed or working voluntarily in an appropriate workplace, on a day release basis one day a week for three semesters for two years. You can study at Hertford Regional College, North Hertfordshire College, Oaklands College, or West Herts College.



Developing Professional Practice in the Workplace

This module is strongly work-based and will draw on all your skills to allow you to enable, support, plan, implement, evaluate and assess next steps in children's learning and development. You will manage and organise groups of children across a

broad range of activities and reflect on and evaluate your own effectiveness in this situation. You will have opportunities to demonstrate skills in record keeping, assessment, use of appropriate management and organisation strategies and collaborative working to support development and learning.





Year 2 modules

Approaches to Research in Early Years

This module will develop your knowledge and understanding of research and research methodologies with an emphasis on the ethics associated with undertaking research in an Early Years setting. You will also review existing literature on a specific area of practice to develop your awareness of how research can be used to develop, improve and extend practice in Early Years.

Early Years Frameworks for Children aged 0-7: Principles into Practice

Here you will examine the influence of Early Years pioneers on the principles, provision and practice in UK and selected international Early Years frameworks and investigate similarities and differences between these frameworks. You will compare and contrast the required learning and assessment strategies in UK Early Years and the Key Stage 1 National curriculum, incorporating inclusive practice across the frameworks.

Leading and Managing in Children's Workforce Settings

This module will develop your leadership and management skills. You will demonstrate these by identifying an area from one of a number of themes which would benefit from staff development. You will then plan, implement and evaluate a relevant activity for a group of adults in their workplace.

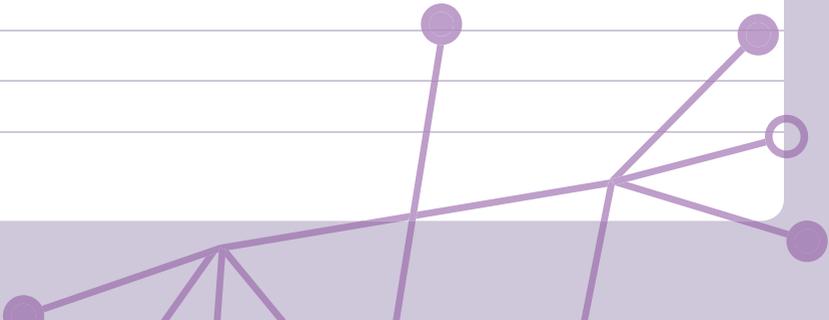
Integrated Working in the Children's Workforce

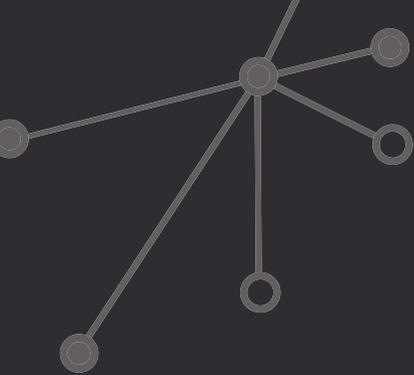
This module is strongly work-based and will promote the effective development of partnerships when working as part of an integrated team. You will develop your understanding of the distinct roles played by a variety of workers in a team in order to successfully work with children and their families and to support inclusive practice. You will also develop effective communication skills for integrated working.





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For further information

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