


**CREATIVE DIGITAL PRACTICE:
(Games Development)
FOUNDATION DEGREE**

**COURSE HANDBOOK
2023-2024**



**THE SHEFFIELD COLLEGE
in partnership with
SHEFFIELD HALLAM UNIVERSITY**

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1 Introduction

1.1 Welcome to the Sheffield College

Welcome to your Higher Education (HE) studies at The Sheffield College.

Many studies have shown that individuals who take the bold step to undertake HE study lead enriched lives: they have greater social mobility; can earn more money; have better chances of taking part in democratic processes and can contribute so much to their community.

Studying for a Higher Education course is undoubtedly immensely rewarding and challenging, and here at The Sheffield College we admire all our students who undertake HE study.

At The Sheffield College we have developed a whole range of ways we support our HE students. For example:



- we have Academic study support specialists;
- we have developed our Skills and Attributes Framework to give you the support you need to flourish in your studies and beyond;
- our HE students have enhanced career support, and;
- we have specialists who can help if you have a disability.

Our aim is to create a nurturing and supportive environment with good access to teachers and resources, and we hope that you will enjoy learning in our vibrant academic community.

Your tutors are focussed on supporting your journey and providing a positive HE teaching and learning experience, one in which you will develop as an independent learner and gain a whole range of graduate attributes which are valued by employers.

I hope that you enjoy your time here and make the most of the exciting opportunities ahead.

Tina Harrison
tina.harrison@sheffcol.ac.uk
Assistant Principal, Higher Education

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1.2 The College

The Sheffield College has around 20,000 students in total, 600 of which are on university level courses. Higher Education at the Sheffield College operates across 3 campuses; City, Hillsborough and Olive Grove. Higher Education is based within departments in order to give you access to specialist facilities. Each course has a designated HE Course Leader, who is responsible for the day to day running of your course, and is your first point of contact.



We are proud of our vocational facilities, which are among the best in the north of England, and our staff work hard to ensure you get a valuable experience when using them. You will find your tutors and support staff approachable and available to help you every step of your journey. For us, your time here is ‘all about you’ and we hope that you will work with us to continue to build a vibrant HE community.

1.3 Purpose of this handbook and how to use it

An important aspect of offering high quality courses of study at university level is the provision of information for students which is accurate, comprehensive and reliable for your learning needs.

In support of this objective, this handbook is designed in collaboration with your awarding body, Sheffield Hallam University, to meet the expectations of the UK Quality Code.

The handbook provides information about your course team, the course you have chosen to study, assessment, personal academic and pastoral support, learning resources, quality assurance, work-based learning and opportunities for further study. It is a document that you will need to dip into during the course, when you need to look up, for example, what to do if you are ill. It contains the rules by which we all must live; so keep it in a safe place for future reference.

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2 Course Team

2.1 Contacting Staff

At the Sheffield College we are proud of the amount of tutor support we provide. We encourage you to contact tutors if you need any help or support with your work, or if you have any queries about their module. Whilst you can often catch staff in their workrooms during breaks, email is usually the best method of contact at other times, as tutors have busy teaching commitments and may not be readily available by phone. If you do contact by phone, be prepared to leave a message with your phone number; your tutor will always phone you back to arrange a time to meet with you to discuss any concerns you may have.

As well as having tutors for different modules of the course, each course has an HE Programme Leader, who is responsible for the day to day running of the course. You should contact the HE Programme Leader if you have any queries concerning the course and how it operates, or if you are unable to attend class for any reason, for example due to illness.



In addition, your course is managed by a Head of Academy. You are unlikely to need to make contact with the Head of Academy, unless your HE Programme Leader is absent from College for any length of time. Contact details for individual tutors will be given to you in class, by the tutors themselves. Contact details for your HE Programme Leader and Head of Academy are listed below.

FdA Creative Digital Practice: (Games Development)

Name	Role	email
Ritchie Moore	HE Course Leader & HE Academic Tutor	ritchie.moore@sheffcol.ac.uk
Lance Burkitt	Head of School, Construction, Digital, Engineering and Creative Industries	lance.burkitt@sheffcol.ac.uk
TBC	Programme Leader	TBC@sheffcol.ac.uk

2.2 HE@TSC

The College has a dedicated specialist HE Office to service HE students. This is your first point of contact for all administrative queries. The HE Senior Administrator can be contacted via email; HEOffice@sheffcol.ac.uk and will either be able to answer your query or give you the contact details of the appropriate person to help you. The Assistant Principal, Higher Education, is Tina Harrison, tina.harrison@sheffcol.ac.uk

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3 The Course

3.1 Programme Specification

The Programme Specification for your course describes the learning outcomes, how the learning outcomes are taught and assessed, the design and structure of the course, and career and progression opportunities. Because this information is specific to your course it is included as Appendix 1. The individual module descriptors are also included as Appendix 2.

