

Frequently asked questions

FdA in Health Care Practice

What is a Foundation degree?

A Foundation degree is an innovative degree that is designed in partnership with employers to equip people with the relevant knowledge and skills for specific roles within the workplace. The FdA in Health Care Practice will enable students to function in a variety of health care settings in primary, secondary and tertiary care. It is envisaged that these students will be employed to undertake care of the service user under the direct supervision of a registered practitioner, with a level of knowledge and skill beyond that of the traditional healthcare support worker, taking some tasks from registered professionals and may work across many of the traditional professional boundaries.

Foundation degrees are normally studied over 2 years full time.

A named Certificate of Higher Education can be awarded to a student wishing to exit the programme once they have successfully completed 120 credits.

Why study for a Foundation Degree?

Are you:

- Working in health or social care?
- Experienced in caring for others?

The foundation degree in Health Care Practice has been developed to meet the ever changing needs of health care environment. University Campus Suffolk has a great deal of experience of running nursing, midwifery, radiography and social work programmes, and this experience has informed the structure and content of this programme.

What Foundation degrees are being offered?

We are offering a Foundation degree in Health Care Practice with pathways in:-

- Long Term Care
- Acute Care
- Mental Health
- End of Life Care
- Dementia Care End of Life

What does the Foundation degree offer you?

The programme offers you a chance to study on a part time basis to degree level, whilst still in employment. The Foundation degree is tailored to the role that you are performing. Therefore on qualification you will have not only the competency but the underpinning knowledge to undertake the role.

Graduates of a Foundation Degree programme are likely to have increased job satisfaction and better career prospects. Foundation Degrees offer employers an opportunity to develop existing staff whilst they remain in their current positions.

What are the entry qualifications?

200 UCAS tariff points (please go to www.ucas.com for further information if required)

Or

If you are a mature student we will consider equivalent qualifications and / or experience.

You may also require a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and Occupational Health Screening.

Will I be interviewed?

There will be an interview process to ensure that the programme is right for and you have the necessary skills, experience and / or qualifications to meet the demands of the Foundation Degree Programme.

Where is it running?

The course will normally run at the University Campus Suffolk Waterfront building which is the main hub in Ipswich. However, if there is sufficient demand it will be offered at other learning centers located in Great Yarmouth and Bury St. Edmunds.

What are the hours of study?

The Foundation Degree comprises of separate modules and each module will have university contact time, which will normally be offered on a part-time basis. This will consist one day per week study time normally from 9:30am -3:30pm when you will attend lectures. A virtual learning environment will also be used so that you can discuss and learn with the other students during study and practice based learning. The other three days will be based in practice to enable you to develop you work-based skills and continue with your practice role. You will be expected to undertake private study to meet the requirements of the course.

What does work based mean?

Work-based learning is a fundamental part of the course and can be carried out in your current role. You will be supplied with a practice learning handbook which will contain outcomes for you to meet which will relate to the modules you are studying at the time. The onus is on you to gather evidence to meet the outcomes with support from a named member of staff who will be appropriately qualified and experienced to guide you as and when necessary.

How is the programme structured?

This is a part-time programme which takes 2 ½ years to complete. Levels 4 and 5 each consist of 4 modules which span 15 months.

Level 4

- Personal & Professional Development
- Communication & Teamwork
- 2 specialist modules (according to pathway)
- Practice Learning 1

Level 5

- Introduction to Research
- Personal Development and Leadership Skills
- 2 specialist modules (according to pathway)
- Practice Learning 2.

How are the modules assessed?

You will be assessed in both the theoretical and practical aspects of the course. Theory will be assessed in the form of assignments, presentations and examinations with one summative assessment for each module. The work-based learning assessments will be completed within your Practice Learning documents.

What academic support will I have?

You will be allocated a personal tutor at the beginning of the course for academic and pastoral support throughout the programme.

Can I transfer to another pathway during the course?

There is a possibility of transferring to another pathway if the pathway relates to your current role, you have approval from your workplace and course numbers allow.

Where does the course lead to professionally?

The Foundation Degree offers a new route into and through higher education. Foundation Degrees are a qualification in their own right but they also provide the opportunity to progress to further professional and / or academic qualifications at higher levels.

How will it affect my current work situation?

Your employer will need to agree to you enrolling onto a Foundation Degree Programme. You will need time to attend university study days and will be required to complete work-based learning outcomes with supervision from a named member of staff. You will also need to ensure that the Foundation Degree you choose relates to your current working role.

Who can I contact for further information?

If you would like further information about Foundation Degrees in Health please contact Rachel Salmon, course administrator rachel.salmon@ucs.ac.uk or telephone 01473 338450.