



**Careers &
Employability Service**

MOVING ON UP

- Higher Education at College
- Higher Level Apprenticeships
- Applying to University

2025/26



INTRODUCTION

If you have or are undertaking Further Education at Level 3, or Higher Education at Level 4 or 5 then this guide is for you. Produced by Belfast Met's Careers and Employability Service this guide will help you:

➤ Understand your study/employment options such as:

- Higher Education in College
- Higher Level Apprenticeships
- (HLA's) or Degree Level Apprenticeships

➤ Provide key information about applying through UCAS for UK institutions and CAO for Republic of Ireland

➤ Help you decide on your next step.

You can read the booklet in full or read the sections which are most relevant to you, either way we hope you find the guide helpful and informative.

The Careers and Employability Team.



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SCAN TO VIEW OUR:

Advice Request



Canvas page



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WHAT IS HIGHER EDUCATION?

Higher Education (commonly referred to as HE) is study at an advanced level, normally at age 18 or over. HE courses are provided by Further and Higher Education colleges, Universities, University Colleges, Business schools, Agricultural colleges, as well as at specialist institutions, for example, in music and drama.

An undergraduate course is the higher education course you are studying. Once you achieve a degree you are a graduate and eligible to apply for graduate level employment. Higher Education is mainly full time but there are also some part time options too.

LEVEL 4 CERTIFICATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

What does it offer?	Belfast Met has 1 Certificate of Higher Education: the Certificate of Combined Social and Behavioural Sciences which is equivalent to year 1 of a degree. Entry is possible to year 2 of relevant degrees at Ulster University.
How long is it?	Two years part-time.
What do I need?	Entry requirements to a Cert HE are lower than to a Foundation Degree or HND, which should be a minimum of a level 3 qualification e.g. 1 A level or equivalent. However, other qualifications and experience related to the subject area may be considered for entry on an individual basis.

LEVEL 4 HIGHER NATIONAL CERTIFICATE (HNC)

What does it offer?	Many HNC courses cover the same subjects as an HND, with an HNC being one level below an HND. A Higher National Certificate can be used to enter the first or occasionally the second year of a full time bachelor's degree or to help people aim for a promotion.
How long is it?	Usually 1 year full time or sometimes 2 years part time.
What do I need?	Entry requirements to a HNC are lower than to a foundation degree or HND, which should be a minimum of a level 3 qualification e.g. 1 A level or equivalent. However, other qualifications and experience related to the subject area may be considered for entry on an individual basis.

LEVEL 5 HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA (HND)

What does it offer?	A Higher National Diploma is a vocational course provided by Further and Higher Education colleges in the UK. It aims to prepare students for careers in specific industries for example Computing and you can if you wish, top up your HND to a full degree in 1 - 2 years.
How long is it?	A HND usually takes two years to complete full-time.
What do I need?	Entry requirements to a HND tend to be lower than a full bachelor's degree. A minimum of level 3 qualification or equivalent is expected or a relevant level 4 HNC. In addition, some courses have specific GCSE* requirements.

LEVEL 5 FOUNDATION DEGREE

What does it offer?	Designed and delivered through partnerships between employer organisations, further and higher education colleges and universities, this qualification combines academic and work-related learning to offer you a route into a certain field of employment. You can also 'top-up' to a bachelor's degree by undertaking an additional one or two years of further study. Foundation degrees in Northern Ireland are normally accredited by Queen's University, Ulster University or Open University.
How long is it?	A foundation degree usually takes two years to complete full-time.
What do I need?	Entry requirements to a foundation degree tend to be slightly lower than a Bachelor's Degree. A minimum of a level 3 qualification or equivalent is expected. In addition, some courses may have specific GCSE* requirements.

LEVEL 6 BACHELOR'S DEGREE

What does it offer?	Designed to give you a thorough understanding of a subject, it can help you develop the skills needed to enter a specific graduate profession or more general graduate level employment. A degree can also be used to progress onto postgraduate study.
How long is it?	A degree takes three or four years to complete full-time. Some degrees, such as medical courses, can take longer. You can also study for some degrees part-time or through distance/online learning, which usually takes four to six years.
What do I need?	The minimum entry requirement for a full time degree is usually a full Level 3 qualification, such as three A levels, BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma or Access Diploma. In addition, some degrees may have specific GCSE* requirements e.g. Science subjects. Some applicants apply with Level 4 or 5 qualifications also such as an HNC, HND, or FD.

*Generally GCSE English Language and Mathematics are required. Not all institutions/subjects will accept alternatives. Applicants should check this out in advance of application.

HIGHER EDUCATION AT COLLEGE

Higher Education (HE) courses at Further and Higher Education Colleges in Northern Ireland are available at Level 4, 5 and 6. Courses include Higher National Certificates (HNCs) and Certificates of HE at Level 4, Foundation Degrees and Higher National Diplomas (HNDs) at Level 5.