Curriculum

You will be given a module guide at the beginning of each module which details the assessment tasks, the assessment schedule, the scheme of work, and other pertinent information.


3.2 Attendance Requirements

Foundation Degrees are vocational courses which prepare you for working in a professional environment as well as to undertake further study. These courses require you to behave in a professional manner, in much the same way as you would in a working environment. Therefore, we expect your attendance rate to be high, and that if you have to miss a class for some unavoidable reason, you inform your HE Course Leader, and make arrangements to catch up the class you miss. Our courses move at a fast pace, and there is a strong relationship between good attendance and success.

Group work is a key component of all courses, and will form part of your assessment. Good attendance enables you to build working relationships with your peers and play your full part in collaborative activities. Being able to work as part of a team is an important employability skill, and is highly valued on our courses.



For all these reasons, your personal tutor will monitor your attendance and, should an issue arise for any reason, will help you to action plan so that you get back on track. However, it is your personal responsibility to ensure that you attend, and in particular that you **do not take holidays during term time**. To help you with your planning, you will receive a college calendar at induction.

The College reserves the right to withdraw you from your course should your attendance pattern indicate a lack of commitment to your studies with the likelihood that you will not successfully complete the course. If you have a pattern of haphazard attendance, your Course Leader will initiate a Positive Engagement Plan, to help you set targets and arrange support if you require it, in order to get you back on track. However, should your attendance not improve, or you do not attend for 4 consecutive weeks, you will be withdrawn and the student loans

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company will be informed. This will result in your funding being stopped, and you will owe the college the balance of any unpaid fees.

To learn more, go to <https://www.sheffcol.ac.uk/about-us/terms-and-conditions> and click on *Positive Engagement and Disciplinary Procedure*.

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4 Assessment

4.1 Sheffield Hallam University Standard Assessment Regulations

This handbook does not include the University's Standard Assessment Regulations themselves because these may change periodically. The Regulations are published on Sheffield Hallam University's student intranet where you can access links to all Assessment and related Regulations.

The current Standard Assessment Regulations document is available by following this link <https://students.shu.ac.uk/regulations/index.html> and clicking on 'Assessment and awards' in the sub-menu on the left-hand side. The current regulations document can be found under the heading *Regulations*.

You do not need to log in to view the regulations. You will also find a link to the Standard Assessment Regulations on your course Google classroom/VLE site.

Please ensure that you read these and familiarise yourself with them, as they govern your assessment, progression and attainment.



4.2.1 What if I experience problems which affect my studies?

The University's Extenuating Circumstances Policy and Procedure is intended to provide support if you experience unexpected and unanticipated difficulties during your time as a student which adversely impacts on your studies and your ability to complete assessments or complete them to your usual standard.

If you are experiencing such difficulties, please refer to the Sheffield College's HE Assessment, Extenuating Circumstances and Support Policy and Procedure for guidance (which outlines timescales and documentation needed to submit) and speak to a member of the teaching staff about your specific situation. They will be able to advise which procedure you need to follow and who to submit the relevant paperwork to.

Further information for Extenuation is also on the Sheffield Hallam University's student intranet by following this link <https://students.shu.ac.uk/regulations/index.html> and clicking on 'Illness and difficult circumstances' in the sub-menu on the left-hand side. The Extenuating Circumstances Policy and Procedure document can be found under the heading *Policy and Guidance*.

You should read this information if you are experiencing personal problems, for example, if you are ill, have been in hospital, have experienced an exceptional family emergency or are suffering from exceptional stressful life events, and they are having a significant impact on your ability to study.

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Whilst studying with us you may well encounter some of the difficulties of life experienced by most people, such as ill-health or personal issues. Normally you will be able to overcome or manage these without any impact on your ability to study and complete assessment.

Occasionally however you might experience ill-health or personal issues that are exceptional in nature and which have a significant impact on your ability to study and to complete assessment. **We define these as extenuating circumstances.** Generally, such circumstances will occur suddenly, will be unexpected and are beyond your immediate control to overcome or manage due to their severity and/or timing. There are different types of extenuation, dependant on the individual situation. Our policy is to help you where we can to mitigate the impact of your extenuating circumstances on your studies and to consider all requests for help sensitively, fairly and equitably.



