

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?

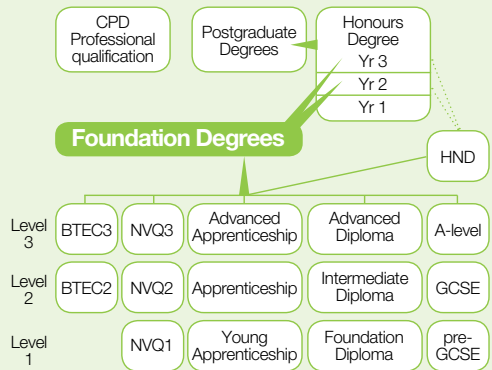
Foundation Degrees are suitable for all kinds of candidates including:

- 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 Media Production – illustrated as a full-time course.

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: Media Production (30 credits)
Year Two	Semester A	Work Based Learning: Professional Practice (30 credits)	Contextual Studies (15 credits)	Portfolio Development: Media Production (30 credits)
	Semester B		Cultural and Ethical Debate (15 credits)	Final Major Project: Media Production (30 credits)



This course is designed to give students a solid understanding of the pre-production, production and post-production process for the film and television industries. Students develop the knowledge and skills required to produce content for television programmes, commercials, music videos and feature films. Successful graduates leave the course equipped with the essential skills needed in the film, TV and post-production industries. After studying on this foundation degree you will be able to plan, shoot, edit and produce content to broadcast standard.

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 Media Production 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.

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. A presentation of a portfolio of work may be required for some title awards.

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. Institutional Code: Herts H36.

How will I be assessed?

The programme is assessed through 100% coursework 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 clients that you will deal with. The modules prepare you for a career in the TV and Film and Video production industry.

Where will I study?

The Foundation Degree in Media Production is offered at Oaklands College and West Herts College For more information visit www.westherts.ac.uk or www.oaklands.ac.uk

Progression routes

Students who pass the Foundation Degree may progress to Production or Post-production at the University of Hertfordshire. In order to progress you must be awarded the Foundation Degree and have a recommendation from our tutor, you may also be required to attend a guidance tutorial.



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 Media Production and the cultural and creative industries, in addition to learning methods of conceptualising creativity and authorship.

Year 1 modules – Semester B

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.

Creative Languages

This module is all about creativity in action. Through investigating several well-known practitioners with in the field of Media concentrating on their expressive languages, and through comparing them with each other whilst relating them to your own ideas you will produce a body of your own work where you will build on your own repertoire of ideas, ready to be incorporated into project work in other modules.

Creative Vocational Practice: Media Production

In this practical module you will focus on building the professional and creative skills required for film and TV productions. You will realise and present a vocational brief, the type of brief you are likely to encounter in the film and television industry, whilst challenging and improving your knowledge and understanding of the requirements of media production when fulfilling a vocational brief:

- Audience/ client needs and expectations
- Time management
- Internal and external constraints

“ This past year I’ve been a superhero, a cowboy, a giant lobster and fought a bison, this course is very creative and full of practical activity. We are constantly undertaking various film projects, be they two minute trailers or our very own shorts. I definitely recommend this course to any creative people looking to become filmmakers. ”

JLawrence Essex. Graduated with FdA Media Production 2011



Year 2 modules – Semester A

Work Based Learning: Professional Practice

In this module you will further your professional skills to undertake and communicate a project plan and present the outcomes successfully to employers and/or potential clients. This will involve working with an employer on a project to meet their needs. Dependent on the type of project this may be conducted on the employer's premises.

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 Media Production. 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: Media Production

This module is designed to prepare students for employment in the film and television industry. In this module you will explore, develop and apply the professional skills needed to build a strong showreel for progression to employment or further study. You will develop your understanding of:

- Professional practice
- Audience/client requirements
- Professional constraints

Year 2 modules – Semester B

Work Based Learning: Professional Practice

In this module you will further your professional skills to undertake and communicate a project plan and present the outcomes successfully to employers and/or potential clients. This will involve working with an employer on a project to meet their needs. Dependent on the type of project this may be conducted on the employer's premises.

“ Throughout my time on the foundation degree I have learned vital skills that will help me on my journey of becoming a professional filmmaker, skills learned through passionate lecturers and the freedom to attempt any idea I can come up with. ”

Callum Oakaby-Wright, Studying FdA Media Production 2013

Cultural and Ethical Debate

This module introduces you to a range of key contemporary issues and debates in the creative industries. You will conduct academic research in order to understand how ethical issues can influence production and practice in the film and television industries as well as in relation to your own creativity. Using research, discussion and debate, you will develop your own critical perspective of contemporary ethical issues.

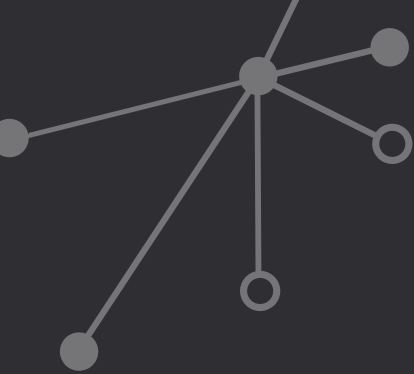
Final Major Project: Media Production

During this module you will write, plan and create a film for a short film festival. You will utilize and further all the skills you have gained over the two years and produce a short film to a professional standard that will provide an excellent platform for progression to the film and television industry or to further study.



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For further information

Oaklands College

tel + 44 (0)1727 737000
info@oaklands.ac.uk
www.oaklands.ac.uk

West Herts College

tel +44 (0)1923 812345
admissions@westherts.ac.uk
www.westherts.ac.uk

University of Hertfordshire

Admission Service
tel +44 (0)1707 284800
ask@herts.ac.uk
go.herts.ac.uk

