

**The  
Sheffield  
College**

**Access to  
University Courses**



# Contents

<b>Welcome from the Principal</b>	<b>03</b>
<b>What is an Access course?</b>	<b>05</b>
<b>What are the benefits?</b>	<b>06</b>
<b>Money</b>	<b>08</b>
<b>Student support</b>	<b>09</b>
<b>Courses</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>How to apply</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>What's next?</b>	<b>26</b>

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“The Access course at The Sheffield College prepared me perfectly for university. The first year of my degree was so much easier than I expected as a result.”

Former student

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## Welcome from the Principal

**Do you dream about studying for a degree at college or university or breaking into a new career but think it is too late to get the right qualifications?**

The Sheffield College offers one-year Access courses, which provide adult learners with a fantastic springboard to success.

They enable students without traditional qualifications, such as A Levels, to return to the classroom and then go on to college or university to study for a degree.

Access courses are available in a range of subjects and lead to credits recognised by colleges, universities and employers.

Around 300 students complete Access courses with us every year.

Returning to education has changed their lives, increased their confidence and skills and dramatically boosted their prospects.

They have discovered their talents later in life and, as a result, have the commitment and drive to succeed.

Many have gone on to university and great careers as a result. They have achieved more than they thought was ever possible. You can, as well.



*Heather Smith*

**Heather Smith**  
Principal, The Sheffield College



## What is an **Access course?**

**Have you always fancied doing a degree or diploma at university but didn't think you had the qualifications to do so? If that's the case then read on, we just might know a way of getting you there...**

An Access to Higher Education course is as you might expect. It's a 1 year course that gives you the relevant entry requirements to gain a place on a university level course (providing you pass, obviously).

They're designed specifically for those of you who have been out of education for some time and didn't have the qualifications to get into university first time round – with every intention of getting you there this time.

Simply choose which Access course you want to do, successfully complete the course and the university door is open to you!

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**“The teaching on my course was amazing. The tutors were all so helpful and supportive.”**

Former student

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# What are the benefits?

## Accessible entry requirements and no upper age limit

The beauty of an Access course is that there aren't many entry requirements. We want to make opportunities available to those ready to work for them.

For most Access courses, a Grade C or above in GCSE English and Maths (dependent on course subject) is desirable. Please check individual course subjects for specific entry requirements.

Nor is there an upper age limit, because university is not just for 'young people'.

Don't worry if you don't have the exact requirements, you can always do a Pre-Access course with us. Your course leader will advise you on this at the interview stage.

## It doesn't matter if you've been out of education for a while

If you've been out of education for a while, you're probably feeling a bit nervous about throwing yourself back into it all. We can assure you, you're not the only one who will be feeling that way.

The whole point of an Access course is to ease you back into the classroom environment and prepare you for university. Yes it will be challenging, but the course has taken all this into consideration.

You won't be thrown in at the deep end or expected to remember everything from a time gone by. We're trying to help you, and other people in your situation, to be successful.

## Universities recognise the qualification

Of course they do! We wouldn't just conjure up this qualification without talking to them. Universities have helped develop the courses so they are appropriate and feed directly into their entry requirements.

Each year, over 20,000 Access to Higher Education students achieve the Access to Higher Education Diploma and progress to degree courses across the UK.

You could be one of them.

## There's financial support on hand

The 19+ Advanced Learner Loan, for learners aged 19+, will cover your Access to Higher Education course tuition fees, isn't means tested or dependent on credit checks.

But...

The really great news is that if you progress and complete a university course, the 19+ loan is completely wiped meaning you'll only have to pay off your university student loan – which you don't have to do until you're earning over £21,000 a year!

If you need independent financial advice please visit [www.gov.uk/student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance) or [www.gov.uk/advanced-learner-loan/overview](http://www.gov.uk/advanced-learner-loan/overview)



## You can study Access courses at The Sheffield College

That's right, we have a fantastic Access course offer right here at The Sheffield College in a variety of subjects! You can study courses in the following areas:

- Business
- Science
- Humanities and Social Science
- Art and Design
- Sport
- Nursing
- Health Sciences (Nutrition, Physiotherapy, Radiography)
- Computing
- Media and Photography

# Money

**Paying for your course could be easier than you think. There are a couple of options available depending on your circumstances.**

## Full funding

If you are aged 19-23 and this is your first full Level 3 qualification, you will be entitled to funding to cover all of your tuition fees.