It is important you inform us as soon as you are aware that your studies and/or ability to take assessment are being affected by ill-health or personal issues. If you need to apply for Exceptional Circumstances, you should adhere to the timescales outlined and contact your **HE Course Leader** immediately if your circumstances are preventing you from attending classes or are affecting your ability to complete assessment. We understand you might not always feel comfortable doing this particularly when your circumstances are of a personal and sensitive nature. However, we encourage you to do so. Any information you disclose will be handled in confidence.

The appropriate mechanism to help mitigate the impact of your circumstances will depend on the timing and severity of those circumstances.

- Where the circumstances occur close to a coursework submission deadline and are of the type that can quickly be overcome, you can request a short extension to that deadline.
- Where your circumstances will prevent any sustained meaningful engagement with your studies, then you can request a planned break in studies.
- Where your circumstances are having a detrimental impact on your ability to attempt or reach a pass standard in an assessment task, you can request to repeat your attempt at that assessment task.

We will consider any request sensitively, fairly and equitably based on the extent to which you have:

- Submitted the request in a timely manner.
- Clearly stated the nature of your circumstances and the impact they are having on your ability to study and take assessment.

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- Provided appropriate documentary evidence where it can be reasonably obtained.

The Sheffield College will support students in completing a Request Extension to Coursework Submission Deadline (RESO), Request Repeat Assessment Attempt (RRAA) or a Break in Study (BIS) form.

In line with the Sheffield College procedure, your Extenuating Circumstances will be reviewed by your Course Leader, and then forwarded for further review by a panel. This process is undertaken so your individual case can be reviewed and either accepted or declined following the Extenuating Circumstances Policy and Procedure process. The Sheffield College will confirm the outcome to students.

NB: The following list indicates the type of situations which do not meet the definition of extenuating circumstances because we believe they can be avoided or that you can act to limit the impact. The list is not exhaustive.

Medical



- *long-standing medical conditions (as these should be covered by a Learning Contract)*
- *planned health appointments*
- *minor ailments such as a cold*

Personal

- *the break-up of a short-term relationship*
- *financial difficulties*
- *attending or taking part in sporting events*
- *holidays or travel*
- *moving house*
- *normal domestic issues*
- *work commitments for fulltime students reducing time available for study and coursework*
- *voluntary work*
- *weddings*

Study related

- *completing coursework too late and missing deadlines*
- *losing coursework*
- *not following the assessment timetable*
- *transport difficulties which could have reasonably been avoided*
- *withdrawal of IT facilities as a result of being in debt to the College*
- *circumstances that affect another individual in relation to group work*
- *English being a second language*

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4.2.2 Academic Misconduct

The Sheffield College and Sheffield Hallam University believe strongly in the importance of academic integrity and supports the development of good academic practice. As such it takes breaches of academic conduct (for example, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying data, irregular behaviour in an examination) very seriously and all allegations of academic misconduct will be investigated according to these regulations and procedures. These are applied with full regard to the principles of equity and fairness.

Academic misconduct is committed when a student does not follow published assessment protocols or tries to gain an unfair advantage by breaking, or not following, the academic regulations concerning any part of the assessment process. This procedure applies to all students on taught courses engaged in any University assessment activity whether on or off campus including collaborative programmes.

In addition to these procedures, students on professional courses may also be subject to supplementary Professional Statutory or Regulatory body regulations and procedures. These procedures will be specified in individual course documentation.

The Academic Misconduct procedures include a two-stage process for dealing with allegations of misconduct.



- Meetings under Stage One take place at the college, and if there is sufficient evidence to substantiate the allegations a sanction will be recommended and the sanction will be ratified by the Chair of one of Sheffield Hallam University's Academic Conduct Panels.
- Stage Two entails a meeting of the Academic Conduct Panel at Sheffield Hallam University. Students involved in Stage Two proceedings may participate by making a written statement in advance for consideration by the Academic Conduct Panel.

The Sheffield Hallam University's regulations regarding Academic Misconduct can be accessed by following this link <https://students.shu.ac.uk/regulations/index.html> and clicking on 'Conduct and discipline' in the sub-menu on the left-hand side. The Academic Conduct Regulation document can be found under the heading *Regulations*.

You do not need to log in to view the regulations. You will also find a link to the procedures on your course Google classroom/VLE site.

4.2.3 Appeals

An appeal may be submitted against the decision of a University Departmental Assessment Board, Extenuating Circumstances Panel or Academic Conduct Panel,

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on the grounds stipulated in the regulations. You are therefore strongly advised to discuss the nature of the appeal with your HE Course Leader.

