



Foundation Degrees – A Guide for Employers

A Foundation Degree is a Higher Education qualification which combines academic and work related learning.

Foundation Degrees are designed and delivered through partnerships between employers / employer organisations, the universities and further education colleges.

The university is the body with degree-awarding powers and has responsibility for ensuring standards while further education colleges are well-equipped to deliver Foundation Degrees in a flexible way to suit a diverse student group.

Employers are fully involved in the design, development and delivery of Foundation Degrees so that they meet the specific skills needs of employers.

How it works



A Foundation Degree can be studied full-time over two years but many Foundation Degrees can be studied on a part-time basis. Delivery of the part-time course can be timed to fit in with existing work patterns, with the emphasis on flexible delivery your employees will be able to study towards the qualification with minimal disruption to their work commitments.

Work based learning forms an important part of the Foundation Degree programme so students gain work skills e.g. communication and team working, as well as professional ethics and technical skills.

Who can apply?



Entry requirements for a Foundation Degree will depend on the course and the college. They will normally be stated in terms of A Levels and GCSEs or their vocational equivalents. However, employees who lack formal qualifications but who can demonstrate they have relevant experience, skills and aptitudes may also be considered.

How do I apply?



Foundation Degrees are offered in all six further education regional colleges and the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE). Application for courses is normally made direct to the college. You can contact your local college or CAFRE to find out what Foundation Degree courses are available in your area or check out their prospectus online at:

www.belfastmet.ac.uk

www.nwrc.ac.uk

www.nrc.ac.uk

www.src.ac.uk

www.serc.ac.uk

www.swc.ac.uk

www.cafre.ac.uk

You can also visit **www.nidirect.gov.uk/foundation** for further information on Foundation Degrees.

What funding is available?



Tuition fees are payable for all Foundation Degrees. Your local college can advise what tuition fees they charge for a Foundation Degree course.

Programmes available?



Foundation Degrees are available in a wide range of subjects including ICT, Interactive Media, Retail Management, Hospitality and Tourism, Construction and Engineering disciplines.

Benefits



Foundation Degrees enable your workforce to meet the challenges of the changing nature of business and increasing global competition.

Whether you are up-skilling existing employees or recruiting new ones, a Foundation Degree graduate will have very specific skills and the ability to develop and apply those skills in the workplace. They will be eager and able to introduce or adapt to new ideas and new technology to benefit your business.

The result: you drive your business forward with a more skilled, more motivated workforce, retain your staff and their experience, reduce staff turn over minimising cost and disruption and preparing your business for future challenges.