Courses For Mature Students.

A guide to undergraduate study opportunities for adult learners at the University of Sheffield
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Welcome to your guide to courses for mature students

There has always been a warm welcome at the University of Sheffield for students of all ages. This is as true today as it ever was, with more than a thousand of our undergraduate students being aged 21 or over. These mature learners bring a variety of experiences and skills which enrich the learning of all our students, and the University is committed to maintaining this diversity.

As part of our commitment, we have introduced a variety of new pathways into degree level study across the University, including many new part-time degree and certificate programmes, and a range of degrees with foundation years. Many of these courses are specially designed for mature students who do not meet the University’s standard entry requirements.

You can read about these new pathways in this short guide. This might just be the first step to a life-changing decision.

If you have any further questions – or just want to talk to someone about the best options for you – please explore the different sources of online information referred to in this guide, or just pick up the phone and give us a call. We are here to help.

You will find contact details on the back cover of this guide.
At the Department for Lifelong Learning we have over 60 years’ experience in supporting adults who are returning to education. Our courses are specially designed for mature learners who have been out of formal education for an extended period of time, or who do not have the standard academic qualifications needed to enter directly into the first year of degree level study. All of our courses help students develop the skills, confidence and knowledge needed to succeed at university, and in life beyond university.

Our courses are available on a part-time or full-time basis and the following courses are available:

- Degrees with a foundation year (4 years full-time*) – see pages 6-7
- Foundation programme in combined studies (2 years part-time) – see pages 8-9
- Certificates in Higher Education (2 years part-time) – see pages 10-11

* some courses are available on a part-time basis. See pages 6-7 for more details
What our students say....

“Doing the course has totally changed my life. I am a different person to who I was and I am really glad I’ve done it – I wish I had done it years ago.”

Ali, former Department for Lifelong Learning student, now doing an MA in English Literature

“Don’t worry about all the reasons why you shouldn’t go; just give it a go, because it is potentially a life-changing experience!”

Mark, current student, MPlan Urban Studies and Planning with Foundation Year

“My course gave me the confidence to carry on in further education. I’ve gone on to complete a masters and I’m currently enrolled on a PhD course.”

Ethel, former Department for Lifelong Learning student, now doing a PhD in English Literature

“I dreamt about being a student since I was 15 years old, and I’m now 67...I’ve gained confidence like you wouldn’t believe!”

Pam, former Discover student, now studying on the Community Development programme

To see video case studies of these students, and more, please visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/dll/meet-our-students
Entry requirements for courses in the Department for Lifelong Learning

Our courses are designed specifically for mature learners who have been out of education for some time, and who haven’t previously accessed higher education. The requirements for entry are different to those for students wishing to enter directly to a degree programme elsewhere in the University.

We are committed to supporting learners from non-traditional backgrounds to succeed at university and consider a range of factors including previous work, life and educational experience.

For more information on entry criteria for individual courses, visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/dll/courses

Courses with the Department for Lifelong Learning

1. Degrees with a Foundation Year – full-time and part-time

Our degrees with foundation year have been specially designed to give students without standard entry qualifications the best possible preparation for success on the degree of their choice. All foundation years include core modules in academic literacy and communication skills, maths and statistics, an extended project and subject specific introductory modules relevant to your chosen degree course. On successful completion of the foundation year, students transfer to the academic department in which they will complete their degree, whilst still being able to access the tailored support provided by the Department for Lifelong Learning.

