



## 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?

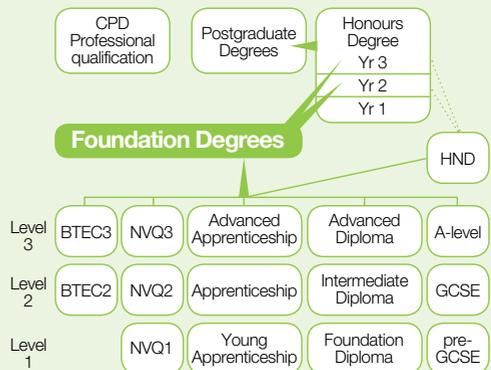
Foundation Degrees are suitable for all kinds of candidates including:

- 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\*

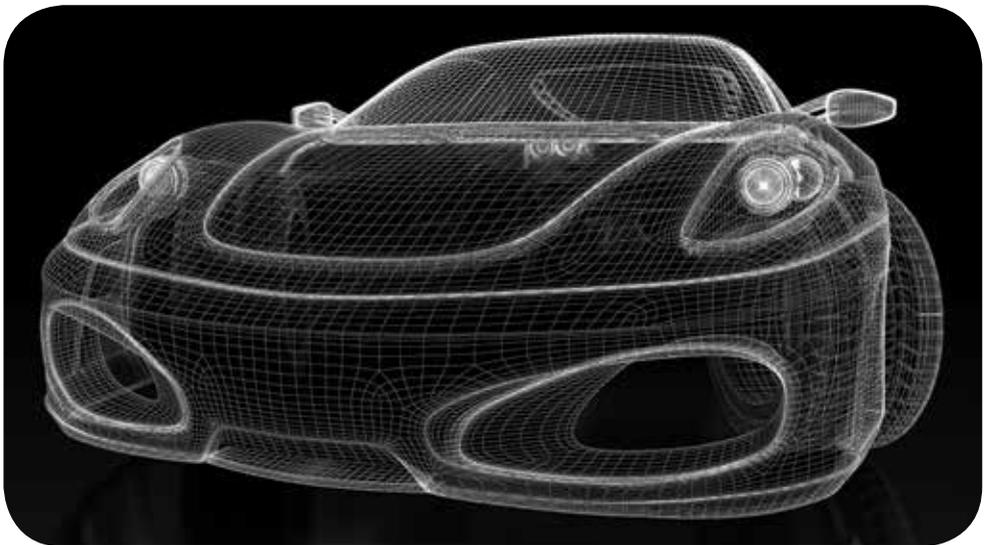
The Hertfordshire Higher Education Consortium is a partnership between the University of Hertfordshire, Hertford Regional College, North Hertfordshire College, Oaklands College and West Herts College.

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.



The table shows the structure of the Foundation Degree in Three Dimensional Design – Illustrated as a full-time programme.

Year One	Semester A	Work Based Learning: Developing Professional and Employability Skills (30 credits)	Historical and Contemporary Context (15 credits)	Creative Problem Solving (30 credits)
	Semester B		Creative Languages (15 credits)	Creative Vocational Practice: Three Dimensional Design (30 credits)
Year Two	Semester A	Work Based Learning: Professional Practice (30 credits)	Contextual Studies (15 credits)	Portfolio Development: Three Dimensional Design (30 credits)
	Semester B		Cultural and Ethical Debate (15 credits)	Final Major Project: Three Dimensional Design (30 credits)



This programme is designed to give you the opportunity to develop experimental, creative and technical skills to a professional level. It teaches you the design and prototyping of consumer products, furniture, jewellery, interior and exterior environments and models. Using a range of techniques including computer-aided design and model making skills, you will explore the properties of materials and processes.

## Year 1 modules – Semester A

### Work Based Learning: Developing Professional and Employability Skills

This module will help you to focus on planning your career and developing employability and professional skills. You will take a closer look at the creative and culture sector to identify a route that best suits and reflects your strengths and preferences whilst preparing you for progression by looking at job-hunting techniques, networking and self-promotion. You will articulate your skills and knowledge to create an action plan for progression using appropriate writing skills.

### Historical and Contemporary Context

This module will develop your creative, cultural and critical understanding of Three Dimensional Design and the creative work it can produce. You will be introduced to several historical and contemporary periods or movements and examine and identify the ways in which the time, place and conditions of their production influenced and shaped creativity and practice. This will enable you to develop your research abilities, critical faculties and academic skills so that you can investigate, analyse and present your case effectively.

### Creative Problem Solving

This module has been designed to prepare you for further study and the workplace. You will gain an understanding of the key production processes and professional practices relevant to Three Dimensional Design and the cultural and creative industries, in addition to learning methods of conceptualising creativity and authorship.

### Entry requirements

120 points, including one GCE A2, a BTEC National Diploma/Certificate or equivalent. Plus GCSE grade C or above in English language and grade D in Maths or equivalent. You will normally be asked to attend an interview with a portfolio of work.

Mature students with GCSE grade C or above English language and maths or equivalent, but lacking traditional level 3 qualifications will be considered on the basis of relevant experience and an appropriate portfolio of work.

