

Access to HE Diploma (Health Professions)

Course Overview

This is a challenging and intensive course of study which prepares you to apply for nursing, midwifery and other health-related degree courses in higher education. You will need to demonstrate experience of work roles, responsibilities and skills, and/or unpaid work including volunteering, in a health care involvement. You will study alongside adults (everyone on the course is aged 19+) who have similar progression aims to you, and you will benefit from the support of a personal tutor to guide you through the UCAS process. If you are 16-19 years old these activities will be timetabled as will work experience and placement. You can also choose to take part in other activities. For other age groups, activities will be tailored to your needs.

What you will learn

You will study a range of topics designed to provide a base of skills and knowledge which will enable progression to an interview for university degree courses in nursing and midwifery as well as a range of other health-related professions. The subjects include biology, health and care planning, psychology, sociology, maths in a healthcare context and study skills to equip you with the academic skills required for university study. You will be expected to study at home at least 15 hours per week in addition to your timetabled hours in College.

Entry Requirements

Applicants should be 19 plus by no later than the 31 August prior to starting the course. You will need to have five or six GCSEs at grade C or above (grade 4/5), including English and maths, depending on the degree course you wish to apply for. It would be preferable if one of the GCSEs is a science subject. One reference from your previous place of study or work will also be required. In order for you to progress on to an undergraduate degree at a British university, it is essential to have achieved a minimum of a grade C in maths and English. It is your responsibility to check the GCSE grade profiles of the universities that you are interested in applying to and to attend a number of university open days. It is also important to have vocational experience at the beginning of the Access programme. Recent qualifications gained outside the UK may be considered as suitable entry requirements if they meet the UK NARIC rules. If you do not currently have the GCSEs needed to apply for Access to Health Professions, we have a pre-Access GCSE course (C0143) where you can study up to 5 GCSEs in one year.

Course Fees

Please be aware that there is a charge for your UCAS application. There are no course fees if you are under 24 on 31st August of the year in which you start the course AND you do not possess a full Level 3 qualification. If (a) you are under 24 and already have a full level 3 qualification, OR (b) you are over 24 (irrespective of any qualifications you have achieved), then course fees are applicable. However, you may be eligible for an Advanced Learner Loan to cover these.

Course Progression

The main progression aim of this course is to enable learners to study nursing or midwifery at university level, as well as a range of other health-related degree courses, such as operating department practitioner (ODP). Many of our learners progress onto a three year university degree programme to become a midwife, mental health nurse, children's nurse, adult nurse or operating department practitioner.

What Happens Next

Apply online via the College website. You will need details of your qualifications and employment history, a reference and a personal statement to complete your application. Once your application has been successfully processed, you will be invited to an interview at the College to meet your tutors, learn more about your chosen course of study and tour the facilities. You will then be offered a place on the programme, you need to confirm your acceptance of the course offered to you.

Course Details

Course Code	P00363
Start Date	07/09/2026
Study Hours	Full Time
Duration	1 year
Campus	Abbey Park Campus
Level	3

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