## 19+ Advanced Learner Loan

If you are aged 19-23 and have already achieved a full Level 3 qualification, or for all those aged 24 and over, you will be eligible for a loan.

19+ Advanced Learner Loans are not means tested or dependent on credit checks. When you progress and complete a university level course, the 19+ Advanced Learner Loan is completely wiped, meaning you will only have to pay back your university student loan.

One more added bonus – progress onto a university level course at The Sheffield College and you will benefit from lower tuition fees, which you won't pay back until you are earning over £21,000 a year.

# Student support

**Now that paying for your course is sorted, what about the necessities of completing it? The college can provide support for things like travel, books and equipment for those who are in need of a little extra help.**

If you are a student parent aged 20 or over, you may also be eligible to receive help with the cost of childcare while studying at the college.

We have nurseries at two of our main sites – City and Hillsborough – providing high quality educational and social experiences for children aged 6 months to 7 years. Our Hillsborough nursery was recently rated as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.

To find out more about funding and the support that you could be eligible for please visit [www.sheffcol.ac.uk/student-support](http://www.sheffcol.ac.uk/student-support)



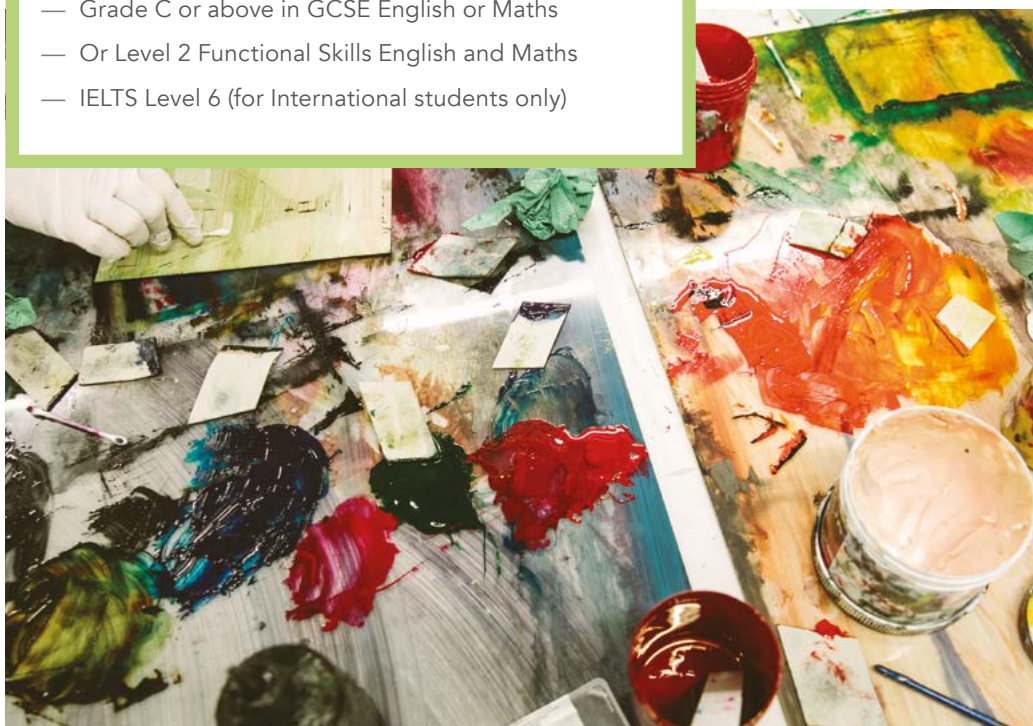
## **Courses**

<b>Art &amp; Design</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Business</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Computing</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Digital Media</b> — Photography and Media	<b>16</b>
<b>Health Science</b> — Nutrition, Physiotherapy and Radiography	<b>17</b>
<b>Humanities, English &amp; Social Science</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Nursing</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Science</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Sport</b>	<b>22</b>

## Art & Design

### Entry requirements

- Grade C or above in GCSE English or Maths
- Or Level 2 Functional Skills English and Maths
- IELTS Level 6 (for International students only)



### Course overview

If you've got a flair for the creative but you're still not sure which specialism to pursue at university, then this could be the perfect course for you. We've got some of the best art and design facilities in the region where you can explore new techniques and develop your personal style.