Our HE courses may be your first choice option to continue your studies or can act as a back up option to your university applications. Most of our HE courses are full time but this is subject to change so check our website for full details.

Applying to Courses

Applications to the majority of full-time higher education courses at Belfast Met can be made directly to the college or through UCAS. See more at: www.ucas.com/explore/unis/f0ebfe95/belfast-metropolitan-college

For higher education courses in Northern Ireland you should apply directly to the relevant college as early as possible, Higher Education courses at Belfast Met usually open in early November for the following year's entry.

Some Foundation Degrees in NI require an application through UCAS. The equal consideration deadline is 14th January 2026 (where your application is given equal consideration with all other applications, after this date it is considered if places are available). Belfast Met requires you to submit a UCAS application to be considered for the following Foundation Degrees:

- Early Childhood Studies
- Physical Education and Sport
- Mechanical Engineering
- Biological Sciences

Meeting the entry criteria

It is important to carefully check the course entry requirements on college websites. Entry criteria is based on **UCAS tariff points**, see the calculator on the UCAS website [UCAS Tariff points](#). There's also a table you can download: [UCAS Tariff Tables](#). There may be specific GCSE requirements for some higher education courses. You should also be aware that Essential Skills Level 2 Literacy and Numeracy qualifications are not always considered an acceptable alternative to GCSE English or GCSE Mathematics.

For further information about entry criteria and the application process check the course website and contact the college or university directly if it's not clear.

Higher Education at Belfast Met

On our website you will see not only [Foundation Degrees](#), [HNDs](#) and [HNCs](#) but we also have [degrees](#) in Fashion Production and Business, Professional Development in Leadership & Management and several IT degrees. Applications for our **Social Work** degree are via **UCAS** only.

You can access information on the wide range of HE courses on our website and also download a HE prospectus from the website as well [higher-education-prospectus](#).

NB: Applications for our Social Work degree are also through UCAS. Please note applications are not accepted after the 29th January deadline for this course.

Benefits to studying Higher Education at Belfast Met.

Cost

Tuition fees are often less than the fees for an Honours degree at university

Work experience

Foundation Degrees, Higher Level Apprenticeships and some HNDs provide professional work experience which allows students to put their learning into practice.

Route to university

Students who successfully complete a Foundation Degree or HND can top up their qualification to a relevant Honours degree in 1 to 2 years.

Skills gap

HNCs, HNDs and Foundation degrees cover level 4 and 5 – the levels at which our Northern Ireland skills gap is greatest, therefore opening up many opportunities for those who achieve these qualifications.

Smaller classes

Smaller learning groups are common in college.



UCAS TARIFF POINTS

FOR SOME POPULAR QUALIFICATIONS

Access Diploma	Certificate	Subsidiary Diploma	Diploma
75%+			
70-74%			
65-69%			
			D*D*
60-64%			
			D*D
55-59%			DD
50-54%			
			DM
45-49%			
			MM
41-44%			
		D*	
40%		D	MP
		M	PP
	D*		
	D		
	M	P	
	P		

BTEC

90 Credit Diploma	Extended Diploma	A Level	AS Level	Tariff Points
	D*D*D*			168
	D*D*D			160
	D*DD			152
	DDD			144
				132
	DDM			128
				120
	DMM			112
				108
				104
	MMM			96
D*D*				84
	MMP			80
D*D				78
DD				72
	MPP			64
DM				60
		A*		56
MM	PPP	A		48
		B		40
MP				36
		C		32
				28
PP		D		24
			A	20
		E	B	16
			C	12
			D	10
				8
			E	6

HIGHER LEVEL APPRENTICESHIPS

A Higher Level Apprenticeship (HLA) is a job combined with studying for a qualification, such as a Higher National Certificate, Higher National Diploma or Foundation Degree. You are an employee of a company, working usually 4 days a week and studying one day a week. Your employer covers the cost of the qualification, and you can achieve a qualification without accruing student debt.

In NI there are currently HLAs available in over 20 occupational areas including ICT, Professional Services, Engineering, Life Sciences, Accountancy and Health Care. You will need to have achieved by the start date of the apprenticeship a level 3 qualification, such as a BTEC Level 3, A levels or an Access Diploma, and may need to have gained certain GCSE grades: Further details can be found here: [Higher Level Apprenticeships | nidirect](#) and at our website [Higher Level Apprenticeships - Belfast Met](#).

What do I need to do?

You will need to be employed or about to take up employment with a company in NI working for at least 21 hours per week.

Further Education Colleges provide information about HLAs on their websites since they are advertising their ability to deliver the off-the-job training element of HLAs.

NB: You are responsible for finding the employer and this will involve researching the position and company thoroughly, and going through a recruitment process which may include online aptitude tests, job application form and an interview.

