




2012
access
PROSPECTUS



New College
Swindon



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**Higher Education isn't just for 18 year-olds:
60 per cent of undergraduates in the UK are
over 21!**

If you're looking to get back into education but are worried about throwing yourself in at the deep end then the Access to Higher Education Diploma at New College Swindon could be the ideal route for you.

The Access to Higher Education Diploma is for anyone without academic qualifications wishing to progress to a higher-level course such as a degree. It is designed especially for mature students who have had a break from their studies and is generally accepted as an alternative to A-Levels and is combined with GCSEs.



What does Access involve?

IS IT FOR ME?

The Access to Higher Education Diploma is right for you if:

- You are 19 or over.
- You want to get onto a course such as a degree that you may not have suitable qualifications for at the moment.
- You are thinking about a change of career or direction.
- You have had a break from education (minimum of one year since leaving school).
- You have either GCSE Maths or GCSE English Language grades A*- C (If not you can attend the Preparation for Access course)
- You do not want to go through the traditional A-Level route.
- You would prefer to learn with other adults.
- You know you have the ability to study further and you want to have proof of this for yourself.

WHAT WILL IT GIVE ME?

With an Access Course you can:

- Equip yourself with skills and knowledge to enter professions such as Law, Teaching, Social Work and Nursing
- Obtain a formal qualification to improve your CV
- Gain a qualification to help you step up the career ladder
- Enjoy the feeling of self-satisfaction and enhanced self-esteem from learning something new



AM I READY?

If you are worried about returning to education, don't be - you are not alone! Your personal tutor will ease you into being a student and support you through the process. You can also take advantage of our Mentoring Scheme where you receive support from a fellow student.

We offer a FREE Study Skills course to help you get back into the ways of studying and learning again. After you apply, you will be invited to have an informal chat with our Access Co-ordinator or Liaison staff. Everything about the course will be explained to you and you will have the opportunity to tell us about your goals, plans and any fears you may have.

A full time Level 3 programme will usually entail four mornings at college per week. This needs to be matched with 3-4 hours per day personal study. GCSE study will be in addition to this.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

All students should have a GCSE Maths or English Language grade A*-C. Minimum age is 19 years with at least a one year break from education.

WHAT CAN I STUDY?

When you start an Access course, you choose one of three "Pathways"

- Health and Social Care Diploma
- Education Studies Diploma
- Combined Studies Diploma

(The combined pathway does not lead to a specific career but could offer routes to Business, Law, or Psychology, for example)

Each Pathway has a number of Main Subject options to choose from. You can find a full list and descriptions of these on pages 10 and 11. You will also do a Study Skills module, including Higher Education application guidance and a Level 2 IT course.

One advantage of the Access course is the flexibility it offers, allowing you to study full-time over one year or part-time over two years. The structure and content of the Access Diploma on a full-time and part-time basis are shown on the next page.

What can it lead to?

PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES WITH NEW COLLEGE

After completing your Access Diploma one option is to progress onto a Higher Level qualification at New College such as:

- Health and Social Care Practice Foundation Degree in partnership with UWE
- Teaching Assistant Foundation Degree in partnership with Bath Spa University
- BSc Business Studies in partnership with BPP University College
- LLB Law in partnership with BPP University College
- Honours Degree in English, Psychology or Combined Studies

OTHER PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES

We will also help you to apply for a Higher Education course at any other College or University. New College has seen adults enter into a variety of undergraduate destinations all over the country. Some recent examples include:

- English at Oxford University
- Social Work at Oxford Ruskin College or Bath University
- Nursing / Midwifery Degrees at Oxford Brookes University and UWE
- Primary Teaching at University of Gloucester
- Dietetics at Cardiff University
- Law at Sussex University
- Journalism at UWE

Many others have gone into the workplace with newfound confidence, self-esteem and the qualifications to back it all up (some with a pay-rise through completing their Access Diploma).



Rachel Oldham

Access Graduate 2002 / Combined Award Graduate 2003 (Full English Degree at Bath Spa 2005)



"I would say to anyone considering studying at New College... just go for it; it will change your life!"

