



tyne
metropolitan
college

FOUNDATION STUDIES



Part of
TyneCoastCollege

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INTRODUCTION

PAVING THE WAY TO NEW EXPERIENCES

Our Foundation Studies department is for young people, aged 16 to 24, with special educational needs or learning difficulties. Our team are passionate about making sure that our students are given access to a range of learning, life and work experiences at a pace that suits them and with all of the wrap around support they need.

WITH YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

Whilst studying a Foundation Studies course, students will access a package of support which is individualised. Our aim is to work with every student to give them skills, confidence and the opportunity to meet new friends and explore new opportunities. We make sure all our students have the best experience they can so that they can be the best they can be in the future.

Through the Skills Builder Framework, we support our students to recognise their existing skills and identify gaps they have, as well as see what progress looks like by developing their essential skills further. All pathways incorporate the Skills Builder 8 essential skills, from beginner through to mastery, including: Listening, Speaking, Problem Solving, Creativity, Staying Positive, Aiming High, Leadership and Teamwork.

For many young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or SEND, Foundation Studies courses are critical in the preparation and transition to move into further education/employment and adulthood. All Foundation Studies courses at the college hold the Preparing for Adulthood Agenda at the centre of everything we do.

Learners work towards essential skills for improved access to educational, community and work opportunities. Progress is highly personalised and learning activities are designed to enable each student to work towards individualised targets that are meaningful, realistic, and in-keeping with their goals and aspirations.

English and Maths skills are also embedded into learning activities for learners to develop these skills in a functional way. Where appropriate, learners can gain English and Maths qualifications.

INTRODUCTION

WE HAVE 10 DIFFERENT PATHWAYS

All pathways include classroom, practical and enrichment activities.

01 PREPARATION FOR LIFE

02 PREPARATION FOR SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

03 PREPARATION FOR INDEPENDENCE

04 PREPARATION FOR EDUCATION - WORKING AT ENTRY LEVEL

05 PREPARATION FOR EDUCATION - PROGRESSING TO HIGHER LEVELS

06 PREPARATION FOR VOCATIONAL - BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

07 PREPARATION FOR VOCATIONAL - IT

08 INTRODUCTION TO THE WORLD OF WORK

09 PREPARATION FOR THE WORLD OF WORK

10 PREPARATION FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING



01 PREPARATION FOR LIFE

The Preparation for Life pathway is designed to support learners in gaining basic life skills, working towards independence. This pathway is most appropriate for those learners with profound needs (PMLD, SpLD), transferring to us from specialist provision. We will cover the following topics in depth:

Personal care, hygiene, awareness of personal space, eating and drinking skills, sensory experiences, communication, play, cues.

PROGRESSION

Intended progression from this pathway includes:

- Preparation for Social and Community Engagement, Adult Social Care, voluntary work or community participation

02

PREPARATION FOR SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Preparing for Social and Community Engagement pathway focuses on developing life skills and attempting these independently. These skills will equip learners for engaging with social situations and the community.

Understanding social skills, cues and rules, identifying social settings, awareness of group dynamics, greeting familiar faces, body language, observing behaviours in social environments, experiencing different community/social settings.

PROGRESSION

Intended progression from this pathway includes:

- Preparation for Independence, Adult Social Care, voluntary work or community participation

03

PREPARATION FOR INDEPENDENCE

The Preparation for Independence course is designed to empower students with the essential skills, knowledge, and confidence needed to live independently. This programme is tailored for individuals who require support in developing personal, social, and life skills, helping them prepare for independent living, further education, or employment. Through a combination of practical activities, group learning, and individualized support, students will gain confidence in areas such as meal preparation, grocery shopping, money skills, public transport, time management, household chores and self advocacy.

PROGRESSION

Intended progression from this pathway includes:

- Preparation for Social and Community Engagement, Adult Social Care, voluntary work or community participation

PREPARATION FOR EDUCATION

The Preparation for Education pathway is designed to support students with the academic, personal, and study skills needed to succeed in further education. This programme provides a supportive environment for students to build confidence and competence in their learning, with the goal of progressing to higher-level courses.

Learners will benefit from opportunities to transition into a mainstream environment prior to studying a mainstream programme. This is a stepping stone for learners needing smaller class sizes and more intense levels of support before engaging in mainstream provision. It may be that students have attended specialist or alternative provision in the past and need an additional year to support your transition.

This pathway will include taster sessions in mainstream curriculum areas to aid progression.

The course is divided into two pathways based on the students' intended progression:

04

WORKING AT ENTRY LEVEL

PATHWAY 1

Pathway 1 is for students who are working at Entry Level and are aiming to progress to Entry Level 3 or Level 1 courses. These students may need additional support to build confidence and academic skills.