How do I find an apprenticeship?

You need to be prepared to do your research as there isn't a central system to apply for all apprenticeships.

Opportunities are advertised by [employers](#) throughout the year usually from January onwards. Check the NI Apprenticeship search facility: [Search for apprenticeship opportunities | nidirect](#)

[Workplus](#) is a website where you can find some apprenticeships. It opens for applications in January and closes in February, however it may open for applications later in the year depending on demand from employers. [See Apprenticeships - Workplus for further details.](#)

[IT Apprenticeships](#) at Belfast Met are usually advertised in January with an Employer Open Day in March. Check our website for further details on the application and recruitment process: [IT Apprenticeship \(belfastmet.ac.uk\)](#) You can also apply directly to employers for an IT apprenticeship.

Regularly check job websites such as:

www.jobapplyni.com

www.indeed.com

www.nijobs.com

www.nijobfinder.co.uk

You should also ask around for apprenticeships, let family and friends know you're looking for one.

For further advice on finding an apprenticeship, CV advice and interview preparation, check out the Looking for Employment section of our Careers Canvas page. In addition we can review draft CVs and offer advice on interview preparation for our students. See [page 24](#) for details on how to contact us.

See the next page for additional information on degree level apprenticeships.



DEGREE LEVEL APPRENTICESHIPS

A degree apprenticeship is a job combined with studying for a university degree. You'll be working with an employer for most of the time, with your tuition fees paid by the employer and studying for the rest of the time at a university.

Deloitte.

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An earn-while-you-learn higher apprenticeship with the chance to gain a professional qualification in:

- Audit & Assurance
- Business & Financial Advisory
- Cyber
- Human Capital
- Governance, Risk & Regulation
- Legal
- Real Estate
- Strategy & Operations
- Tax Consulting
- Technology

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Real world experience, a real salary with a real job and a degree in Computing Systems at the end. To apply to Kainos 'Earn as you Learn' programme see: [Kainos Academy](#)

In most cases you have to secure the apprenticeship by going through the employers recruitment process but check the process directly with the university. Some examples of degree level apprenticeships within Northern Ireland are listed below.



FinTech

This programme is designed to produce industry focused graduates with an in- depth knowledge of core finance and technology principles and a strong practical understanding of how theory informs professional practice.

[Financial Technology BSc \(Hons\) 2026/27](#) See Ulster website for up to date details on how to apply.

Further details on apprenticeships available through Ulster University can be found here: [Become an apprentice and Degree Apprenticeships - Ulster University.](#)



Queen's University Belfast run a degree apprenticeship in Software Engineering with Digital Technology wotj application through UCAS, however at the time of writing it is not listed as running in 2026.

Further details on apprenticeships available through Queens University can be found here: [Higher Level Apprenticeships](#).

UCAS

For details of other apprenticeships in the UK visit **University websites** and **UCAS** website: [Degree apprenticeships](#).



SELF EMPLOYMENT

Many people consider self-employment at some stage in their lives. Being your own boss, enjoying the financial rewards and job satisfaction sounds very appealing. It's a big leap, so it's important to think carefully first and get as much as advice and help as you can.

For further information and advice on becoming self-employed, check out:

NI Direct

Starting your own business and becoming self-employed | [nidirect](#)

GETTING A JOB

If you wish to move into employment after your studies, we advise you to research thoroughly the areas of work you are interested in. This is to ensure you match the entry criteria and that no further study is required. There are many ways you can search and apply for jobs and our Looking for Employment section of our Canvas page is a great starting point.

You may also wish to come along to one of Belfast Met Job Fair events during the academic year, check your college emails and Careers canvas for upcoming events. At these events you may have access to job opportunities at employers.

Follow us on our social media accounts for news on upcoming job opportunities and employment events.

Don't forget to check out the Looking for Employment section of the Careers Canvas page for job search advice and sample CVs.



GOING TO UNIVERSITY

Choosing a course and a university or college is a major decision so do as much research as possible and start as early as you can.

UCAS Application deadlines for 2026 entry

15th October 2025

Most courses in **medicine, dentistry** and **veterinary science** and courses at Oxford or Cambridge.

14th January 2026

This is called the equal consideration application deadline for all other courses where your application is given equal consideration with other applications.

NB: some courses may not accept applications after this date.

Choosing where to study

Choosing where to study requires some careful thought. Don't forget that tuition fees in England, Scotland and Wales are higher than in Northern Ireland (see the Funding for Higher Education section for more information) so you may wish to take this into consideration.

You may also want to consider:

Reputation of the university

What is its track record for graduate employment and where is the university placed in the league tables.

Location of the university

Consider travel options for getting to the university and whether you want to study at a university campus or one that is based in a town or city.

Accommodation

What is available to you, especially in your first year, and are you happy with the options?