You cannot appeal against an academic judgement of the marks awarded but you may request confirmation of their validity if you think there has been an error or irregularity. You are strongly advised to speak with your module tutor as early as possible if you require clarification of a mark awarded for your work or to your Course Leader if you do not fully understand the impact on you of an assessment board decision.

An appeal must be submitted on the correct form, with accompanying documentation within the specified time frame to your Course Leader who will submit it to Sheffield Hallam University who will conduct all appeals.

The full Appeals Regulations is available on Sheffield Hallam University's student intranet by following this link <https://students.shu.ac.uk/regulations/index.html> and clicking on 'Appeals and complaints' in the sub-menu on the left-hand side. The Appeals Policy and Procedure document can be found under the heading *Regulations*.

You do not need to log in to view the procedures. You will also find a link to the procedures on your course Google classroom/VLE site.



You are advised to read these regulations in full.

4.3 Marking Arrangements

When you are set coursework, you will be given the deadline by which it is to be submitted. It is vital that you ensure you know the date, time and method for submission of coursework. Failure to meet a deadline counts as non-submission, and will be marked at zero.

It is your responsibility to keep a copy of all written coursework submitted. Your work will be marked by the module tutor, and a sample will be internally verified by another member of staff. In addition, the External Examiner will sample work from all modules.

You will receive feedback and marks for your work within 3 working weeks of submission. Working weeks exclude weeks where the college is closed to students. If for any reason this is not possible, you will be informed of the reason and given a date when work will be returned. The feedback you receive will be both written and oral, and forms a vital part of the learning process. Do make sure that you fully understand the feedback given, so that you can use it to improve your future work. Do not hesitate to ask the tutor if you need further guidance and explanation of how your work is marked.

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Please note that any marks you receive as part of the feedback process are provisional until confirmed at a University Departmental Assessment Board.

All assessed work will count towards your final percentage mark for the module. What you need to achieve in order to pass a module is specified in the assessment regulations.

At the end of the course your Foundation Degree will be classified as either pass, merit or distinction. For details of how the classification is calculated, see **Regulation 11** of Sheffield Hallam University's Standard Assessment Regulations by following this link and clicking on 'Assessment and awards' in the sub-menu on the left-hand side <https://students.shu.ac.uk/regulations/index.html> The current regulations document can be found under the heading *Regulations*.

You do not need to log in to view the regulations. You will also find a link to the regulations on your course Google classroom/VLE site.

Information about what happens if you fail a module, whether a module can be compensated, retaking a failed module and the impact this may have on your progression through the course is explained in Sheffield Hallam University's Standard Assessment Regulations. If you need to retake a failed module a fee will be calculated according to the number of credits involved. Please contact the Sheffield College HE Office for advice if this situation arises.



Sheffield Hallam University's Standard Assessment Regulations are available by following this link <https://students.shu.ac.uk/regulations/index.html> and clicking on 'Assessment and awards' in the sub-menu on the left-hand side. The current regulations document can be found under the heading *Regulations*.

You do not need to log in to view the regulations. You will also find a link to the procedures on your course Google classroom/VLE site.

4.4 Guidance on Referencing

Accurate and consistent referencing is essential in all academic work. Whenever you refer to either the work or ideas of someone, or are influenced by another's work, you must acknowledge this. Similarly, if you make a direct quotation from or paraphrase someone's work this should be referred to accurately.

There are a number of referencing systems. The system you will use on this course is the APA (American Psychological Association) system. The system is described in the guide, which can be found on the Learning Resource Centre Google Classroom page [kmtfsoe https://classroom.google.com/w/MzczMjlxMzQ1NjRa/tc/Mzc0MjcyNjlxNTNa](https://classroom.google.com/w/MzczMjlxMzQ1NjRa/tc/Mzc0MjcyNjlxNTNa) *Referencing and Plagiarism*, where you will find guides to APA Referencing.

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Referencing is a skill which improves with practice. It is a very important part of your academic development. The guides are comprehensive and explain how to reference any information source. Your tutor will give you feedback on your referencing in assignments to help you develop your referencing skills. Senior Learning Facilitators and the HE Tutor Mentor are also available in the learning centres to provide individual help and offer small group workshops by arrangement.

4.5 Notification of Results

At the end of each semester there will be a Departmental Assessment Board held at Sheffield Hallam University, to which the college HE Office will submit your marks. The External Examiner may be present and if not will have communicated with the board prior to the board. Whether or not the External Examiner attends the board, they will have reviewed samples of your assessed work and agreed the marks awarded.

