



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

COURSES FOR MATURE STUDENTS.



**A guide to undergraduate study
opportunities for adult learners at the
University of Sheffield**

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We celebrate the life experience and skills that mature students bring to their learning

Dr Willy Kitchen, Head of Department for Lifelong Learning

WELCOME TO YOUR GUIDE TO COURSES FOR MATURE STUDENTS

At the University of Sheffield we understand the value of studying for a degree at any age. We celebrate the life experience and skills that mature students bring to their learning, which greatly enrich the learning experience for everybody. The University is committed to maintaining the diversity of its student body now and into the future, and this guide introduces you to some of the ways in which we provide opportunities for mature students to flourish.

The Department for Lifelong Learning plays a central role in the University's commitment to mature learners. We offer courses to students aged 21 or over, from all backgrounds and experiences, which allow you to study towards a degree by a range of different pathways. You don't need traditional entry qualifications to study for a degree with us – instead, what we are looking for is your desire, readiness and commitment to succeed.

Our courses span over twenty different subject areas, and many are available part-time. Our staff have many years experience teaching and advising mature students, and we recognise that every mature student has a different reason or motivation for study. We also know that there are a wide range of possible pathways to and beyond degree level study, which is why we are happy to spend time advising you on how to make the right choice for you.

If you already have the qualifications and desire to begin studying immediately on the first year of a degree, many departments around the University welcome applications from mature students directly to their degree courses, some of which are available part-time. You can find out more about all these courses in this short guide.

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 pick up the phone and give us a call. It might just be the first step towards transforming your future.

Dr Willy Kitchen, Head of Department for Lifelong Learning



DEPARTMENT FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

More and more mature students are starting their journey to a degree with the Department for Lifelong Learning, so why study with us?

- We have many years experience teaching and supporting adult learners
- Our students don't need standard entry qualifications
- Many of our courses can be studied full-time or part-time
- Funding is available and you don't need to pay anything upfront*
- We offer tailored support to mature students, employing dedicated specialist staff who are there to help from before you apply until after you graduate
- Study alongside mature students from all backgrounds, helping to build a strong network of peer-support
- We have an award winning Outreach programme for adults wishing to find out more about University study before applying

*see page 12 for more information

To find out more about the different pathways we offer, please read on:

- Degrees with a Foundation Year (**see pages 6-7**)
- Foundation Programme in Combined Studies (**see page 8**)
- CertHE Society and Culture (**see page 9**)

A WORLD
TOP 100
UNIVERSITY

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY....



David
BA History
with a Foundation Year

“Making the choice to come to Sheffield and do the foundation course has 100% been the right decision for me. The fear has gone and I’m just excited!”

“Everyone’s there because they want to be....you feel very much part of a community”



Esmie
BA Archaeology
with a Foundation Year



BA Archaeology
with a Foundation Year
Gary

“For me and my family it was absolutely the right decision, and I’d recommend it to anyone”

“The grades I’d not achieved had held me back....then I came across the foundation year and it felt like fate”



Elliot
BA Education, Culture
and Childhood
with a Foundation Year

To see video case studies of these students, and more, please visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/dli/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 studied at university level. 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

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

Our degrees with a foundation year have been specially designed to give students without standard entry qualifications the opportunity to study for the degree of their choice. Students study their foundation year within the Department for Lifelong Learning and on successful completion of the foundation year, transfer to the academic department in which they will complete their degree. Students continue to be able to access the tailored support provided by the Department for Lifelong Learning throughout their whole time at the University of Sheffield. 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.

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 page 7** for courses which are also available part-time)

We currently offer the following degree programmes:

- **BA Applied Social Sciences with Foundation Year** (FT/PT) (UCAS code L432)
- **BA Archaeology with Foundation Year** (FT/PT) (UCAS code F401)
- **BA Business Management with Foundation Year** (FT) (N201)
- **BA Education, Culture and Childhood with Foundation Year** (FT/PT) (UCAS code X301)
- **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 Geography and Planning with Foundation Year** (FT) (UCAS code L790)
- **BA Geography with Foundation Year** (FT) (UCAS code L701)
- **BA History with Foundation Year** (FT/PT) (UCAS code V101)
- **BA Philosophy with Foundation Year** (FT/PT) (UCAS code V501)
- **BA Politics with Foundation Year** (FT) (UCAS L205)
- **BA Sociology with Foundation Year** (FT) (UCAS code L301)
- **BA Sociology with Criminology with Foundation Year** (FT) (L302)
- **BA Urban Studies with Foundation Year** (FT) (UCAS code K441)
- **BMedSci Health and Human Sciences with Foundation Year** (FT/PT) (UCAS code B990)
- **BMus Music with Foundation Year** (FT) (UCAS W301)
- **BSc Biomedical Science with Foundation Year** (FT) (B905)
- **BSc Environmental Science with Foundation Year** (FT) (UCAS code F901)
- **BSc Geography with Foundation Year** (FT) (UCAS code F801)
- **BSc Psychology with Foundation Year** (FT) (UCAS code C801)
- **BSc Speech and Language Sciences with Foundation Year** (FT) (UCAS code QC19)
- **MPlan Urban Studies and Planning with Foundation Year** (FT) (UCAS code K401)

key

FT – Full-time, PT – Part-time.

Please refer to our website for the most up to date list of available courses

www.sheffield.ac.uk/dll/courses

“It’s probably one of the most welcoming environments you could be in...the University wants every student, without exception, to succeed”



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 the part-time Certificate in Higher Education offered by the Department for Lifelong Learning (**see page 9 for information**).

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 our part-time Certificate in Higher Education (**see page 9 for information**).

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/courses/foundation-combined-studies

**“Everyone can come.
It’s not too late, and
you do learn better as
an adult”**

Helen
Part-time Foundation in Combined Studies
BA Social Policy and Criminology



Certificate in Higher Education – CertHE Society and Culture

Our CertHE Society and Culture is specifically designed for people looking for a flexible part-time programme of study which can be pursued alongside other existing commitments. It is particularly suitable for students who are ready to study at degree level, but do not want to commit to a period of study longer than two years at this stage.

The course is ideal for students with a general interest in contemporary society, who are looking for a flexible part-time course, including opportunities to study in the evening. Depending upon your choice of subjects, you may also be able to use the certificate as a stepping stone to higher part-time degree level study at the University of Sheffield or beyond.

Modules studied on the course explore different aspects of society and culture today, including the ways in which our perception of space, time and identity shapes or impacts upon our everyday lives. The course offers a fresh perspective on the world we live in, and provides a variety of new tools with which to think about our place in society and the wider world.

There is an emphasis in all our modules on discussion, and the sharing and development of different ideas about society and culture. This is an approach which suits many mature learners, makes the most of the great diversity of experience which our students bring to their studies, and provides a range of opportunities for you to learn with and learn from your fellow students.

The programme will suit:

- People with a general interest in learning more about the society that we live in
- People in paid or unpaid employment looking to gain a University award which can help with career prospects or progression
- People with prior work or educational experience who want to try out higher education study without committing to a full degree from the outset

Students enrolled on the CertHE Society and Culture study 120 HE level credits (typically six different modules) over two years. You will usually study three modules each year, attending one or two days/evenings per week in semester time. In addition, we ask students to engage in a range of learning activities outside of class time which are designed to develop and assess your learning over the duration of the programme.

To enrol on this course, you must demonstrate clear potential to succeed at this level of study without the need to take a preparatory foundation year. You don't need to hold previous formal qualifications, as we consider a range of factors including work and life experience as part of the admissions process. However, in almost all cases you will be required to attend an interview and to demonstrate numeracy and literacy skills at an appropriate level.

Applicants who are considering using the CertHE as a stepping stone to further study within the University of Sheffield should discuss their aims with us at interview so that we can advise on the different options available to you. Potential progression pathways, subject to agreement with individual departments, may be available to you into subject areas including Archaeology, History, English, Music, Philosophy and Social Sciences.

For more information, please visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/dli/courses





DIRECT ENTRY FOR MATURE STUDENTS

Students who would like to begin studying within their chosen subject department, and have the relevant qualifications to do so, can apply for direct entry onto the course.

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:

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

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:

- By offering advice and support with the process of applying for a course
- Choose 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.