Cost of living

How much are costs such as the accommodation, transport etc?

N.IRELAND

Apply via UCAS

Fees: £4,855*

SCOTLAND

Apply via UCAS

Fees: Up to £9,535*

IRELAND

Apply via CAO

Fees:

Up to €3,000*

WALES

Apply via UCAS

Fees: Up to

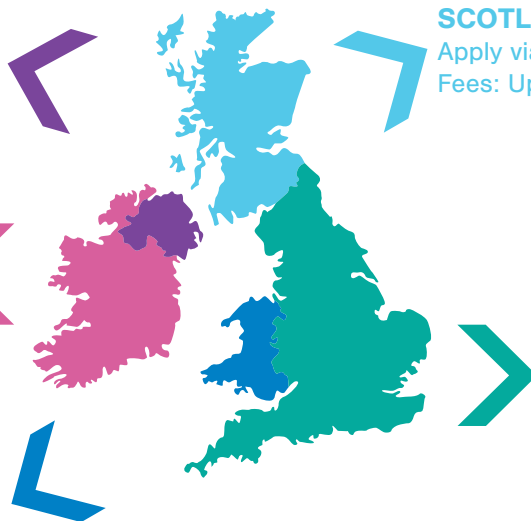
£9,535*

ENGLAND

Apply via UCAS

Fees: Up to

£9,535*



*NB: Please ensure you check directly on the university website for the up to date fee price.

MAKE USE OF THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES TO HELP IN YOUR RESEARCH

League tables and subject rankings

The Guardian

The Complete University Guide:
www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk

University websites

The most up-to-date information on degree content, entry criteria, student support, accommodation etc.

University Open Days

Explore the campus and gets insights from staff and students.

You can find details of open days including online ones, and virtual tour videos on www.ucas.com and university websites.

Prospectuses

Copies of some prospectuses may be available in the Careers Resource Centres in Titanic Quarter and Millfield. You can also download a copy from the university website or order directly from the University.

Universities & Colleges Events

Check our Careers canvas page and our social media accounts for details of events where you can find out more about course options.

CHOOSING WHAT TO STUDY

You may know what you want to study, however many students are unsure about their choices. Selecting which course to study is a key decision that needs plenty of research. Consider these points before making your choices.

Find a course that suits your interests, skills and career aspirations. Ask yourself:

- What are my strengths
- What subjects interest me
- What job would I like to do after studying
- What qualification will I gain

Some professions require a specific higher education course. If you know what career you want after graduating, research the job in detail to see what specific higher education qualifications are required by visiting the Prospects Graduate Careers website: www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles

Attend Talks and Events

To help your research attend any Talks or Events in the College or at Universities, usually in September or October. Check university websites, Careers Canvas Page and social media for details closer to the time.

Use Course Search facilities

Get help by using Course Search facilities such as:

- www.ucas.com
- www.theuniguide.co.uk
- www.discoveruni.gov.uk

In UCAS you can search for undergraduate courses offered by UK Universities and Colleges, including drama and music courses available from conservatoires.

You can filter the search by location, UCAS tariff points and year of entry eg if you have a Level 4 HNC/Certificate of Higher Education you may be able to enter at year 2 of some degrees. If you have a Level 5 HND or FD then you may be able to enter at year 2 or 3 of some degrees. Many of the courses listed will provide details about the course, start dates, entry requirements, selection criteria and admissions policy. Check directly with admissions of the university if it's not clear on the course search facility you are using.

Visit www.ucas.com/connect/videos for video guides on how to choose courses, apply, navigate student finance and use additional features such UCAS Extra or Clearing.

Want to study more than one subject?

Use the course search facility on UCAS to find combinations of subjects you wish to study. You can often decide how much time you would like to spend on each subject.

E.G. Joint:

Two subjects studied equally 50:50,

Major/Minor:

Time spent is usually 75:25.

Interested in trying something new?

There may be some courses you've never heard of or considered before and you may find a subject of interest. Some degrees also may not be taught widely at level 3 e.g. Radiotherapy, Operating Department Practitioner, Prosthetics and Orthotics, Anthropology, Energy, Paleoecology to name just a few.

Check out the [UCAS Subject Guides](#) to find out about a wide range of courses. If you have specific universities in mind go through their undergraduate course list.

Attend University Information Sessions or Webinars

Check the university website for details of presentations on areas such as degree subjects, accommodation and virtual tours of the university.

Check if your course offers an industry placement or study abroad opportunities

Some courses include a work placement, usually in the third year of a degree or the second year of Foundation Degree and, depending on the employer, may be paid. This introduces you to the world of work and provides valuable relevant experience which greatly enhances your employment prospects once you graduate. Some courses also provide the opportunity to study abroad for a term or year. This can really enhance your employability skills.