This course is geared towards preparing you for university study and employment in the design industry. Assignments throughout the course will help you to enhance your academic research and writing abilities (which will be invaluable at university), plus you'll get support with your work and university applications from your Personal Tutor.

You'll spend time honing your craft and personal style through research, testing and exploration in your portfolio – which is important as you'll need to take your portfolio to university and job interviews in the future – as well as displaying it at your end of year show. You'll also get the opportunity to develop as an Artist/Designer through regular group critique and peer/self-assessment – just the way you will in the industry.

**Previous students from this course have gone on to study art and design at university, including starting their journey by progressing on to the Foundation Degree in Graphic Design or HND in Games Design right here at The Sheffield College.**

## Business

### Entry requirements

- Grade C or above in GCSE English or Maths
- IELTS Level 6 (for International students only)



### Course overview

From international trade to business communication and finance, the Business Access to HE course is ideal for those students looking for a route on to a business degree or career in business/management.

Throughout the course you will study various aspects of business such as Marketing, Economics and Business Planning, as well as preparing yourself for university by developing skills in academic writing, presentations and numeracy.

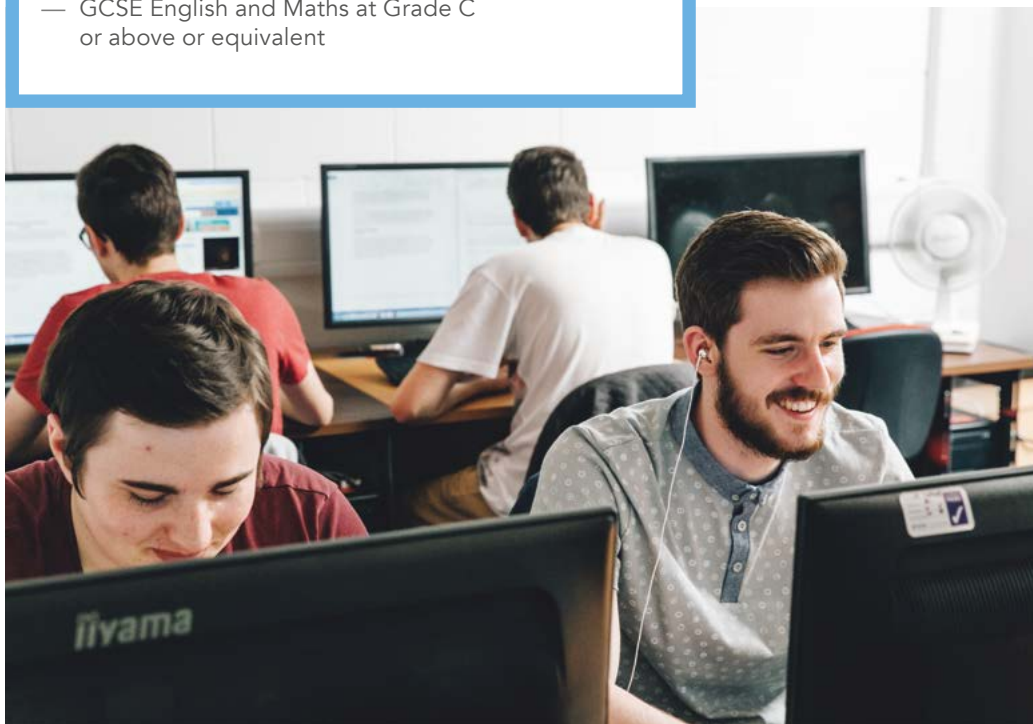
You'll be taught by specialists in different areas of business, who will provide you with a broad understanding of how businesses operate in today's economy. You'll also have the support of a Personal Tutor who can help guide you through the process of applying to the university course of your choice.