If English is not your first language, you will need an IELTS score of 6.0 or 80 IBT or equivalent.

### How to apply

Applications are to be made through UCAS – [www.UCAS.com](http://www.UCAS.com). Institutional Code: Herts H36.

### How will I be assessed?

This programme is assessed by coursework only, in the form of practical and written assignments. Coursework may be based on both individual work and group work.

### What will I learn?

This higher education qualification develops your design and practical skills to standards that will impress the future design industry that you will deal with. The modules focus on employability and entrepreneurship skills throughout. They will also prepare you for a career in the design sector or within design studios specialising in product, furniture, interior or jewellery design.

### Where will I study?

The Foundation Degree in Three Dimensional Design is offered at Hertford Regional College. For more information visit [www.hrc.ac.uk](http://www.hrc.ac.uk) and also see previous student work at [www.hrcfda.com](http://www.hrcfda.com)

### Progression routes

Students who successfully pass the Foundation Degree in Three Dimensional Design have the opportunity to top-up to a range of honours degree programmes including Interior Architecture and Design, Product Design, Industrial Design, Contemporary Applied Arts or Model Making or they may enter straight into employment.



### Year 1 modules – Semester B

#### Creative Languages

This module is all about creativity in action. You will investigate several well-known practitioners in the field of Three Dimensional Design, concentrating on their expressive languages and comparing them with each other. You will relate them to your own ideas and produce a body of your own work ready to be incorporated into project work in other modules.

#### Creative Vocational Practice:

##### Three Dimensional Design

This practical module focuses on building a range of professional creative skills and development of 3D consumer products through practically based workshops activities. Areas covered will include:

- Technical drawing techniques
- Computer Aided Design
- Creative use of media and materials
- The practice in and safe use of machine and hand tools
- Model making and prototypes

Live or simulated briefs of the kind you are likely to encounter in a professional Three Dimensional Design environment will be used to develop your skills and provide you with an understanding of the requirements of fulfilling vocational briefs. These will include audience and/ or client needs, understanding expectations and time management.

“ I thoroughly enjoyed the WBL modules; this was the most valuable part of the course and helped each student to decide upon a design discipline to progress into. Going on several placements and working with external clients/ employers on live briefs, provided networking opportunities for my future career options. ”

*Lewis Brawn, 2012 Foundation Degree  
Three Dimensional Design*



## Year 2 modules – Semester A

### Work Based Learning: Professional Practice

In this module you will work with an employer/ client on a project that meets their needs whilst allowing you to express and develop your professional skills and understanding. The project will be negotiated and may be carried out on the employer's premises but this will be dependent on the type of project agreed.

### Contextual Studies

This module provides an introduction to contemporary critical perspectives in the theory and practice of the creative arts to provide a frame of reference for Three Dimensional Design. Through the examination of creative practices within a variety of historical, socio-political, aesthetic and institutional contexts you will learn the basis for critical examination in practice.

### Portfolio Development: Three Dimensional Design

Focusing on your chosen Three Dimensional Design specialisms you will now deepen your skills whilst building and developing your portfolio of work for progression to employment or further study in Three Dimensional Design. This may be in an area you are focusing on or you may choose to broaden your experience with an idea of your own. Portfolios will consist of a single large project or a number of smaller projects which respond to employer needs as appropriate.

## Year 2 modules – Semester B

### Cultural and Ethical Debate

This module will cover theme based explorations of the influences that shape creative messages in a range of contexts. You will develop awareness of how social and cultural constructs are formed, evolve, and are challenged and used to influence future developments considering issues such as: consumption globalization, sustainability, race, gender diversity and the role of stereotypes.

“ Hard work and a positive attitude will lead to bigger things; this was instilled in me whilst studying on the Three Dimensional Design programme. I am now a Senior Interior Designer/ Project Manager with SMC Design Ltd and lead a team of 7 international interior designers who design and fit the interiors for cruise ships from Miami to Helsinki. ”

*Liam Kirk, 2012 Foundation Degree  
Three Dimensional Design*

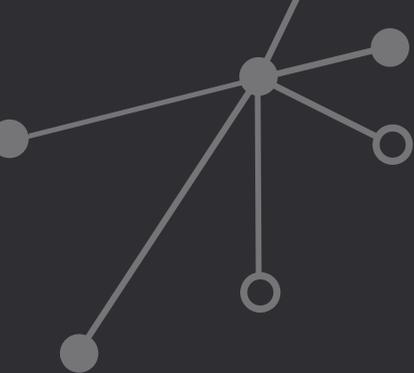
### Final Major Project: Three Dimensional Design

This module provides the opportunity for you to put all your experience and learning together in one final project that confirms you as a creative professional in Three Dimensional Design. Through an agreed brief you will articulate a complete design process from identification of need to realisation and presentation. You will investigate and employ a variety of platforms to promote both your final piece of work and yourself as an employable professional.



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## For further information

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[www.hrc.ac.uk](http://www.hrc.ac.uk)

### **University of Hertfordshire**

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[ask@herts.ac.uk](mailto:ask@herts.ac.uk)

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