Discover Uni

www.discoveruni.gov.uk allows you to search for and compare 'undergraduate course information across the UK. This is a useful resource to gain insight into student satisfaction rates, graduate destinations and salaries, the percentage of students continuing on the course after a year, tariff points held by students who entered the course previously, as well as accreditation or professional recognition of the course.

Deferred Entry

If you wish to take a year out before starting higher education, check whether your chosen universities will accept a deferred application before applying. More information on applying for a deferred entry can be found at: wwwucas.com/deferred-entry

Some courses do not normally accept deferred entry and will usually say in the course information eg: Queen's University Belfast and their Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work degrees.

Additional Information

Visit Careers and Employability regularly on our social media accounts for details on higher education events and news.

Visit [Videos | UCAS](#) for video guides on how to choose courses, apply, navigate student finance and use additional features such UCAS Extra or Clearing.

Talk to **friends/family** who have or who are attending the universities you are interested in to get an insight into what life is like at these institutions. You could also do a **virtual tour** of the university or visit the universities you are keen on.

MEETING ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

In order to meet entry requirements you will require qualifications at a minimum of Level 3 such as A Levels, BTEC Level 3 or an Access Diploma. Some applicants also apply with Level 4 qualifications such as HNC, Certificate of Higher Education or Level 5 qualifications such as HND or Foundation Degree.

Some universities will specify grades and others tariff points in their offers. About a third of universities in the UK use the UCAS tariff with the majority, including Queens University and Ulster University, making offers based on your highest-level qualification and grade.

Tariff points are awarded for Level 3 qualifications only. If you need to work out your UCAS points check out the Tariff points calculator on the UCAS website. [UCAS Tariff points](#).

Entry requirements including grades required are noted on the course information for the university and must be met by the [start date](#) of the course you're applying to.

If you are studying on a BTEC Extended Diploma or Higher National Certificate/ Diploma, it is recommended you seek clarification by email from your chosen universities regarding the distinction/ merit profile required.

NB: Universities don't always list all the qualifications they accept.

If your qualification is not referred to in the entry requirements for the course or you are not clear about the entry requirements, then contact [Admissions](#) at the university to check.

It's crucial to also check the [GCSE requirements](#) as well. Not all universities accept Essential Skills Level 2 Numeracy to meet the Maths requirement of a degree eg: Queen's University of Belfast does not accept Essential Skills Maths for their Nursing or Social Work degrees.



SUPPORT FROM UNIVERSITIES FOR 'DISADVANTAGED' STUDENTS

Universities are particularly keen to attract students from disadvantaged backgrounds onto their programmes. For example, Queen's University Pathway Opportunity Programme provides young people aged between 16 and 19 completing year 1 of A Levels or a BTEC Level 3 with the opportunity to learn more about the university and receive additional support to make a successful UCAS application.

Applications usually open in [October](#) with the deadline in [November](#). You can find out more about the [Pathway](#) or from the [Widening Participation](#) Unit of Queen's University Belfast.

Support for those from a care background

Many universities also offer support to students with experience of being in care see the following links for details of Queens [Widening Participation](#) And Ulster University Care Leavers - Flexible Education [Widening Access Ulster And Ulster University Care Leavers - Flexible Education](#)

Ulster University also has a scholarship scheme [Inspire Scholarships 2025/2026](#) to support students going into university (in 2025 the closing date was 16th June, but details of the 2026 scheme may be launched in January or February).



UNIVERSITY SELECTION PROCESS

To reach a decision on your application some universities may use one or more of the following: your UCAS personal statement, an interview, admissions test, audition or portfolio review.

Admissions Tests

For medical and dental degrees in the UK you will be required to undertake a test such as the University Clinical Aptitude Test (**UCAT**) or GAMSAT.

In addition it also uses Multiple Mini Interviews as part of the selection process. Queen's University Belfast uses the UCAT for their Medicine and Dentistry degrees.

Ulster University uses the Graduate Medical School Admissions Test - **GAMSAT** for their medicine degree (requiring a minimum requirement of a 2:1 Honours degree).

A total of 6 Allied Health Professional degree courses run in NI by Ulster University use the Medical Selection Admissions Test (MSAT-Ulster).

Bear in mind that you need to apply for these tests well in advance of the **15th October** UCAS deadline for these type of degrees. Dates may be subject to change so check their websites directly.

The **UCAT** test for example must be taken between **7 July and 26 September 2025** if you are intending to apply for entry in **2026** – see the website for further details: [Eligibility | UCAT Consortium](#)

To find out if your chosen course(s) have an admissions test, visit the admissions test section on the UCAS website, check the entry profiles, contact your chosen universities and/ or check their websites. [University Admissions Tests](#)

For courses in the Republic of Ireland check www.cao.ie

It is your responsibility to find out whether the course(s) you have chosen are subject to any form of admissions test and to register and pay for any such test by the relevant deadline.