"I returned to study later in life with a family, no A Levels, very little confidence and a sense that there had to be more to life. As a result of the excellent teaching, supportive staff and the convenient environment of a local college I was surprised to find I flourished and was successful in my studies. I particularly found that beginning my degree in an environment of smaller class sizes and greater staff input suited me, as a mature student, far more than huge lecture halls full of young students.

I completed an Access course and then progressed naturally to a degree. I now work as a lecturer in the English Department at New College. New College opened doors and led me into a life I couldn't have imagined when I embarked on my learning journey. I now have a job I love, a sense of achievement and some great friends too.

Studying at New College really did change my life and I know it can change yours — do it!"

Christina Cowling

Access (Health & Social Care) Graduate 2010



"I was working in accounts, and wanted to retrain into mental health nursing."

"I chose to come to New College due to the location, and the atmosphere here. I was worried I wouldn't get through the course, as there had been such a long gap in education, but I've enjoyed the whole experience from the application right through to the end.

The teacher support has been great, the workload manageable, and I've really enjoyed studying here. I'm now going on to a degree in mental health nursing at UWE."

student
spotlight

What will I study?

FULL-TIME (ONE YEAR)

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \text{SUBJECT 1} & & \text{SUBJECT 2} & & \text{SUBJECT 3} & & \text{STUDY SKILLS} & & \text{FULL} \\ 18 \text{ credits at level 3} & + & 18 \text{ credits at level 3} & + & 18 \text{ credits at level 3} & + & \text{Preparation for} & = & \text{DIPLOMA} \\ (6 \times 3 \text{ credit units}) & & (6 \times 3 \text{ credit units}) & & (6 \times 3 \text{ credit units}) & & \text{Higher Education} & & \end{array}$$

PART-TIME (TWO YEARS)

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} & & \text{YEAR 1} & & & & \text{YEAR 2} & & \\ \text{SUBJECT 1} & & \text{STUDY SKILLS} & & \text{SUBJECT 2} & & \text{SUBJECT 3} & & \text{FULL} \\ 18 \text{ credits at level 3} & + & \text{Preparation for} & + & 9 \text{ credits at level 3} & + & 18 \text{ credits at level 3} & = & \text{DIPLOMA} \\ (6 \times 3 \text{ credit units}) & & \text{Higher Education} & & (3 \times 3 \text{ credit units}) & & (6 \times 3 \text{ credit units}) & & \\ & & + \text{Independent Study} & & & & & & \end{array}$$

You will have the chance to discuss the best combination of subjects for you during an informal chat with our Access Co-ordinator or Liaison staff. They make sure that each student's pathway is tailored to meet their individual goals and needs.

If there are other qualifications needed for a particular career, these can be taken as Support Subjects. You may not need to do these if you already have the following:

- CSE Grade 1 OR '0' Level/GCSE Maths and English at Grade C or above
- GCSE or equivalent qualifications in IT and Science.



Main Subjects

BUSINESS STUDIES

Helps you understand how businesses work, how they set objectives and strategies and how these might be put into practice. We also look at how businesses interact and how they are affected by external factors. Topics include: Marketing, Operations Management, Finance, People and Objectives/Strategies.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

If you like reading and discussion, this option is for you. Generally, one main text or several themes are explored and examined in each topic. Topics include: Introduction to Modern Drama, The Nineteenth Century Novel, Themes in Poetry, Shakespeare, Response to Literary text.

GEOGRAPHY

This is always a favourite with Access students who go on field trips whenever possible. Forget what you thought of Geography at school — ours is not the same! Modules studied include: Tourism, Population, Rivers, Villages and Towns and The Weather.



GOVERNMENT, POLITICS AND SOCIAL POLICY

Learn how political issues affect all of our lives and are not just contained within the boundaries of Westminster. You may have the opportunity to visit Parliament as part of this course. Study topics include: Key Political Concepts, Institutions of British Government, Contemporary Issues in British Politics and The Welfare State.

