

The Foundation Degree in Sustainable Communities



Department: University of Northampton,
School of Social Sciences

Subject area: Sustainable
Development/Sustainable Communities

Awarding Body: The University of
Northampton

Location: University Centre Milton Keynes

Mode of study: PT

Duration: 3 years

Entry Requirements:

This foundation degree programme focuses strongly on work related learning. Applicants will therefore need to demonstrate that they have access to an appropriate workplace environment before they can be accepted on the course. The workplace may be paid employment or may be a voluntary activity.

The programme takes a flexible approach to academic requirements for study. Ideally, applicants should have a BTEC National, A Level or other Level 3 qualification. However, we welcome applications from students with a wide range of non-traditional educational or professional qualifications.

How to Apply

Applications should be made directly to the University of Northampton.

Key Features

- Develops higher professional level skills
- Provides an understanding of knowledge and critical awareness of contemporary problems and issues
- Provides comprehensive understanding of techniques of intervention
- When you have completed 50% of the course, you may be eligible for a Certificate in Higher Education in Sustainable Communities.

About the Course

This exciting new degree is an innovative programme that aims to develop skills and knowledge in all aspects of Sustainable Communities ranging from design, planning, professional practice and housing right through to issues associated with governance, sustainability, regeneration, community safety, social inclusion and researching communities.

The qualification has been jointly developed by The University of Northampton, The University Centre Milton Keynes and the Homes & Communities Agency. The course can be studied as a Foundation Degree or as standalone modules as part of a programme of professional development (CPD).

Specialist pathways will be offered in:

- Housing
- Planning and the Environment (from 2011)
- Community Development
- Adult Social Care (Commissioning and Procurement).

Course Content

The degree focuses on practitioner development by adopting an approach which will allow students to strengthen and deepen their knowledge, understanding and ability in relation to all aspects of sustainable communities. The award falls broadly into a number of areas:

- The policy context of sustainable communities – critiquing the concepts and policy context, from sustainable design and building to sustainable planning and development, and place making
- Interventions and Leadership – Consideration of possible intervention strategies
- Application of theory, knowledge and skills in practice and in work-based settings
- Development of graduate and professional skills.

The following modules will be taught in the first year (i.e. from Sept 2010)

- Understanding Sustainable Communities
- Policy Initiatives
- The Economics and Regulation of Development
- Developing Graduate Skills
- Design for Sustainable Communities.

Teaching and Learning Methods

The Foundation Degree is a three year, part-time programme of study which will be delivered by block teaching on Friday and Saturday once a month at the University Centre Milton Keynes. This will be supported by practical work and by web-based learning between the scheduled teaching days. Teaching and learning will involve a mix of traditional lectures, discussion groups, examination of case study material, directed learning, site visits and guest presentations.

Assessment

There are no formal examinations for this course. Assessments will involve a range of written assignments and presentations that will require students to produce reports and strategies to a standard and style expected in a work place. During the course, students undertake an in-depth supervised work-based project on an area of interest.

Career Opportunities

This course will enable you to further develop your professional skills in subject areas including housing, community development, planning and regeneration.

Fees

The cost of the course is £1260 per annum. Some modules can be taken individually at a cost of £315 per module.

Accreditation

We are currently working with the Chartered Institute of Housing to have this course accredited for housing professionals. We also aim to have the other pathways endorsed and potentially accredited by appropriate professional bodies.

Contact

For an informal discussion about this course, please contact:

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