Interviews (In person)

Some universities choose to interview for competitive courses. For 2026 entry Ulster University (bold) will use interviews or selection tests for the following courses:

Dietetics, Nursing, Paramedic Science, and Social Work.

MSAT -Medical Selection Admissions Test

Diagnostic Radiography & Imaging, Occupational Therapy, Podiatry, Physiotherapy, Radiotherapy and Oncology, Speech and Language Therapy.

Medicine

Medicine uses GAMSAT selection process and multiple mini interview (MMI). This route is for those with a 2:1 degree minimum.

Queen's University of Belfast Interviews (in person):

Nursing and Social Work.

UCAT Selection Test and Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) for Dentistry and Medicine degrees.



INTERVIEW ADVICE AND MOCK INTERVIEWS

Interviews are a competitive process but Careers & Employability is here to help. We organise presentations from Universities and other professionals regarding the interview process. Details of these will be sent out to college emails when organised as well as posted on social media and careers canvas.

TO BOOK A MOCK INTERVIEW OR INTERVIEW PREPARATION SESSION:

Email: careers@belfastmet.ac.uk Tel: 028 9026 5066

Careers Canvas page

The College's Careers and Employability Service Canvas has useful information to help you prepare for interviews and we can also provide additional support: and/or an interview advice session.

ULSTER UNIVERSITY HEALTH APPLICATIONS IN 2025 3 SECTIONS

	Access Diploma	Certificate
Physiotherapy	1109	110
Speech & Language Therapy	805	56
Diagnostic Radiography	431	94
Radiotherapy & Oncology	187	25
Occupational Therapy	1193	93
Podiatry	87	27
Dietetics	241	35
Adult Nursing	1358	246
Mental Health Nursing	1922	321



APPLYING TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE UK

The UCAS Process

If you are considering applying to full time degrees in the UK you will need to apply through the UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service).

Please note that St Mary's University College Belfast does not use the UCAS scheme and applicants should apply directly to the college, check out their website for more info: www.stmarys-belfast.ac.uk

Key Dates

Listed below are key dates for communication with UCAS for applicants applying to full-time degrees. When you complete your part of the UCAS application with your Personal Statement, you then send it to your tutor who has their part to complete and add a reference before it can be sent to UCAS.

Check with your Tutor for the deadline they require your completed Personal Statement by but it's usually **September** for applications with an early closing date on 15 October and **November** for those with the 14 January closing date.

Further details at: [UCAS Track](#)

Distance/Online Learning

Some courses are also available online also known as distance learning or home study, see the UCAS website.

Part-time degrees

Students wishing to apply to part-time degrees should apply directly to their chosen institutions. See the "Studying Part Time Degrees" section for further details.



UCAS SCHEDULE FOR 2026 ENTRY

14 May 2025	UCAS Apply for 2026 available
2 Sep 2025	First date completed applications can be submitted to UCAS
2 Oct 2025	UCAS Conservatoires music applications deadline.
15 Oct 2025 (6pm)	Deadline for receipt of most courses in medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine/science and for all courses at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge .
14 Jan 2026 (6pm)	Equal Consideration Deadline for applications for the majority of other degrees except those with a 15 October deadline. Also closing date for most conservatoires: dance/drama/musical theatre applications.
26 Feb 2026	UCAS Extra opens – applicants who have used all five choices and are not holding any offers may be able to add another choice.
31 Mar 2026	UCAS provider advisory decision date – universities and colleges should aim to have sent all decisions on applications received at UCAS by 14 January
30 Jun 2026 (6pm)	Applications received by this deadline will be forwarded by UCAS to universities and colleges. After this time, applications are automatically entered into Clearing.
4 Jul 2026	Last date to add an Extra choice through UCAS Track.
5 Jul 2026	Clearing vacancies will be displayed in the UCAS search tool.

NB: Dates provided were those available at the time of writing.

How to Use UCAS Apply

UCAS Apply is an online application system that allows you to apply for up to **five** full-time undergraduate courses at universities and colleges in the UK. The system allows you to leave a section partially completed, so you can return to it later.

You can only complete **one** application in each UCAS cycle.

Registration

Creating an account in the UCAS Hub is the first step and it will generate your username and password, which you will need every time you log into your application. Keep your login details safe and secure.

1. Go to the UCAS Hub
2. Create your account and click on Get Started.
3. Follow the online instructions to register
4. Write down your password
5. When asked “How are you applying?” choose “Through my school / college”. Enter your campus college buzzword exactly as shown below:

Castlereagh Campus enter:

Castlereagh26

E3 Campus enter:

Millfield26

Millfield Campus enter:

Millfield26

Titanic Quarter Campus enter:

Titanic26

6. Select your course co-ordinator from the drop-down list.
7. Make a note of your Personal ID as you'll need this if you call UCAS Customer Services.