For more information about support available for mature students explore the following links:

Department for Lifelong Learning:
www.sheffield.ac.uk/dll/help

301: Academic advice and support:
www.sheffield.ac.uk/ssid/301

ELTC: Language support and support with specific learning difficulties:
www.sheffield.ac.uk/eltc

Disability Support Service:
www.sheffield.ac.uk/ddss



HOW TO APPLY

For full-time degrees with foundation year apply via UCAS **www.ucas.com**

For direct entry onto any of our full-time degree programmes apply via UCAS **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**

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.

Information on tuition fees at the University of Sheffield can be found at **www.sheffield.ac.uk/undergraduate/finance**. 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.

Course codes for full-time degrees with a foundation year can be found at **www.sheffield.ac.uk/dll/courses/foundation-year-degrees**

For any part-time course apply online by visiting the web page for your chosen course at **www.sheffield.ac.uk** and following the link to our online application form.

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

To find out more visit **www.sheffield.ac.uk/ssid/finance/money**

For specific information on funding full-time study visit **www.sheffield.ac.uk/ssid/finance/money** or **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**

You can also find information on student finance at **www.gov.uk/student-finance**



Still not sure?

We have a range of opportunities to help you explore your options as a mature student:

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 local heritage museums 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.

The course is suitable for anyone 21 or over who is considering applying to higher education and would like to find out more about becoming a university student.

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/discover

The course gave me an insight into myself, challenged my ideas about what I could contribute and boosted my confidence. I learnt that I have a lot of valuable life experience'. Discover participant.



OPEN DAYS AND TASTER COURSES

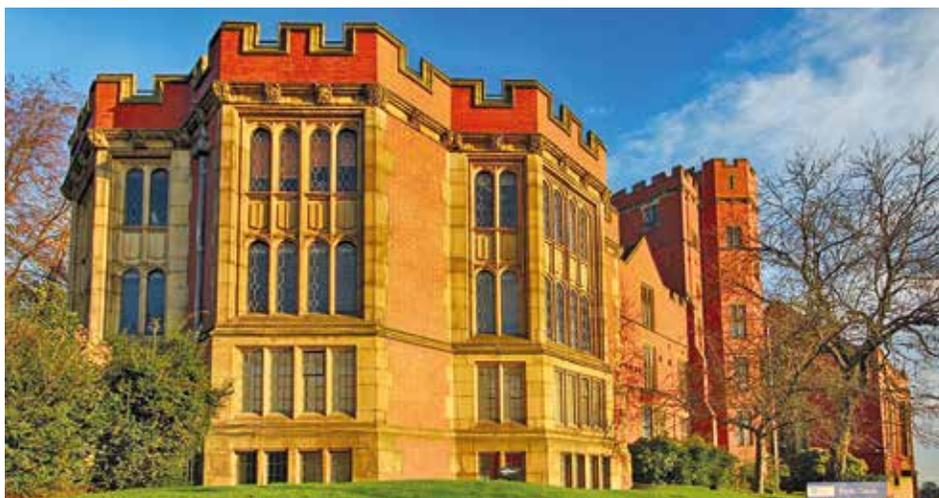
If you would like to find out what it is like to be a student at the University of Sheffield, we regularly hold open days and run taster sessions. Our team of student ambassadors also visit a wide variety of local events and adult learning settings.

To see our full programme of upcoming events and activities visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/dll/events-open-days

Disclaimer: The content of our courses is reviewed annually to make sure it's up-to-date and relevant. This is in response to discoveries through our world-leading research; funding changes; professional accreditation requirements; student or employer feedback; outcomes of reviews; and variations in staff or student numbers.

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this publication, for the reasons detailed above, changes may need to be made to modules, courses, entry requirements and fees between the date of this publication and the start of your course.

This publication is correct as at the time of print, but please see www.sheffield.ac.uk for the most up-to-date information about our courses. If there is any inconsistency between this publication and www.sheffield.ac.uk, the information at www.sheffield.ac.uk should be taken as correct.



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

**To find out more about our upcoming events and activities
keep in touch with us via our social media channels**

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www.facebook.com/sheffieltdll**

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