05

PROGRESSING TO HIGHER LEVELS

PATHWAY 2

Pathway 2 is for students who are preparing to progress to Level 1 to higher levels, such as Level 2. These students may be ready to take on more advanced academic challenges and are working towards specific vocational or academic goals.

Both pathways focus on developing core academic skills, enhancing personal development, and preparing students for further study.

06

PREPARATION FOR VOCATIONAL - BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

The Preparation for Vocational - Business Enterprise course is designed for students who are interested in gaining essential skills and knowledge to prepare for further study or employment in the business sector. This foundation programme provides an introduction to key business concepts and practices, focusing on developing both practical and theoretical understanding.

PROGRESSION

Intended progression routes:

Mainstream Provision, Preparation for World of Work, Supported Internship, Paid/Voluntary Employment

07

PREPARATION FOR VOCATIONAL - IT

The Preparation for Vocational - Information Technology (IT) course is designed to provide students with an introduction to the essential skills, knowledge, and tools needed to pursue further study or careers in the fast-evolving IT industry. This foundation programme allows learners to develop practical skills in areas such as computer systems, software applications, and cybersecurity.

PROGRESSION

Intended progression routes:

Mainstream Provision, Preparation for World of Work, Supported Internship, Paid/Voluntary Employment

08

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORLD OF WORK

The Preparation for the World of Work course is designed to equip students with the essential skills, knowledge, and confidence needed to successfully enter the workforce. This foundation programme provides practical guidance on navigating the job market, developing key employability skills, and understanding workplace expectations. This pathway will also include working towards independent travel training.

PROGRESSION

Intended progression routes:

Mainstream provision, Supported Internship, Paid/Voluntary Employment

09

PREPARATION FOR THE WORLD OF WORK

Accredited Pearson qualification delivered at Entry 3 is ideally suited to learners looking to develop confidence in a nurturing environment before progressing to mainstream or vocational pathways.

This course will support learners with SEMH needs accessing a mainstream through supporting a transition year into FE.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1. Understanding Physical Health/Wellbeing | 4. Awareness of Sexual Health/Wellbeing | 9. Importance of Money |
| 2. Understanding Emotional Wellbeing | 5. Becoming Self-Aware | 10. Participating in External Learning Experiences |
| 3. Social Health & Wellbeing | 6. Your Rights and Responsibilities | 11. Outdoor Learning Activity |
| | 7. Exploring Resilience | 12. Planning Your Personal Progression |
| | 8. Becoming More Environmentally Aware | |

PROGRESSION

Intended progression routes:

Mainstream Provision, Preparation for World of Work, Supported Internship, Paid/Voluntary Employment

PREPARATION FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The Supported Internship is a tailored programme designed for students with an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) who are ready to transition into the workplace. This pathway provides a unique blend of classroom learning and practical work experience, supporting students in gaining the skills, confidence, and independence they need for employment. The programme includes three days of external work placement and two days in college, focusing on work-related learning and employability skills.

PROGRESSION

Intended progression routes:

Paid/Voluntary Employment, Apprenticeship/Traineeship



WORK EXPERIENCE

All courses we offer contain a minimum of 3 hours work placement to help students gain real work skills and help transition from being a student to entering the world of work.

Taking part in work experience is such an important factor of the course as it will help develop your skills, knowledge and experience, giving an insight into any future career aspirations you may have.

There are many positive reasons why we focus on finding you a supportive and engaging work placement, not only will the practical experience look impressive on your CV, it will make you more employable when applying for jobs, giving you that edge over other candidates.

Being on a work placement helps you build on important skills such as confidence, teamwork and communicating with different people who are not your family, friends or staff working at the college. Most importantly it makes you more independent, even though we will always guide you along the way whilst on a placement it is up to you to travel there and work on your own initiative. This can be a very daunting experience for some, we understand, that is why this is such an important part of my role to make sure you are happy and feel comfortable in any work placement undertaken. All placements undergo a risk assessment to make sure they are a safe environment before you start.

As part of your induction you will complete a vocational profile which will support us to find a suitable placement for you.

STUDENT BENEFITS

Our team are friendly, supportive and passionate about working with young people.

The benefits of being part of TyneMet Foundation Studies family include:

- **Excellent teaching** and support through small class sizes
- Planned and supported **transition from school to college** and beyond
- Individual learning plans and targets that are regularly reviewed to embed learning and ensure students are making continued **progress towards their goals**
- **Vocational tasters** within mainstream courses that the student is interested in pursuing in the future
- **Work experience**
- Opportunities to engage with extra-curricular activities ran through our **exciting Enrichment offer**
- Key **English and Maths** sessions
- **Personal Development** sessions
- Work Ready **Skills Sessions**
- Skills Builder passport to evidence the **students' achievements** relating to the 8 key areas of development (Speaking, Listening, Team Work, Staying Positive, Aiming High, Leadership, Creativity, Problem Solving)

"In specialist provision for learners with high needs, staff accurately assess their learners and create individual learning plans with strategies to help learners overcome barriers. This helps learners with high needs make secure progress."

