

## Foundation Degrees

Foundation degrees are vocational higher education qualifications which are designed with employers to make sure that you learn the skills you need to succeed in your chosen career - they are a mixture of academic learning and learning in the workplace. A foundation degree is a qualification in its own right and you can use the letters FdA or FdSc after your name. You can also progress from a foundation degree to an honours degree or other professional qualifications. On-the-job training contained in a foundation degree can often give foundation degree graduates an edge over graduates on more traditional degree courses.

Foundation degrees are for everyone with the ability and motivation to succeed: for people who want a work-related qualification, for employees who want to get on in their job, for those returning to work or changing careers and for people who are unemployed and looking for a way in to work. A foundation degree can also provide a route into higher education for people who have never before considered higher education.

It's possible to study for a foundation degree in many ways – full-time, part-time, through distance learning and via the internet. Full time courses take two years, other courses take longer depending on the course and the study method. And you don't have to give up your job – you can earn while you learn! Some foundation degrees have two starting points – in Autumn and January.

You can study at a FE or HE college, university, in the workplace or at home in your own time – the choice is yours, and will depend on the institution offering the course and the subject area.

There is a massive choice of foundation degrees in the Active Leisure and Learning sector ranging from a sector endorsed foundation degree in playwork to foundation degrees in sports development, sports management, coaching and health-related exercise and fitness. There are also foundation degrees in specialist subject areas such as marine sports, adventure tourism and motor sports.

You can apply for a place on a foundation degree through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), the UCAS website lists all the foundation degrees in the Active Leisure sector and has information on how to apply.

Entry requirements for foundation degrees are agreed by the institution offering the course and they will advise you if you are eligible. Vocational qualifications such as NVQs and apprenticeships are often accepted for entry on to a foundation degree and if you haven't got any traditional qualifications, your previous work experience may be taken into account.

The fees for foundation degrees are the same as for other higher education qualifications. The Higher Education Grant system for students from lower income households also applies to foundation degrees and all students are eligible for a student loan.

For lists of foundation degree courses and information on applying for a course visit [www.ucas.ac.uk](http://www.ucas.ac.uk)

For further information on foundation degrees visit [www.foundationdegree.org.uk](http://www.foundationdegree.org.uk)

For information on student support visit [www.dfes.gov.uk/studentssupport](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/studentssupport)

For information on foundation degrees in Active Leisure and Learning visit [www.skillsactive.com/foundationdegrees](http://www.skillsactive.com/foundationdegrees)

For information on the sector endorsed foundation degree in playwork visit [www.playwork.org.uk](http://www.playwork.org.uk)