**Once you've finished the course you'll have a variety of options open to you. You might want to progress on to a BA Honours Degree at university, study for a HND, or if you want to carry on at college why not go for a Foundation Degree in Business Management & Leadership with us?**

## Computing

### Entry requirements

- GCSE English and Maths at Grade C or above or equivalent



### Course overview

It's a digital world out there and with the computing industry growing year on year, an Access to HE Course in Computing could be just the thing you need to propel you into this exciting and rapidly expanding sector.

The course will provide you with a good overview of the main disciplines within the computing industry, as well as preparing you for further study at university. You'll study Software Development, Web Skills and Networking and Computer Science, as well as learning how to organise your study time and how to work in groups. These are all essential skills for university

There's also an option to study Maths to A Level standard which means that you'll have the option to study computer science at some of the UK's top universities.

**You'll be taught in dedicated computer suites by staff who have worked in the industry; so you'll be well prepared to make the jump into employment or university when the time comes. Alternatively you could choose to stay at The Sheffield College to do one of our degree courses.**

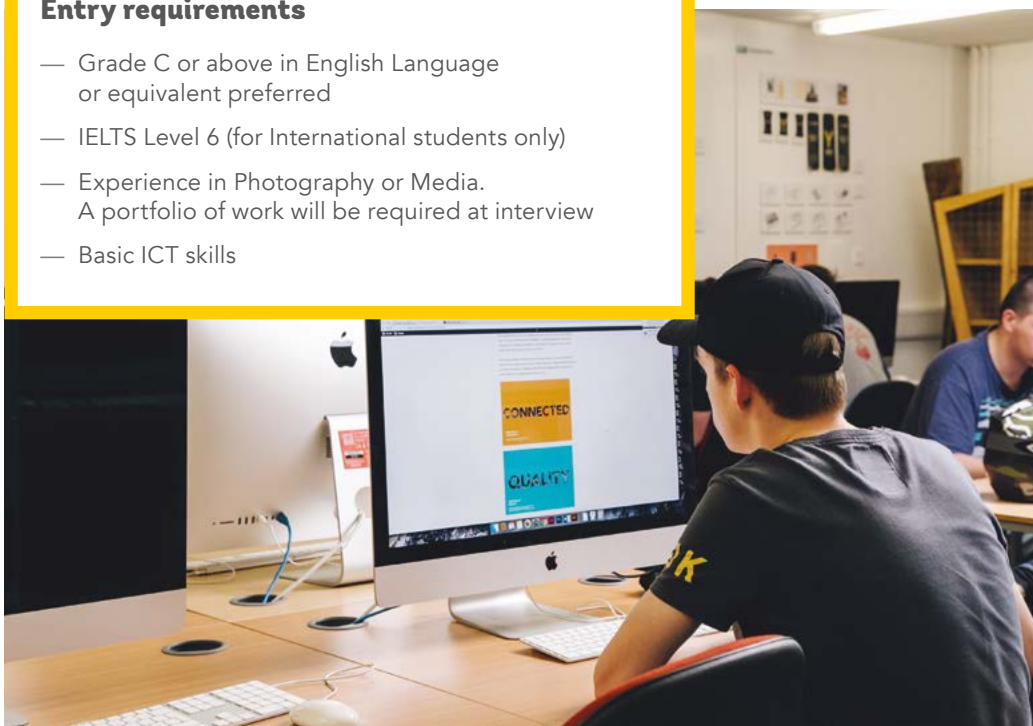




## Digital Media — Photography and Media

### Entry requirements

- Grade C or above in English Language or equivalent preferred
- IELTS Level 6 (for International students only)
- Experience in Photography or Media. A portfolio of work will be required at interview
- Basic ICT skills



### Course overview

The Sheffield College has developed a national reputation through its delivery of photography and media programmes across a broad range of courses, from beginner to degree level. This programme is aimed at the adult learner who wishes to enter a career in the creative industries. The course focuses on the development of the learner's photography or media skills - with a focus on a specialist pathway - in preparation for application to university level study.