These assessment boards consider your marks and confirm whether or not you have passed each module, whether you can progress to year 2 of the course, or whether you are awarded the Foundation Degree. The Sheffield College HE Office sends out full transcripts at the end of each Academic Year, usually within 2 weeks of the receipt of confirmation of marks from the Sheffield Hallam University Departmental Assessment Board.

Further information regarding Exam Boards can be seen here, <https://www.sheffcol.ac.uk/about-us/terms-and-conditions> and click on *Exam Board Policy & Procedure*.


4.6 Provision of Certificates

On successful completion of the course Sheffield Hallam University will issue your Certificate. It is vital that you ensure that The Sheffield College HE Office always has your current address to ensure that these important documents go to the correct place.

You **must** notify The Sheffield College HE Office by emailing HEOffice@sheffcol.ac.uk if you change either your term time or the permanent addresses given at enrolment, as well as your email address and mobile telephone number.



4.7 Graduation

During the summer following successful completion of your course, you will receive an invitation to attend our graduation ceremony. This is a memorable occasion

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where family and friends join you and your tutors to celebrate your achievements. The ceremony takes place in the autumn following successful completion of your course.

You will also receive an invitation to attend the graduation ceremony at Sheffield Hallam University, the awarding body for this foundation degree.

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5 Academic and Pastoral Support
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5.1 Academic Course Tutor and Other Individual Support Arrangements

Every student is allocated an academic course tutor. Full time students meet with their academic course tutor during induction and then on a weekly basis for either group or individual tutorials. Part time students meet for individual tutorials by arrangement.

Your academic course tutor will monitor and keep records of your progress. You will be expected to take an active part in this process and take responsibility for your own learning and progress. Your academic course tutor is there to support and guide you on your learning journey and is your first point of contact if you have any concerns or need to access support, counselling or careers guidance. Your academic course tutor will be responsible for writing your reference when you apply for further courses or employment. You will be given contact details for your academic course tutor during induction.

You will also receive academic support from your module tutors. This may take the form of face to face academic tutorials, advice surgeries, appointments which may be remote (by telephone or email conversations) and conferences on the college intranet. Never be afraid to ask for help or advice - we are here to support you. Module tutors will provide you with contact details during the first lesson.



5.2 Other Sources of Support

During induction you will be given details of all the support services which the college provides.

A Student Central base is located at the City and Hillsborough campuses, staffed by the [Student Support Team](#) who are there to support you throughout your time at College. This team of staff includes our own [Careers Advice Team](#) who can advise you about appropriate courses and give careers advice, and a team of staff offering personal support. We have various initiatives in place to support you, no matter what issues you might be facing either at home or at college. More information can be found [here](#).

5.3 Additional Learning Support

In most instances your learning support is funded by Student Finance England www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance through the Disabled Students Allowances. These allowances are awarded to you, not to the College, so you have to apply for them before we can buy in the support you need on your behalf.

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In order to access specialist support you need to apply for Disabled Students Allowance. You need to complete an online [application form](#) and send the documents requested to Student Finance England, who will assess your claim. If successful, they will fund you to attend an assessment centre where your particular support needs can be assessed. For more information visit [Disabled Students' Allowances](#) If you need any help with your application, or have any questions about Disabled Student Allowance, you should contact Charlotte Hope on 0114 260 2969 or by email charlotte.hope@sheffcol.ac.uk

If you have applied for Disabled Students' Allowance and been unsuccessful, ask your HE Course Leader to refer you to Charlotte Hope, who will liaise with them about your case and agree appropriate strategies for your support.

5.4 Nursery and Childcare Services

The College nurseries provide a high quality educational and social experience for children aged 6 months to 7 years within a caring environment.

The nurseries are open to all parents who live, work or study within the wider community.

We have full day care facilities at both Hillsborough and City Campuses.

[City Nursery](#) is located at the bottom of Granville Rd, next to The Sheffield City College, close to tram and bus routes. This is a 60-place purpose-built nursery, open 50 weeks per year from 8.00 am - 6.00 pm, Monday to Friday.


[Hillsborough Nursery](#) is located in the grounds of our Hillsborough campus on Livesey Street, and is a purpose built 40-place nursery, open term time from 8.30 am - 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday.

The childcare staff teams have the required qualifications, skills and experience to provide childcare and education that enables children to reach their potential and equip them to be questioning, confident individuals with a positive attitude for learning.