These courses are suitable for learners who:

- Want to study for a specific degree but don’t have the relevant qualifications for direct entry onto that degree
- Know which subject they wish to gain a degree in
- Can commit to 4 years of full-time study (see below for courses which are also available part-time)
We currently offer the following degree programmes:

- BA Archaeology with Foundation Year (FT/PT) (UCAS code F401)
- BA English Language and Linguistics with Foundation Year (FT) (UCAS code Q310)
- BA English Language and Literature with Foundation Year (FT) (UCAS code Q305)
- BA English Literature with Foundation Year (FT/PT) (UCAS code Q307)
- BA History with Foundation Year (FT/PT) (UCAS code V101)
- BA Philosophy with Foundation Year (FT/PT) (UCAS code V501)
- BA Education, Culture and Childhood with Foundation Year (FT/PT) (UCAS code X301)
- BSc Environmental Science with Foundation Year (FT) (UCAS code F901)
- BA Geography with Foundation Year (FT) (UCAS code L701)
- BSc Geography with Foundation Year (FT) (UCAS code F801)
- BA Geography and Planning with Foundation Year (FT) (UCAS code L790)
- BA Sociology with Foundation Year (FT) (UCAS code L301)
- BA Social Policy and Sociology with Foundation Year (FT) (UCAS code L401)
- BSc Speech and Language Sciences with Foundation Year (FT) (UCAS code QC19)
- BMedSci Health and Human Sciences with Foundation Year (FT/PT) (UCAS code B990)
- MPlan Urban Studies and Planning with Foundation Year (FT) (UCAS code K401)
- BA Urban Studies with Foundation Year (FT) (UCAS code K441)
- BA Applied Social Sciences with Foundation Year (FT/PT) (pending approval)
- BA Psychology with Foundation Year (FT) (pending approval)
- BA Religion, Theology and The Bible with Foundation Year (FT/PT) (pending approval)

Please refer to our website for the most up to date list of courses available at [www.sheffield.ac.uk/dll/courses/foundation-year-degrees](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/dll/courses/foundation-year-degrees)
2. Part-time Foundation Programme in Combined Studies:

For learners who are unsure about which subject they want to study, or can’t immediately commit to full-time study, we also offer the Foundation Programme in Combined Studies. This course is studied on a part-time basis and provides the foundation for progression to many different degree programmes or to one of the part-time Certificates in Higher Education offered by the Department for Lifelong Learning (see page 10 for information on these courses).

The first year of study provides students with a firm grounding in the study skills needed for successful progression throughout their university studies. It also provides an introduction to one of three broad areas of study (Humanities, Social Sciences or Natural Sciences). The second year of study allows students to focus in much more detail on specific subject areas relevant to their intended future studies.

Successful completion of the Foundation Programme guarantees direct progression onto any of our part-time Certificates in Higher Education (see page 10 for information on these courses).

Students wishing to progress to a degree must apply in the second year of their Foundation Programme, and we offer support and advice to students wishing to do this.

Throughout the course students will be supported by Department for Lifelong Learning staff to select modules which will put them in the best position possible to progress to further degree-level study.

Students studying on this course can access the full range of support and facilities available to full-time University of Sheffield students, including our dedicated Careers Service and Job Shop.
This course is suitable for learners who:

- Want to develop the study skills and confidence to progress further in Higher Education
- Wish to progress to a Certificate in Higher Education or a degree course
- Cannot commit to a full-time programme of study
- Would like to spend more time familiarising themselves with a range of subject areas before committing to a specific degree programme
- Wish to prepare for a degree at the University of Sheffield (or elsewhere) for which there is no current degree with foundation year offered

For further information visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/dll/course/foundation-combined-studies

“I want to say thank you for letting me on the Foundation Programme. If you hadn’t given me that first opportunity, followed by the constant support and advice over the two years I would have not made it here alone. I am now living a dream I wasn’t sure would come true.”

Lorna Gosling
BA Archaeology
3. Certificates in Higher Education:

Our Certificates in Higher Education are specially designed for students looking for a flexible part-time programme of study. These courses are equivalent to completing the first year of a degree. Three types of courses are available:

- **CertHE Society and Culture**
  
The CertHE Society and Culture is perfect for students with a general interest in studying contemporary society, who are looking for a flexible part-time course that is held in the evenings.