The course encourages the learner to develop a professional standard portfolio based on their chosen specialism (Media or Photography). The course begins with an introductory 'skills build' tuition and as the course progresses students will produce outcomes based on their specialist pathway. Professional practice is at the centre of the programme and learners will be encouraged to gain experience in working with clients on live projects.

**Students who complete this course can progress to study at university or choose to study their degree with us at The Sheffield College. Our course fees are less than traditional universities and we offer degree courses in Photography, Media Production and Digital Journalism.**

## Health Science — Nutrition, Physiotherapy and Radiography

### Entry requirements

- GCSE English and Maths at Grade C or above or equivalent



### Course overview

The Health Science Access to HE course is ideal for those wishing to pursue further study in health services or biological sciences. All students will undertake core modules in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, as well as developing academic skills in preparation for university. This will include academic writing, research and communication skills. You will also take additional modules specific to your course pathway – Health Sciences, Nutrition, Radiography or Physiotherapy.

Students who have successfully completed this course have gone on to study a wide range of health science related subjects, such as Nursing, Midwifery, Radiography and Sport and Exercise Science.

**We offer a range of University Level programmes at The Sheffield College. Go to [www.sheffcol.ac.uk/courses/university-level](http://www.sheffcol.ac.uk/courses/university-level) now to see where you can progress with us.**

## Humanities, English & Social Science

### Entry requirements

- Grade C or above in GCSE English Language or equivalent



### Course overview

If you want to go to university to study social sciences (like psychology or sociology) or humanities, then this might well be the course for you.

Humanities, English and Social Science gives you the academic skills required for university (essay writing, research skills and delivering presentations) whilst also giving you the flexibility to study the subjects that really interest you and might shape your choice of university course, or even your future career.

Alongside a core curriculum you'll have the option to choose one of three pathways that includes subjects from a variety of areas, for instance: Black History, Economics, English, History, Psychology, Contemporary Social Issues and Sociology.

The advantage of this course is that it lets you pick a pathway of subjects that will give you access to a really diverse range of university and employment options.

**Previous students have progressed on to study courses such as counselling and law at university, and the employment opportunities are just as varied. We've had students go on to work in teaching, social care and community development.**

## Nursing

### Entry requirements

- Grade C or above in GCSE English and Maths



### Course overview

Over the course of one year, this qualification will equip you with the skills and knowledge you'll need to study nursing and other healthcare related courses at university level.

You'll develop your knowledge of healthcare by studying subjects such as Health Psychology, Body Structure Function and Non-infectious Conditions. At the same time, you'll prepare to take on the academic demands of university study by developing skills which will teach you how to research and put your findings into an essay format. Whilst the majority of assessments will take the form of an on-going portfolio of coursework, you'll also have the opportunity to do presentations and group work, which are often key methods of assessment at university.

Students who have completed this course in the past have gone on to study mental health nursing, midwifery, physiotherapy and even social care at university level.

**If you don't fancy heading straight to university and would like to benefit from cheaper fees you could progress on to the FdSc Professional Practice in Health & Social Care (offered by The Sheffield College in partnership with Sheffield Hallam University); a two-year course that would enable you to join a healthcare related degree in the second year of university.**

## Science

### Entry requirements

- Grade C or above in Maths, English and Science GCSE or equivalent

### Course overview

The Access to HE Diploma (Science) course provides you with the knowledge and skills needed to progress to university courses in any area that requires a science background.

A broad range of units are available for you to choose from so that you can tailor the course to suit your needs and interests and be thoroughly prepared for your chosen university course. Most students choose units from three of the following subjects, although it is possible to choose either a broader or a more specialised programme of study:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Environmental Science
- Human Biology
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Psychology

You will also do a Science Project and Study Skills, including academic writing, ICT and presentation skills.