Full time, part time or occasional/emergency places are available.

Holiday cover is available at City Nursery for children aged 7 and under.

For further information and how to apply please follow this link:
<http://www.sheffcol.ac.uk/childcare-and-nurseries>



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5.5 Funding your study

Please refer to information published by Student Finance England [on how to apply for loans and grants and details on your entitlement.](#)

If you encounter financial hardship during your studies you may be eligible to apply for an HE Bursary in line with our Access and Participation Plan. At the start of the course we will write to those students who qualify. Additionally, there is a small allocation of funding to support students in hardship and details of how to apply for this will be emailed to students, through College email accounts, during the course of their studies.

To learn more about our Access and Participation Plan, go to <https://www.sheffcol.ac.uk/about-us/terms-and-conditions> and click on the latest *APP Impact Report*.

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6 Learning Resources

All college campuses provide Wi-Fi access so that you can connect your own devices. There are drop in sessions at all college campuses to help you if you experience difficulties.

6.1 Access to College Resources

Learning Resource Centres (LRCs) provide open access to resources, study space and computing facilities, in a pleasant and welcoming environment. You will find a Learning Resource Centre located at all of the College campuses - Hillsborough, Peaks and Sheffield City College. Opening times can be found on the [college website](#), in our information leaflets, and are displayed in each centre, as well as 24/7 electronic access where available.

It is our aim to make the LRC a flexible service, giving support throughout your time in college. Regular Student Forum meetings are held, where we welcome feedback and suggestions from students in order to improve our service.



LRCs provide you with an extensive range of resources to support your learning, including:

- Books, magazines and newspapers
- DVDs, multimedia, online and electronic resources
- Study support materials and learning packages
- Internet access, including Wi-Fi to connect your own device. Secure access to online resources is provided through an authentication service (currently Shibboleth) more information is available via our Google Classroom page [ibllshj](#)
- Resources can be produced in alternative formats, please contact your tutor.

You will be able to borrow many of these resources but others are available only for use in the LRC.

In each LRC we have dedicated staff available to support students' learning needs:

- Senior Learning Facilitators are available during working hours for face to face and remote support, and questions can be sent via email to learningresources@sheffcol.ac.uk or LRCteam@sheffcol.ac.uk they will be answered by the next available assistant.
- Senior Learning Facilitators also offer small group workshops on particular study skills - for example: referencing; researching a subject; effective internet searching, etc. We also have a Study Skills Google Classroom page [kmtfsoe](#)
- Staff are appropriately trained and keep up to date by attending regular updating sessions.

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The LRC staff can help you with your study and research skills, and have specialist knowledge of the resources available in your subject area. The team can provide training in a range of library related information skills to enable you to use resources effectively to support your studies. During induction you will be given a tour of the facilities and have the opportunity to meet the staff.

Your access to the College's IT facilities is by means of a Student Account. Students are given a small starting balance on their printing and photocopying account. When that has been used, further credits can be purchased.

You can pre-book a computer to work on at any of the LRCs, so that you know a PC will be available when you need it.

The [library catalogue](#) and details of all the services offered are available from all college LRCs, or online in the LRC sections of the [college website](#).

All students of the Sheffield College can borrow from any campus LRC. In order to borrow resources, students must bring their student card to the issue desk. Students are required to show their student card to gain access to College campuses.

Each student can borrow a total of up to 10 items, which may include:



Type of Loan	No. of items	Loan Terms
Ordinary Loan	Up to 10 items	3 Weeks
Short Loan	Up to 5 items	1 Week
Reference	Discretionary	Discretionary

The loan period is designated depending on the nature of resource and likely demand. The loan period may be changed following consultation with colleagues, or in periods of high demand.

Ordinary and short loan items can be renewed twice, either by calling in to the LRC, by email learningresources@sheffcol.ac.uk, or by telephone. Reserved and overdue items will not be renewed.

Fines are charged for overdue items. Costs for lost or damaged items are the full cost of replacement, or is negotiable if the advertised price is not available.

Students can reserve items that are on loan to at the issue desk or via the library catalogue. If a resource is not available at their own centre, LRC staff can request it from another centre. This may take up to 5 working days. If your request cannot be satisfied within the college LRCs, we have access to a range of inter-library loan schemes, including links with the British Library.