Ofsted, 2024

LIFE AS A FOUNDATION STUDIES STUDENT

Our students enjoy engaging and interactive lessons with a mixture of classroom, practical and enrichment activities.



STUDENT SUPPORT

ADDITIONAL LEARNING SUPPORT

Well, it's just that – support which is in addition to the course you are studying. Our support services are there to support, guide and advise all students regardless of your course, the level you are studying or if you already receive another form of support. Whether you need a little extra help with your studies, specialist equipment, or just need a chat, the team are 100% there for you.

The wellbeing of each and every student is at the forefront of everything we do. We want all students to flourish and excel while helping you develop confidence, self-motivation, independence and life skills. That is why our ALS team will work with you every step of the way to produce a bespoke support package just for you and your needs.

We have outlined the kind of support the team has provided to other students to help make their time with us easier. These are just examples and if you would like to discuss support which isn't outlined below, please get in touch with us.

Examples of additional support that our students receive:

- Exam access arrangements
- One to one support, in and out of the classroom
- Help with personal care needs
- Trained and experienced learning support assistants
- Specialist software and equipment
- Communication support workers
- Qualified Teacher of the Deaf
- Assessment and support for dyslexia
- Note takers/ scribes
- Maths, English and ESOL support
- Classes taught in small group size
- Personal tutor to monitor progress and assist with day-to-day queries
- Learning support assistants (LSA) to provide support in and out of class if required
- Supervision over lunch, break and transport (if necessary)
- Quiet areas within specialist provision and across college

GET IN TOUCH

If you would like to discuss any support you feel would benefit you during your time with us, call us on 0191 229 5000 or email als@tynecoast.ac.uk

STUDENT SUPPORT

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Worried you can't afford to go to college? We can help.
There are bursaries and other support funds available to students.

PROGRAMME FEES

If you are aged 16–25 with an EHCP, you will not pay any tuition fees for our programmes.

If you would like to access free, adult programmes you may be eligible for a programme fee waiver if you are in receipt of a debility-related benefit eg, disability allowance.

STUDENT BURSARIES

Help is available for anyone who is finding it hard to meet the costs of coming to college. The following bursaries are on offer for those who meet the eligibility criteria:

- Travel bursary
- Food credits
- Vulnerable bursary
- Young carers bursary
- Study start-up costs, trips and work placement bursary
- College hardship fund
- Residential bursary

GET IN TOUCH

For more information on bursaries, eligibility criteria and how to apply, please contact our Student Services team or look for 'Financial support' on our website.

HOW TO APPLY

APPLY TO STUDY AT TYNEMET

We want to make sure that you have all the information you need to make the right decision about where to study after you leave school. To help you with this, we have put together a simple process in place to make sure we provide you with the support and guidance you need before joining us.

REGISTER FOR ONE OF OUR OPEN EVENTS

- Head to our events page on our website for a full range of dates - www.tynemet.ac.uk
- Call our Admissions team on **0191 229 5000**. The team will be happy to book an event for you.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING THE EVENT

- You will have the opportunity to meet the Foundation Studies curriculum staff. You'll be able to ask any questions you may have and find out more information
- You can chat to our Additional Learning Support team about any specific support needs you may have, in and out the classroom
- You can take a tour of the Foundation Studies department, classrooms, break out areas and social areas
- Our Student Services team will be on hand to talk about other college courses and finance support (including free school meals)
- You can then complete an application form and secure your place ready to start in September. Don't worry, we will continue to be in touch and on hand if you have any questions.

WHAT TO EXPECT BEFORE STARTING COLLEGE

- Regular contact with useful information about the college and Foundation Studies department
- Opportunity to attend an exclusive taster session
- Guidance on how to enrol
- An invite to meet Additional Learning Support staff if required

GET IN TOUCH

CONTACT US VIA



SOCIAL MEDIA

 /tynemet  /tynemet

Direct message us via our Facebook or Instagram page - we're happy to help!

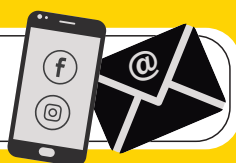
EMAIL

Course information and Admissions:
enquiries@tynemet.ac.uk

Additional Learning Support:
als@tynecoast.ac.uk

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