HISTORY

The first part of the course looks at Germany in the 1920s and 1930s, particularly the rise of Adolf Hitler, his racial and foreign policies and the lives of women and children in the Nazi State. You will then go on to study American history, including the Civil Rights Decade and the Vietnam War. Finally you will study contrasting periods in British History: the reign of Henry VIII and Britain in the 1960s.

MATHS

Mainly focuses on statistics and mathematical skills needed for progress to University. Units offered at Level 3 include Algebra, Graphs and Statistics. This is a useful subject in combination with Psychology, Science and other main subjects.

SOCIOLOGY

Sociology is the study of society from a variety of different theoretical perspectives. You will study families and households - roles, relationships and recent changes. Other topics include the Sociology of Health, Crime and Deviance, Education and Poverty and Welfare; these are studied in conjunction with relative research methods and the opportunity to carry out a short research project either alone or with other students.

Main Subjects

INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Most Access students do basic IT skills as one of their Support Subjects, but here you study at higher levels. Modules covered include: Word Processing, Presentation Software, Spreadsheets, Database Systems and Introduction to Computer Systems.

SCIENCE (BIOLOGY)

Taking this course will prepare you for all health related careers. Its focus is on the structure, development and control of the human body. Topics include: Nutrition, Digestion and Diet, Human Health and Disease, Cells and Molecular Biology and Contemporary Issues. There may also be some higher-level Chemistry/Physics units on offer.

SCIENCE

Level 3 Science offers three units in Experimental Skills, Chemistry and Physics. It can be taken independently or to compliment Level 3 Maths or Biology.

LAW

Learn how the law works and why it changes the way it does. It will also introduce you to study skills that are essential to the modern lawyer. Units include: Sources of Law and Practical Application, Legal Personnel and the Provision of Legal Services, Criminal Procedure and the Penal System, Civic Procedure and Criminal Law.

PSYCHOLOGY

The overall theme of this subject is understanding human behaviour. Units studied include: Introduction to Psychology and Research Methods, Developmental Psychology, Social Psychology, Cognitive Psychology and Atypical Psychology.

SUPPORT SUBJECTS

If you need to, you will take classes in English or Maths and ICT (Information Communication Technology) at Level 2/GCSE. You can also take Science at GCSE level if you need it for a particular Higher Education course such as Primary Teaching or some health-related courses.

STUDY SKILLS

All students must attend a Study Skills class for one hour a week; this is normally followed by your Tutor Hour and you will have the same tutor for both.



Student Services & Support

SUPPORT DURING YOUR COURSE

Our staff will help to build your confidence and achieve your aims as you go through the course. Tutors have the skills and experience to help you succeed. You will be encouraged to share your experiences and learn in a variety of ways. You will have a personal tutor who you will meet regularly to discuss your progress. They will usually be one of your subject or main course tutors.

STUDENT SERVICES

The Student Services Team provides the 'life support mechanisms' for students in college. The team is based on the ground floor at the back of the Restaurant.

Support is provided in the following areas:

ADDITIONAL LEARNING SUPPORT

If you have a medical condition, poor sight or hearing, learning difficulties such as Dyslexia and Dyspraxia or any other learning needs, our Additional Learning Support team can help you. They provide services including one-to-one teaching, support in class, computer programmes, specialist equipment or interpreters. The team is based in new purpose built facilities which include a supported study area. Additional support is available to ALL students. You can discuss your needs at your interview.

For more information email: Sarah Howes (Additional Support Manager) at sarah.howes@newcollege.ac.uk



CAREERS SERVICE

The College's Careers Adviser is available to give free and impartial information, advice and guidance on career prospects, work, training, higher education and CVs.

COUNSELLING

We offer a free, confidential counselling service. Our counsellors are here to listen and support you if you have any personal problems that affect your learning. Appointments can be arranged through the Student Services Assistants in BG13 or by calling 01793 611470. Student Services can also provide information on external support agencies and helplines.

NEW COLLEGE STUDENT UNION

All New College students are able to become members of the New College Students Union (NCSU), which is affiliated to the National Union of Students (NUS). Students can purchase the NUS Extra card online for £11 (correct at time of printing). It carries several advantages such as discounts in many high street stores. Visit www.nus.org.uk/en/nus-extra for more information. It also represents students on many important College committees.

