

DON'T JUST THINK IT



DO IT

FACTSHEET for Level 3 students applying to study on a University Level course in September 2020

Are you hoping to study on a higher education course in September? Have you already applied?

Please read the information in this factsheet - it may help you decide on your next steps. You can always discuss options with the College and receive impartial advice.

What do we know now?

There is still a lot of uncertainty about higher education for September, and you may have heard in the news that some universities are going to be teaching online.

FACT: Higher education providers including universities are planning to teach some classes online.

Many universities are planning to teach lectures online with some on campus seminars and other teaching activities. Individual tutorials may be face to face using a digital format. Some universities will still enable students to move into halls of residence. You will need to check with the university you have applied to for more information. Adjustments are being made to the delivery of modules to support this and plans are being made for alternative assessments or delivery patterns for practical modules. You will need to check what is planned for your course.

FACT: The number of student places has been capped by the Government.

The Government has capped universities and colleges on the number of students they can recruit in September. This cap is to protect students from unscrupulous or unfair practices. Many universities recruit students from overseas and it is unlikely that these students will travel to the UK in the large numbers as last year, so this prevents universities from starting a 'recruitment war' in the UK.

FACT: There will not be large reductions in fees.

Higher education is already subject to consumer law and is also regulated by the Office for Students (OfS). The OfS are putting in place temporary regulations that prevent unfair practices such as the huge discounting of fees in year one to attract students, their aim is to make sure higher education is stable and so protect students.

How will it affect you?

There will be places available on university level courses, but this may not be at the institution that you originally chose to study at. This depends on several factors and at what stage of the application processes you are at. Read on to find out what is relevant for you...

Have you got an offer of a place on a course?

If you have an offer you will need to consider what type

Still confused? Want to talk more?

Speak to our Higher Education experts every Wednesday 4-7pm throughout July and August. Book your place on www.sccb.ac.uk.

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of offer you have and what this means for you. There are different types of offers that universities and colleges are making and you will need to consider carefully what type of offer you have and which to accept.

Not applied yet?

You can still apply to study for a higher education course. Colleges and universities are still making offers based on a range of factors. However, you will NOT receive an unconditional offer unless you already meet the entry criteria.

For courses offered by the College – you can apply immediately.

For courses at another institution you will have to wait for UCAS clearing to start on August 13th 2020.

Thinking of staying at home to study?

The College offers a range of courses from Higher National Certificates at level 4 to full honours degrees. Most full time courses at the College are HNDs, Foundation degrees and honours degrees.

Did you know that you could study for a full time higher national certificate course in your subject and then look to transfer on to the second year of a degree programme next year? Many universities will accept second year entry, but not all universities will. You can always 'top-up' a HNC qualification to a HND qualification and then look for final year entry to a degree programme.

The College already offers this option to study up to degree level in Early Years, Business, Computing, Music and Building Services Engineering. Most students who study for a foundation degree or HND at the College continue to 'top-up' their qualification to a full honours degree already. This could save you tuition fees and maintenance loans, however, this doesn't affect the repayment levels you will make in the future.

FACT: There are different types of offers:

Unconditional offers – This is where you may have already received an offer to start a course without having to study further.

Unconditional offers are made because:

- Applicants already have their qualification and have taken, for example, a gap year
- Following an audition or entrance exam
- Based on potential, such as strong GCSE grades

- Based on your personal characteristics such as being in care, where you live, or if you have a health condition.
- Based on your decision, such as if you accept the offer quickly or as a firm choice.

The Government **STOPPED** universities for a while from making unconditional offers for a place on their courses, to ensure all admissions are **FAIR** and in **YOUR INTEREST**.

Remember many universities will have concerns about next academic year due to COVID19 and the fall in International Student recruitment, and so will be looking to increase UK or home student recruitment. You may think this is an opportunity for you, however you need to consider:

Offers for a Degree with Foundation Year or Year Zero

You might be offered a place on a degree with a foundation year. This is an extra year of studying which will enable you to study on a degree programme.

The advantages of a foundation year are:

- You can study on a degree that you might not have been able to join due to not meeting the entrance criteria
- You can take the extra year to improve study skills so you can be successful on your chosen degree. This is particularly useful if your level 3 course is practical, with limited academic writing or high maths requirements, such as in some engineering courses.

The disadvantages of a foundation year are:

- You may repeat study at level 3
- You will pay for an additional year's tuition fee - up to £9,250
- You will pay for an additional year's living costs
- It will mean taking an extra year to attain a degree
- If you fail the first year you may not be awarded any credit or qualification

Alternatives to Foundation Years or Year Zero

There are alternatives to foundation year studies. Most students can join a HNC, HND or Foundation degree with the same UCAS points or entry criteria as a foundation year, and then join a top-up degree. This route could mean that you achieve a degree in three or sometimes four years. You will also achieve qualifications as you study, which may open employment opportunities.

