

Foundation Degree In Education

At Ashton Sixth Form College

**Awarded by The University of
Staffordshire**

Guidance and Information





**Gain a FOUNDATION DEGREE IN EDUCATION
within 2 YEARS at Ashton Sixth Form College.**



This qualification is awarded by Staffordshire University.

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Foundation Degree in Education

The Foundation Degree offers comprehensive coverage of the knowledge and skills required by those supporting learning and teaching.

It is practical and focused on the workplace. The course develops understanding of teaching and learning, working in education, and behaviour management. It also covers skills required for effective communication, self-development and career progression.

Part-way throughout the course there is an opportunity to focus your studies. If you have an appropriate level 3 vocational early childhood studies qualification and are working in an early childhood setting you may be able to choose to specialise in early childhood studies - this is a great way to tailor your award to your career aspirations, and further develop your knowledge of educational practice in an early years setting.

On successful completion of study, you will be awarded the following: **FdA Education** by The University of Staffordshire.

When can I apply?

Applications are now open for September 2026-27 academic year. This course will run from 4.30pm – 8.30pm, one evening per week (Wednesday).

What is a Foundation Degree?

A Foundation Degree is a level 5 qualification made up of 240 credits, 120 of which are gained at level 4 study and a further 120 at level 5 study. These credits are gained by completing modules throughout the course. Although the Foundation Degree is a qualification in its own right, with further study it can be developed into a full Honours Degree through the acquisition of another 120 credits on a top up course. For further information on topping up to a full Honours Degree and progression routes, please see the **Where can I progress to?** Section on page 7.

Who is the course for?

This award is for anyone who is currently employed in a learning support situation, for example teaching assistants, bilingual support assistants, learning mentors, cover supervisors, PE and sports coaches and voluntary placements, in any phase of education from Early Years to Further Education



What will the course cover?

This course has a very distinctive curriculum that aims to cater for a broad range of students from a variety of workplace situations. Work-based personal experiences form a significant part of the learning for this course; however, the course also aims to extend your knowledge, skills and understanding of learning situations that might be different from your own immediate experience.

The modules have a wide and flexible content, adaptable to your needs, while providing an essential core of academic understanding. The programme will develop your subject knowledge; work-based skills and knowledge; and study skills in a coherent package. In particular, the course aims to provide learning support assistants with specialist roles the opportunity to reflect on their own particular situation. This course is made up of the following eight modules:

Year one - LEVEL 4

Learning and Holistic Development (40 Credits)

This module aims to help you evaluate established theoretical perspectives on how children develop and learn and apply them to your chosen age range. Consideration of relevant policy, including ethics, and new scientific evidence will be used to inform an understanding of how contemporary theorists continue to build upon and adapt existing concepts of early childhood development and the importance of these foundation for learning through life.

Safeguarding and Developing Educational Practice (40 Credits)

You will examine the reformed structuring and services which create the means by which the interests, needs and welfare of children and young people can be protected and advanced. You will learn about key legislation and policy changes and reflect on the major changes in child welfare to understand the debates shaping children's policy. The module will include using a case study to introduce contemporary debates about child protection and analyse issues and strategies related to equality, diversity and safeguarding to promote inclusive practice.

Supporting Learning and Inclusion (20 Credits)

This module focuses on identifying learner needs and how these might be best supported. You will consider how approaches to learning and resources can be adapted to address and support issues relating to special education needs and differentiation within your own practice. You will examine theory relating to inclusion to develop your understanding of the principles of responding to the unique needs of the individual learner in terms of race, ethnicity, diversity, disability and lifestyle; creating an enabling environment in which to learn



Personal and Professional Development (20 Credits)

This module will span the whole of Level 4 in order to build upon your existing personal, academic and professional knowledge, skills and understanding to encourage you to adopt a positive and reflective approach during the first year of the course.

Key concepts covered in this module include:

- Principles and approaches to reflective practice
- Observation and development of own professional practice
- Roles and responsibilities (including safeguarding)
- Introduction to Academic Skills (embedded through the course)
- Personal career aspirations

Year two - Level 5

Level 5 - Education pathway

Professionalism and Career Development (20 credits)

Behaviour for Learning (40 credits)

Assessment for Learning - guided research in Education (40 credits)

Leadership and team working (20 credits)

What are the entry requirements?

All full-time applicants are individually assessed on their qualifications, skills and experience.

However, you would *normally*...

- Demonstration of a clear, enhanced DBS check which confirms that there are no reasons why a candidate should not work with children
- Be in employment (paid or voluntary) within an educational setting for at least four hours per week
- Have 64 UCAS points or hold an appropriate Level 3 with suitable work experience
- If English is not your first language you will be expected to have achieved an IELTS score of 6.0 or above
- GCSE qualifications in English and Maths, or demonstration of Level 2 competence

****Eligibility to be counted in the EYFS staff:child ratios at Level 3 requires you to hold a relevant EY Level 3 qualification, which should be gained prior to studying this pathway.***

You must be employed for at least four hours per week in an appropriate educational role and setting. This employment may be paid or voluntary. A letter from your head teacher/principal/head of department/manager must accompany any application. This letter must support the application by confirming your involvement in supporting education and state that every effort will be made to support the applicant in undertaking the work-based activities required by the programme. The



letter must also state that you have the appropriate and current Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance.

How is the course assessed?

Programme and module outcomes are formally assessed through a range of tasks and activities, such as creation of resources to support learning or reflection on organisational practice, which ask you to link learning in the workplace to the taught programme.

For every module completed, students will gain either 40 or 20 credits towards the course. To complete the Foundation degree, students need 240 credits. The credit system is a national system, devised to enable students to accumulate credits as they pass areas of study.

How long does the course take?

This course is for people in a relevant work role and will take **two years of study** to complete. Students are required to attend college on one evening per week. In addition, you are expected to be in your setting for four hours a week.

How much does the course cost?

The fees for the Foundation Degree course are £5990 each year.

Students accepted onto this programme are generally entitled to a tuition fee loan and a maintenance loan, if eligible, from Student Finance England. Further information on student finance can be found at www.gov.uk/studentfinance.

Where can I progress to?

On successful completion of your Foundation Degree, you can then top-up to a full BA (Hons) in Education by studying a further four modules gaining 120 credits at level 6 over one year. Other opportunities for progression may be available depending on your future career plans. You can progress onto the BA (Hons) Education (Top Up) degree that may provide a route into PGCE qualification and teaching.

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