Previous students on this course have gone on to study and pursue careers in a broad range of subjects, including architecture, biochemistry, biology, biomedical science, chemistry, education, dietetics, engineering (all types), environmental science, forensics, mathematics, midwifery, nursing, ODP, paramedics, pharmacy, physics, physiotherapy, psychology, quantity surveying, radiography, radiotherapy, speech therapy, zoology and many more.

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**“My tutor was so supportive and always willing to spend extra time with me to help.”**

Former student





## Sport

### Entry requirements

- Grade C or above English GCSE or equivalent
- Level 2 Maths qualification

### Course overview

This course is a great way for learners who have been out of education for a while to get the knowledge and skills they need to progress on to a university level course in sport or related areas.

You'll study the basic elements of sport like Health and Fitness, Anatomy and Nutrition as well as delving deeper into the sporting psyche by taking modules in Sport Psychology or Coaching. Being a sports student, you'll also get to use and learn in our fantastic sports facilities at our Hillsborough Campus, including a gym, sports hall and a 3G sports pitch.

If you're hoping to progress on to a university course, you'll also benefit from developing your academic study skills through different styles of assessment like research projects, essays and reports and group presentations. You'll also have access to academic support and guidance in the form of your Personal Tutor who will help you with your application to university or further study.

**One of the best things about this course is just how varied your options are once you've finished your studies. Former students have gone on to study higher education courses in nutrition, sports therapy and even sports journalism.**

**You could also choose to start on our very own Foundation Degree in Sport and Exercise or perhaps Business Leadership and Management.**

# How to apply

1.

Find the course you want to apply for by heading to [www.sheffcol.ac.uk/courses](http://www.sheffcol.ac.uk/courses)

## Top tip

To see all of the Access courses we offer just select '**Access to University Level**' from the filter drop down menu in the search box on the website.

2.

Select the course you're interested in and read through the relevant information.

3.

When you're sure you've found the course that's right for you, hit the 'Click to apply' button.

4.

Follow the step-by-step process and enter all your details – make sure you give us the right email address and phone number in case we need to contact you about your application.

5.

Once you've filled in all the details hit 'Send' to submit your application.

6.

Attend an interview (if required for your chosen course).

7.

Our Admissions Team will consider your application and be in touch to confirm if you've got a place on the course.

8.

Enrol! We'll invite you to come down to the college on a specific date and time (usually around the end of August) to enrol on your course. You'll need to bring some ID and evidence of any qualifications needed to get started on your course.



# What's next?

Once you've completed your Access qualification, did you know you can study for your degree with us?

There are lots of reasons to pick us, here are a few of our favourites:

## Less debt

It's simple. Our fees cost less than your traditional universities but you'll still come out with the same qualification. In fact we charge £6,500 per year, which is £3,000 less a year!

## Top class tutors

Our tutors haven't always been teachers! They have loads of experience working in their chosen industry giving you invaluable insight into what skills today's employers are looking for.

## Wide range of career driven courses

With courses in everything from Graphic Design and Business Management, to Performing Arts and Construction, there's something for just about everyone. And what's better, all of our courses focus on giving you the skills you need to find the job you want.

## Small class sizes

Our class sizes are far smaller than at some of the traditional universities, which is great news for you. You'll receive more contact time with your Tutor plus one-to-one support giving you the greatest opportunity to achieve the best degree possible.

## Ready for the workplace

All our courses are designed to make you ready for your chosen career. Our courses come with real work placements or live projects set by employers, which will boost your CV and impress your future boss.

## A little extra

Subject to eligibility, all of our students get a £500 IT voucher to spend on things that will help them on their course – such as a tablet or laptop.

Contact [info@sheffcol.ac.uk](mailto:info@sheffcol.ac.uk) for the most recent University Level prospectus or go to [www.sheffcol.ac.uk/courses](http://www.sheffcol.ac.uk/courses) to have a look at the courses we offer.



**The Sheffield College**

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**Certa**

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All information is correct at time of print.  
Data and statistics taken from EMSI software.  
If you need this guide in any other format, please get in touch.