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The Learning Resource Centre Charter

We are here to help you be successful students - this is what we do for you:

Each working day we can give you:

- A welcoming, quiet place to study
- A wide range of books, journals, audio-visual materials and online resources relevant to your subject or course, most of which you are able to borrow
- A range of subject and study guides to support your learning
- Learning Facilitators to help you with your enquiries and information needs
- Senior Learning Facilitators to help with your course work and IT enquiries
- Computers for you to use for your college work
- Wi-fi (eduroam) access for you to connect your own learning devices
- Photocopiers, printers and a range of learning equipment for you to use
- Access to all Sheffield College Learning Resource Centres to use their facilities
- Help in finding resources kept in other Libraries and Information Services



When you are not in college you can access many of our services 24/7:

- You can log in to our online services using your college user name and password
- You can email queries to us, to be answered when we are next working
- Our online catalogue helps you find resources in advance of your next visit
- We have a growing collection of e-books and e-journals for your course
- You can find our useful information guides through your Google classroom

In return, this is what you can do for us:

- Ask us for any help that you need
- Take anything you want to borrow to the LRC desk with your Student ID Card
- Take care of any resources you use or borrow, and return them on time so they are available for other students to use
- Pay for any loss or damage caused to resources or facilities in your care, and the fines due on any items you didn't return on time
- Use the computers for course work only so they can be used by others too
- Respect the needs of other students and staff by keeping noise to a minimum for a pleasant and peaceful working atmosphere
- Use the LRC as a learning place - please don't bring food or drinks in
- Help us contribute to the environment by not wasting resources
- Tell us if you have any ideas on how we can improve our services

We aim to provide an efficient and effective LRC service. Your suggestions and comments are welcome.

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6.2 Learning Centres at Sheffield Hallam University

While you are studying a Sheffield Hallam University validated course you are able to join the learning centres as an associate member. The learning centres are the Adsetts Learning Centre at the City Campus, and the Collegiate Learning Centre. They are open twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, all through the year and you will need your SHUcard (Sheffield Hallam University's ID card) to enter. You will get this after the start of your course.

Help and support is available at the Helpdesk and staffed opening hours during semester are as follows:

Monday to Friday 10.00am - 7.00pm
Saturday and Sunday 10.00am - 5.00pm

Staffed opening hours change during vacation time so check these on the website below.

You can also get help by telephone and email. Contact details are as follows:

Telephone - 0114 225 3333 for 24/7 help
Email - library@shu.ac.uk

As an associate member you will be offered an induction visit with your course. Once you receive your SHU card (your ID card) you need to bring it with you every time you visit to get into the learning centre and to borrow books. You will be able to borrow up to five books. The learning centres provide media resources for reference use, staff support, study spaces for individual, group or social learning, and places to eat and drink.



You may be able to use some of the University's electronic resources in the library centres - ask at the Helpdesk for details on how to do this. The landing page also provides access to some of these resources.

You will be able to use some of the University's electronic resources in the learning centres - ask at the Helpdesk for details on how to do this.



There are helpful leaflets and guides available in print and online including referencing guides. These can be found on the Library Gateway.

Below is a website link which gives more information about associate membership for Sheffield College students:

<http://libguides.shu.ac.uk/sheffcol>

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In order to use Wi-Fi at Sheffield Hallam University, the University of Sheffield or any other participating university, you need to log-in to eduroam. Details of how to do this are given on your Google Classroom/VLE site and will be fully explained during your college induction.

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7 Opportunities to Engage In Quality Assurance of the Course

7.1 Student Representation

Students are invited to send representatives to attend Course Committees, where issues relating to the running and development of the course are discussed by teaching teams. At these meetings students can raise any concerns they have, so that prompt action can be taken to resolve matters. In addition, your personal tutor will discuss any concerns which arise during group tutorials, and report back on action taken. Student representatives are also invited to attend the course review at the end of each academic year.

The college employs a Student Involvement Facilitator, who calls termly meetings of the HE Student Forum, to which you are invited to send representatives. The Forum discusses non-course issues which are then raised with the appropriate college manager, who provides feedback to the next meeting. The Student Forum elects a lead Student Representative, who represents the student voice at HE Quality Standards meetings with senior managers and directors. Feedback from the Student Representatives across the country is taken into account by the Office for Students (OfS), alongside data from the annual NSS (National Student Survey). Their website can be found here: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/for-students/what-the-ofs-does-for-students/>

Higher Education students elect a representative to sit on the Student Union.



7.2 Student Surveys

The National Student Survey is conducted in your last year of study, where you are asked to respond to a series of questions about the quality of teaching and learning on your course. During your first year we will also ask you to complete short surveys to help us with particular aspects of your experience, e.g., induction. In addition, you are asked to contribute to module evaluations at the end of each module in order to help us to continuously improve. The results of these surveys are fed into the Annual Review process, and action plans are devised which take account of student opinion. You will receive feedback on the action arising from these surveys through your representatives on course committees and your personal tutor during group tutorials.

