

FOUNDATION DEGREES UNIVERSITY LEVEL AT SUSSEX DOWNS COLLEGE 12/13

Frequently Asked Questions

I'm interested in Foundation Degrees, how do they work?

Foundation Degrees are a two year qualification often studied in small groups in a local environment, a partner college of the university such as **Sussex Downs College**. The degrees are validated by **University of Brighton** which means they are of the same standard as a course run in a university. Employers have been involved in the development of these degrees. The aim is to have real skills and knowledge which can be used in the workplace. The degrees can also be used as a stepping stone to a BA/BSc degree, if an additional 'top-up' year is taken. The course can be taken at the college or another university.

What level is a Foundation degree?

It is a Level 4 qualification, which is degree level. (Not to be confused with Art and Design Foundation Diplomas, which are pre-degree).

What are the entry requirements for a Foundation degree?

Entry requirements will vary from course to course, but in general they are more

flexible than the traditional BA/BSc degree entry. Mature students are welcomed and skill and experience count for a lot.

Can I do a Foundation Degree while I'm working? (as I want to carry on earning money)

Foundation degrees are flexible and do allow students to work part time. Some Foundation degrees have part time routes, where it will take longer to complete the degree but allows you to continue in your employment. Also some Foundation Degrees are work-based and involve some time at college but the skills and experience gained in the workplace is directly related to the degree.

How would it help me to get a job?

You would have a high level, work related qualification which will improve your employment prospects. Most Foundation Degrees include work placements, and lots of employer input, so you will have the opportunity to make contacts.

Where would I have to go to do the degree?

At **Sussex Downs College**, we have a range of Foundation Degrees, some based at our Lewes campus and some at our Eastbourne campus. Usually the first two years are based at the 'partner college' and if you choose to do a third 'top up' year, this is normally based at a university campus.

How do I apply?

To apply for a full time Foundation Degree, register with UCAS. www.ucas.com and go to 'Apply'. You can get advice on this from Student Services and the HE Administrator /Welfare Officer at **Sussex Downs College**.

What is your university code etc. for the UCAS form?

Our Foundation Degrees are accredited by the **University of Brighton**, so you will need to put in their institution code which is B72. You will also need to put in a course code which you can find on the UCAS website or in our prospectus.

How much will it cost?

There will be a tuition fee cost per year of the course, but if you are employed, your employer may contribute to this cost. Please contact the HE Administrator/ Welfare Officer for further details.

Is there financial help?

There is a system of grants and loans available for students in Higher Education. To apply for this financial help, students need to complete a PNI form. Download or complete a PNI form at

www.studentfinancedirect.co.uk

Student Services or the HE Administrator /Welfare officer at **Sussex Downs College** can advise you or you can visit the Education and Learning section of www.direct.gov.uk

When do the courses start?

Most courses of Higher education begin in September/October each year.

Is there anyone I can talk to about my choice of degree?

Yes, we can give you the contact details for the Course Leader or the HE Administrator/Welfare Officer who will be happy to have an informal chat with you.

Where can I live whilst studying?

If you are moving here from outside of the local area then you may be eligible to apply to the University of Brighton halls of residence (located in Brighton and Eastbourne). These do fill up quickly so it is best to apply early. Lots of students live in shared houses with other students. For information on accommodation, contact **01273 642859** or the Eastbourne campus accommodation office on **01273 643810**.

Is there anywhere that I can find out more information?

www.foundation-degrees-in-sussex.com

This site has a search facility and lots of useful information on its FAQ page. There are over 50 Foundation Degrees in Sussex, so it can help you to find a local degree for you.