CHAPLAINCY

Our Chaplaincy offers students and staff a confidential listening ear. New College has a Sacred Space available for all students and staff to use. The current Chaplaincy team members are from different Christian denominations, but offer a service to people of all faiths. They can be contacted by telephone on 01793 611470, or found in Student Services.

ACCESSIBILITY

We have resources to improve accessibility, including reserved parking, ramped access to the building and lifts to all areas of the main building and Sports Centre. For more information, please contact our Disability Officer via Student Services on 01793 611470.

MONEY MATTERS

A £45 registration fee is payable by all Access students, some will need to pay additional fees. You may be eligible for the Learner Support Fund. For more information call Jo Sully on 01793 732826 or email jo.sully@newcollege.ac.uk

How to apply

If you wish to apply for our Access to Higher Education Diploma, complete a New College Access Application Form (phone 0808 178 3871 to obtain one) and return it to:

Jo Sully
New College
New College Drive
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN3 1AH

Alternatively you can complete the online application form at
www.newcollege.ac.uk/higher-education/apply

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

All students should have a GCSE Maths or English Language grade A*-C. Minimum age is 19 years with at least a one year break from education.

Access Support Team

For more information on the Access to Higher Education Diploma at New College contact our Access Support Team.

Email:
jo.sully@newcollege.ac.uk

Telephone:
0808 178 3871



How To Find Us

BY RAIL:

Swindon Station is located in the Town Centre and has direct services to London (eastbound) and Bristol (westbound). Call National Rail enquiries on Tel: 08457 484 950 for train information. There is a taxi rank at the station.

BY CYCLE:

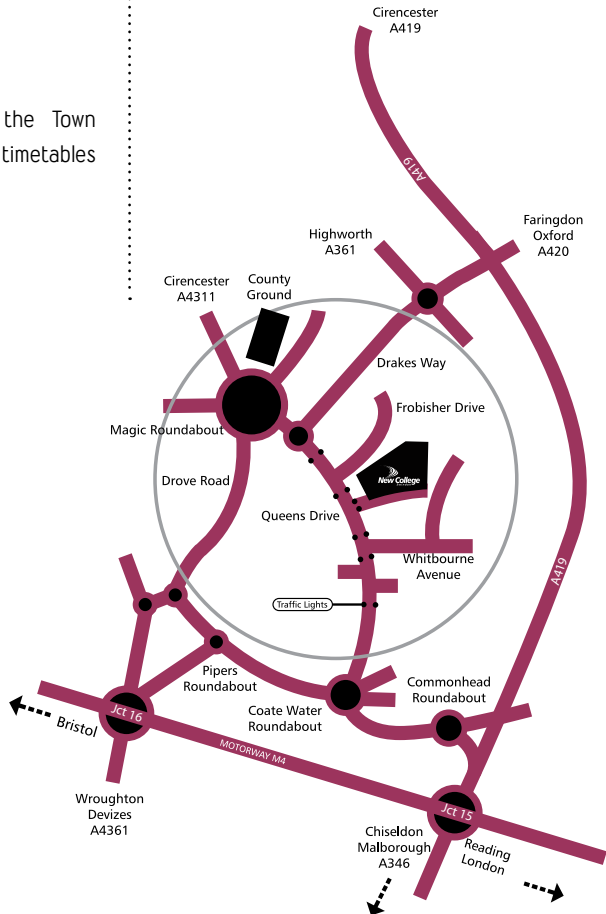
Cycle parking is available at the rear of the building.

BY BUS:

Services run frequently from the Town Centre and surrounding area. For timetables call: 01793 428 428

BY CAR:

New College is located off Queens Drive. From the M4, exit at Junction 15 following signs to Town Centre. The College is on the right hand side. From the Town Centre proceed to Magic Roundabout and follow signs to M4 along Queens Drive (A4259). The College is the first turning left past Frobisher Drive.





www.newcollege.ac.uk/access

NEW COLLEGE / NEW COLLEGE DRIVE / SWINDON / SN3 1AH



New College is committed to Equality,
Diversity, Inclusion and Excellence.