You are now ready to start completing the application. The following sections must be completed:

- Registration
- Personal Details
- Additional Information
- Choices
- Education
- Employment
- Statement
- Declaration
- Pay and Send

Application fee and submission of application

1. The **£28.50** fee is paid by credit or debit card online when your application is finalised. **If you have received free school meals at some time in the last 6 years, a fee waiver is available.** Talk to your Tutor about this.
 2. Send completed form to your referee.
 3. Tutor checks form and if any changes to be made, your tutor returns it electronically.
 4. If it's in order the **reference** and **predicted grades** are added and the Tutor **submits** your application to UCAS.
 5. Ensure you leave sufficient time for all the processes.
 6. You are notified by **UCAS Track** that your application has been submitted.
-

NB: Check with your Tutor that the application has been submitted, if you haven't received a notification from UCAS

The university is offering you a degree place on the condition that you will meet the academic entry criteria set out in their offer to you. You usually need to meet these conditions by the 31st August 2026.

Invitation

You may be asked to attend an interview or audition, or to provide a portfolio of work, an essay or other piece of work. You reply to this via Track selecting either accept, decline or request alternative date/time (To change the date you should contact the university not UCAS).

Conditional Offer

The university is offering you a degree place on the condition that you will meet the academic entry criteria set out in their offer to you. You usually need to meet these conditions by the 31st August 2026.

Unconditional Offer

Can be made if an applicant already meets the entry requirements at the time of application. Some universities also make unconditional offers based on predicted grades or after interviews and auditions. Effectively, it means that the university will accept you regardless of what grades you actually receive on your current course. See Accepting Unconditional Offers overleaf for more information.

Universities in England, Scotland and Wales sometimes make unconditional offers where you have a guaranteed place at university irrespective

of your results. Before accepting an unconditional offer it is worth considering a few factors:

- A university may stipulate that their offer is only unconditional if you make them your firm choice. If this is the case then you cannot have an insurance choice or be entered into Clearing. Check any terms attached to their offer before you reply.
- If they don't stipulate that you must make them a firm choice then you may be able to accept an unconditional offer as your **insurance choice**.

Think your grades don't matter if you have an unconditional offer? Think again!



If you decide the course or university is not suitable, and your grades are low you could find it a challenge to find another course. You may have to consider redoing qualifications depending on the grades you achieved. It could also impact on future employment prospects as many employers will look at all your grades.

Unsuccessful Application

The university has decided not to offer you a place. This could be for a variety of reasons such as not meeting the entry requirements, personal statement or after an interview process.

Dealing with Offers

Once you have received decisions from all your choices, you need to decide which one(s) you want to accept. If you receive a conditional offer you can accept two offers – a “**firm**” and an “**insurance**” – and you need to decline any others. The date you must reply by is shown in UCAS Track.

Firm Acceptance

This is your first choice out of all the offers you’ve received. If you accept a conditional offer you are agreeing to attend the course at that university if you meet the conditions of the offer once you receive your results.

Insurance acceptance

If your firm acceptance is a conditional offer you can accept another offer as an insurance choice. This can act as a back-up, so if you do not meet the conditions of your firm choice after your results but meet the conditions of your insurance, you will be automatically allocated to the insurance choice.

Usually the entry requirements for the insurance choice are lower than the firm choice.

Decline

Once you have decided which offer to accept firmly and which (if any) to accept as an insurance, you must decline all other offers. If you do not want to accept any of the offers and decline all, you will be eligible to use **Extra** or **Clearing**, depending upon your circumstances and the date.

Full details of how and when to reply to your UCAS offers can be found at: [Deadlines for Accepting University Offers | UCAS](#)

If you are holding no offers, don’t panic!

If you are not offered a place at any of your five choices you can use UCAS Extra to apply to other universities and colleges that still have vacancies. You can only apply to one choice at a time so you will need to get in touch with each university you are interested in to see if they will consider you. Find out more at [UCAS Extra](#).

Extra is available from 28 February to 4 July 2026.



Please ensure you reply to your offers by the appropriate deadline.



REMEMBER BEFORE REPLYING:

- Make sure the course and university are right for you.
- Try to visit the universities before you make your decision. If that's not possible then attend their virtual Open Days.
- Once you accept offers, including an insurance offer, you are committed to those courses.



PERSONAL STATEMENT

You will probably take the most time over the personal statement section and you should be prepared to draft and redraft it getting feedback as you go along.



For 2026 entry there is a new format to the personal statement with 3 questions to help you structure your answers and include exactly what universities and colleges want to see. Each answer will have a minimum character count of 350, which is clearly labelled on the boxes. The 4000 overall character count remains the same, as does what you are expected to include.