7.3 Complaints Process

Definition

A complaint is an expression of concern or dissatisfaction with any aspects of the College's provision that requires a response. Complaints concerning assessment and accreditation may sometimes be dealt with through the appeals procedures

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and those set up by awarding/validating organisations. For details of these please see 'Appeals' in paragraph 4.2.3 of this handbook.


The Sheffield College is committed to providing a high quality, educational experience and aims to provide a supportive environment, responsive to any concerns raised by students. You should feel able to make a complaint relating to the action, or lack of action, or about the standard of a service or facility provided to students of the College. The procedures are intended to ensure that all complaints are treated fairly and consistently and, wherever possible, to resolve the matter to the complainant's satisfaction. The College complaints procedure has two stages:

- informal stage - resolving a concern through informal discussion
- formal stage - resolving a concern through the formal complaints procedure, of which there are three possible stages

Full details of the two stages, and who to approach for help and advice, can be seen here <https://www.sheffcol.ac.uk/about-us/terms-and-conditions> and click on *Complaints Policy*.



7.4 External Examiner

The Name of the external examiner for your course is contained in the subject specific information contained in Appendix 2, together with the name of the institution at which they work, and their role.

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8 Work-based or Work-related Learning

All Foundation Degrees have work-based and work-related learning as a fundamental part of the programme. The method by which you undertake this learning differs from course to course, and detailed guidance will be given by your HE Course Leader on the particular requirements of your chosen course. Further details will be found in Appendix 2.

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9 Opportunities for Further Study

9.1 Opportunities at the Sheffield College

The College is committed to providing students on foundation degrees with the opportunity to ‘top up’ to honours level at the college. We have a programme for development of these courses; details can be found on the college website. Similarly, there may be suitable professional courses for you to progress to at the college, as well as a range of other part time courses. In all cases details are published on the [College website](#).

If you are uncertain about what you need to study next to progress your career, you can contact the Careers Advice Team via their central email address; CEIAG@sheffcol.ac.uk

You can also keep up to date with careers events, workshops and job opportunities via the Twitter account, @SheffColCareers.

Find out more about our Careers Advice Service on the college website; <https://www.sheffcol.ac.uk/careers-advice>



9.2 Opportunities at Sheffield Hallam University

Applicants who are studying for SHU-validated foundation degrees will receive an offer for their designated full-time honours degree progression route at Sheffield Hallam University provided that they submit an application via UCAS by the January closing date of the year in which they are due to complete their foundation degree. Sheffield Hallam University cannot guarantee an offer of a place if you apply after this date. Applicants who are studying for SHU-validated foundation degrees and who wish to progress to part-time study on their designated honours degree progression route will apply directly to the University.

The offer made by the University will be subject to:

- successful completion of the foundation degree programme including satisfying performance attainment requirements where specified
- submission of a satisfactory personal statement and reference
- meeting the University’s literacy and numeracy requirements
- satisfying any additional specific course requirements for entry to the designated progression route which may include successful attendance at an interview or selection event, successful completion of associated bridging studies or any non-academic conditions

Offers are made subject to the availability of courses and the University [Terms and Conditions](#)

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If you choose to progress to an honours degree either at the College or Sheffield Hallam University, you will take a further 120 credits at level 6. The marks you attain for your Foundation Degree will not count towards your final Honours Degree classification. How your honours degree is calculated is explained within the Sheffield Hallam University's Standard Assessment Regulations. For details, see **Regulation 11** by following this link <https://students.shu.ac.uk/regulations/index.html> and clicking on 'Assessment and awards' in the sub-menu on the left hand side. The regulations document can be found under the heading *Regulations*.

You do not need to log in to view the regulations. You will also find a link to the procedures on your course Google classroom/VLE site.

9.3 Other Opportunities

You can apply through UCAS to 'top up' your foundation degree to an honours degree at any university offering the course. You should research their entry requirements via the UCAS and university websites. You should check university websites for their current prospectuses.

You may also consider going directly into employment, in which case you should book a careers interview to discuss the opportunities for trainee graduate and internship positions. Careers advisors can also help you with your job search and recommend sources of information such as graduate recruitment fairs. Your HE Course Leader may be approached by employers with opportunities for employment, work experience or internships and will inform you of these opportunities as they become available.