Conditional Offers – An offer to join a course based on your achievements, usually passing your course. You will need to accept these in advance before the automatic rejection deadline if you are applying through UCAS. This means you will need to complete your course, meet the entry criteria for your programme and confirm your place in August. This is the most common type of offer.

What next?

- If you have not accepted an offer through UCAS – apply directly to the College or you will have to wait for Clearing on 13th August.
- Remember to **meet all future deadline dates** that are set by UCAS, university or college as if you miss them you may lose your place on the course.
- You may also wish to research other university and colleges entry criteria as they may reduce the number of UCAS point that you will need in clearing, and you may wish to look at Adjustment through UCAS to a different course if you have a better grade than you thought.

Remember to think about what is the right choice for you and your circumstances, don't accept a place on a course just because it is a degree or a 'better' university.

Some things to consider:

- the support you will receive
- the teaching methods
- the amount of tutorials
- the amount of time you will be studying on your own or away from campus.

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UNIVERSITY LEVEL COURSES

AT SOUTH & CITY COLLEGE

COURSE	CAMPUS	DURATION	MODE OF ATTENDANCE
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ART & DESIGN			
HND in Art and Design Fashion & Textiles	F	2 yrs	FT

BUSINESS

B.A. (Hons) Business & Management Top-Up (validated by Newman University)	D	1 yr	FT
HND Business & Management	D	2 yrs	FT
HND Business & Marketing	D	2 yrs	FT
HND Business & Resource Management	D	2 yrs	FT
HND Business (Accounting and Finance)	D	2 yrs	FT
Chartered Institute of Personnel & Development (CIPD) Intermediate Certificate in Human Resource Management	L	1 yr	PTE

CHILDCARE

B.A. (Hons) Early Childhood Studies (awarded by University College Birmingham)	D	1 yr	FT
Foundation Degree in Early Years (awarded by Birmingham City University)	D	2-3 yrs	FT/PTE
HND Early Childhood Education and Care	D	2 yrs	FT

COMPUTING

BSc (Hons) Computing (Final Year / Top-Up)	D	1 yr	FT
HND Computing	D	2 yrs	FT

CONSTRUCTION & BUILDING SERVICES

BSc (Hons) Building Services Engineering (Final Year/Top-Up Awarded by De Montfort University)	L	2 yrs	PT
HND in Construction	L	2 yrs	FT
HND Building Services Engineering (Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning or Electrical)	L	2 yrs	FT
HND in Civil Engineering - Construction (Top-Up)	L	18 mths	PT
HND Building Services Engineering Top-Up	L	18 mths	PT
HNC in Building Services Engineering	L	2 yrs	PT
HNC in Civil Engineering - Construction	L	2 yrs	PT
HNC in Construction	L	2 yrs	PT

COURSE	CAMPUS	DURATION	MODE OF ATTENDANCE
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ENGINEERING

Foundation Degree in Engineering (Electrical & Electronic Engineering, Mechatronic and Robotic Engineering pathways)	L	2 yrs	FT
HND Automotive Engineering	L	1 yr	FT
HNC Automotive Engineering	L	1 yr	FT
HNC Engineering with foundation year and Mechanical, Electrical and general Engineering Pathways	L	2 yrs	FT

HEALTHCARE

HND in Integrated Healthcare Practice/ Health Promotion and Public Health/ Healthcare Management	D	2 yrs	FT
HNC in Integrated Healthcare Practice/ Health Promotion and Public Health/ Healthcare Management		1-2 yrs	PT

MUSIC

BA(Hons) in Popular Music (Awarded by Birmingham City University)	D	3 yrs	FT
Foundation Degree in Popular Music (Awarded by Birmingham City University)	D	2 yrs	FT

SPORTS

Foundation Degree in Sports Coaching, Science and Performance (validated by Newman University)	L	2 yrs	FT
Foundation Degree in Sports and Exercise Science (Validated by Newman University)	L	2 yrs	FT

TEACHING

DET in Post-Compulsory Education and Training (PCET) (Awarded by Birmingham City University)	L	2 yrs	PTE
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KEY:

CAMPUS L: Longbridge D: Digbeth F: Fusion
MODE OF ATTENDANCE FT: Full-time PT: Part-time PTE: Part-time evening

TO ENROL VISIT SCCB.AC.UK

or pop in to our Digbeth or Longbridge campus on 13th and 14th August 10am-2pm.

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