  Through the study of real world case studies, the course explores some fundamental aspects of society and culture, including the importance of space, time and identity in our everyday lives. It offers a rich and stimulating curriculum which gives students a fresh perspective on the world they live in, and a variety of new tools with which to think about their place in society.

  Students on this course will study in small groups and have the opportunity to discuss, share and develop their knowledge and ideas of society and culture.

- **CertHE Community Development**
  
The CertHE Community Development offers students the opportunity to explore the issues affecting modern communities. It includes themes such as inclusion and exclusion, the role of learning in empowering communities, and the impact of factors such as ethnicity and poverty.

  Students enrol from a wide variety of backgrounds and this diversity of experience provides an opportunity for learning and sharing that is highly valued on the course.

  This programme will suit:
  - community workers and volunteers who are looking to gain a Higher Education award
  - individuals who are currently working in the community, who want to improve their employability and career prospects
  - people who want to become more engaged in their communities
• **CertHE Social Sciences or Humanities with subject specialism**

These courses are taught two thirds within the Department for Lifelong Learning and one third within the department relevant to the subject specialism, through a combination of part-time evening and day time study. They combine subject specific learning, with a broader interdisciplinary introduction to the study of society and culture.

Current subject specialisms available are:
- Archaeology
- English
- History
- Modern Languages
- Music
- Philosophy
- Religion
- Criminology
- Education, Culture and Childhood
- Geography
- Politics
- Social Policy
- Urban Studies

All of our CertHE courses are suitable for learners who:
- Wish to study part-time over a 2 year period
- Do not wish to commit to a full degree programme at this stage
- Wish to study for personal development, career progression or for the love of learning
- Can demonstrate clear potential to succeed at this level of study, without the need for a preparatory foundation year

For more information on any of our CertHE courses, please visit [www.sheffield.ac.uk/dll/courses/certificates-in-higher-education](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/dll/courses/certificates-in-higher-education)
Direct entry for mature students

Students who already meet the standard entry requirements for their chosen degree can apply for direct entry onto the course. If you are unsure whether you meet the requirements, please contact the relevant department, or alternatively contact the Department for Lifelong Learning.

Full-time Degree courses

The University of Sheffield offers a wide range of full-time degree courses. Please visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses for information on all available courses.

Part-time Degree courses

The University of Sheffield is committed to expanding the range of options available for students wishing to study part-time, and we currently offer the following part-time degrees:

- BMedSci Health and Human Sciences
- BA Education, Culture and Childhood
- BA Archaeology
- BA History
- BA English Literature
- BA Philosophy
- BA Religion, Theology and the Bible.
- BA Applied Social Sciences

All of these courses can be studied with or without a foundation year, depending on existing qualifications. If you are unsure whether you meet the requirements for direct entry, please contact the relevant department, or alternatively contact the Department for Lifelong Learning.

We are always working to expand the number of degrees available on a part-time basis. Please visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/undergraduate/mature/part-time-degrees for the most up to date information on available courses.
Supporting our mature students

Our staff are on hand to help you choose the right course and support you through to graduation. They can help you:

• Make sure you are on the right course to suit you and your future plans
• Develop the study skills needed to do well on your chosen course
• Find a student mentor through the University’s peer mentoring scheme
• Manage your workload and prepare for assignments and examinations
• Take full advantage of the central University support services which are available for all students
• Find advice about loans and financial support
• Develop strategies for fitting your studies around your other commitments
• Find information about the Students’ Union nursery and holiday play schemes
• Access careers and personal development advice
• Benefit from a wide range of other extra-curricular activities at the University, which contribute to the full University of Sheffield experience.

“I never for one minute regretted the decision to come back to university, in fact possibly my only regret is that I didn't get to stay longer...The university was very supportive from day one...It didn't matter what the issue was there was always someone there to talk to, be that within Student Support Services or the Faculty office and they would always help to find a solution.”

Paul O’Neill
Former BA International Relations and Politics student
How to apply

For full-time degrees with foundation year apply via UCAS [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

For direct entry into any of our full-time degree programmes apply via UCAS [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

You will find a full list of UCAS course codes for our full-time degrees in the University's full-time prospectus, and at [www.sheffield.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses).

Course codes for full-time degrees with a foundation year can be found at [www.shef.ac.uk/dll/courses/foundation-year-degrees](http://www.shef.ac.uk/dll/courses/foundation-year-degrees)

For any part-time course apply online at: [https://arp.shef.ac.uk](https://arp.shef.ac.uk) and select the relevant course or department

For help with applying, please contact us on dll@sheffield.ac.uk or 0114 222 7000

Fees and funding

Choosing to return to education can be one of the most significant decisions of your life. Fees and funding are an important concern, but there is plenty of support available to help you understand how to finance your studies.

The tuition fee for 2016 entry is £9,000 per year for each year of full-time study, pro rata for part-time study. UK full-time and part-time students can apply for a government tuition fee loan and eligible students will not need to pay anything up front and there will be nothing to pay back until you start to earn £21,000. You may also be eligible for a University bursary.

To find out more visit [www.shef.ac.uk/ssid/finance/money](http://www.shef.ac.uk/ssid/finance/money)

For specific information on funding full-time study visit [www.shef.ac.uk/ssid/finance/money](http://www.shef.ac.uk/ssid/finance/money) or [www.sheffield.ac.uk/ssid/finance/dll/full-time](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/ssid/finance/dll/full-time)

For specific information on funding part-time study visit [www.sheffield.ac.uk/ssid/finance/dll/part-time](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/ssid/finance/dll/part-time)

You can also find information on student finance at [www.gov.uk/student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance)
Still not sure? Visit us at one of our Open Days or Taster Courses

If you would like to find out what it is like to be a student at the University of Sheffield, we regularly hold open days and run taster sessions. For information about these visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/dll/events-open-days

The Discover Course

Discover is a FREE award winning short course, designed to inspire adults who haven’t been to university to progress with their learning. This course runs for between 6 and 10 weeks, usually for one morning per week, and focuses on themes that link into the subjects offered by the Department for Lifelong Learning.

Delivered in partnership with Museums Sheffield and Sheffield Association for the Voluntary Teaching of English (SAVTE), the course gives a real flavour of the university experience, giving participants a chance to take part in a range of small group activities and discussions. It also provides vital information, advice and guidance such as how to apply to university and how to finance your studies.

What makes the course innovative – and award-winning - is that the sessions feature discussion stimulated by ‘objects’ – objects that may be of personal significance to participants, or objects that form part of Museums Sheffield’s vast store of treasures from around the world.

There are no formal entry requirements, but please note that:

• participants for whom English is their second language must be able to speak and write English to at least ESOL Level 2
• participants who have already gained a degree are not eligible for this course

For more information, upcoming course dates, or to register your interest in the course visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/dll/courses/discover

“I really enjoyed the Discover experience and thank you all for the hard work you all clearly put in to making it the best experience possible, especially for the people inexperienced or unfamiliar with university life and all it offers.”

Previous Discover student
Where to find further information:

For more information about any of our courses visit: www.sheffield.ac.uk

For information about courses offered by the Department for Lifelong Learning visit: www.sheffield.ac.uk/dll/courses

For information on how to apply for full-time courses visit www.ucas.com

For any further questions, please feel free to contact the Department for Lifelong Learning:

Email: dll@sheffield.ac.uk
Phone: 0114 222 7000
Visit: Edgar Allen House, 241 Glossop Road, Sheffield, S10 2GW

“Heading a student has made me grow as a person, changed my perceptions about things and helped me develop skills that I can use elsewhere in life. The process really is a complete journey of learning and I’d recommend taking a course to anyone.”

Heather Woodley
Previous mature student