You will be asked:

Why do you want to study this course or subject?

How have your qualifications and study helped you prepare for this course or subject?

What else have you done outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

Before you start your Statement check out the wide range of resources we have on Personal Statements on our Careers canvas page in the Applying to Higher Education section.

Once you have a draft you should get feedback from your Personal Tutor. After that you can book a **Personal Statement Review with a Careers Adviser** by contacting Careers through email, phone or calling into the office.

FURTHER HELP AND ADVICE:

Check out **UCAS** for more help on personal statements:
Personal Statement | UCAS

Search 'UCAS personal statement' on:
www.youtube.com for some useful videos.



Top Tips:

- **Start as early as possible** as it takes time to write and get feedback from others.
- **Describe the experience(s) that first made you think about a career in nursing or computing etc.** or when you knew for sure that you wanted to study history at university.
- Avoid phrases such as “I have always wanted to be...” – it’s overused and impersonal.
- Your **academic** experiences should be in the order of 40-60% of your personal statement rather than social content. Write about your **current course** - What aspects have you found most interesting and why? What **skills** have you developed that you will use in university e.g. critical thinking, independent research, essay writing, presentation skills. Don’t forget any technical skills you have learnt.
- Type up your statement in **MS Word** and check and double-check your spelling and grammar. Ask someone you trust to proofread it. (**UCAS apply does not have a spellchecker**).
- When you have finalised your Personal Statement copy and paste it into UCAS Apply.
- **UCAS uses computer software to detect plagiarism so ensure you don’t copy from the internet.**



UCAS CLEARING

UCAS Clearing is another way to find a university place. You can become eligible for Clearing at different times, for one of the following reasons:

- You **apply after 30 June**.
- You **receive no offers**.
- You **decline** all your offers and as a result, do not hold any.
- You **do not get the examination results required** and your university choices do not confirm your place.

Note: Most universities publish details of their clearing arrangements on their websites in **early July**. You will need to act quickly if you want to secure a place through Clearing after A level results day in August. Some places are accepted by the end of A Level results day.

Lists of courses with vacancies in **Clearing** are published from around **5th July** until mid October in the search tool on ucas.com. You should check the list for suitable courses and then contact the university to find out more and see if they will offer you a place.

See the UCAS website for further details: [UCAS Clearing](https://ucas.com/clearing)

You must have permission from a university before adding your course choice in UCAS Track.

If you do better than expected

If you meet and exceed the conditions of your firm choice, and you want to change universities you can release yourself into Clearing, using the 'decline your place' button in your application.

Note: Only use this if you no longer wish to take up your place at your firm choice, **and** you have spoken to the University and an Adviser at the College.

See [What to do After You Get Your Exam Results | UCAS Clearing](#) for further details.

STUDYING ABROAD

If you want to do your degree outside of the UK or Ireland you should start your research at least 12 to 18 months in advance, ideally in year 1 if you are studying a 2 year course. Be prepared to do extensive research exploring individual university websites and contact them to clarify any queries such as [entry requirements](#), [the application process](#) and [funding](#).

Check out websites such as:

www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/studying-overseas-university

www.eunicas.ie

www.fulbright.org.uk

The studying abroad section of our Belfast Met Canvas page (in Applying to Higher Education) has some further information. Information on studying in the Republic of Ireland is on the next page.



APPLYING TO UNIVERSITIES & COLLEGES IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

There are 7 traditional universities in the Republic of Ireland (ROI): Trinity College Dublin, Dublin City University (DCU), University of Limerick, University College Dublin (UCD)*, Maynooth University*, University of Galway*, NUI Cork*.

There are a further 5 Technology Universities - as a result of the merger of regional Institutes of Technology (IoT), these are TU Dublin, Munster TU, TU Shannon, Atlantic TU and South East TU. The remaining 2 IoTs (Dundalk and Dun Laoghaire) are continuing to look at options to upgrade to, or merge with the new Technological Universities. There are also 7 Colleges of Education.

Universities, TU's / IoT's offer a full range of higher education courses, degrees and post-graduate level studies. In addition, a number of other third level institutions provide specialist education in such fields as Art and Design, Medicine, Business Studies, Rural Development, Theology, Music and Law. Check out this site for a full list of institutions. www.educationinireland.com/en/Where-can-I-study/

Applications for entry to undergraduate courses within these Higher Education Institutions are processed by the Central Applications Office (CAO). The CAO processes and timescales are very different to the UCAS process and we would advise you to thoroughly research options and take care in filling out your form.

Just like in the UK, the Bachelor's Degrees offered by universities in the Republic of Ireland come with "honours" and are listed in the ROI as Level 8 qualifications. Institutes of Technology offer these Level 8 Honours Degrees.

As well as offering Ordinary Bachelor Degrees (Level 7) and Higher Certificates (Level 6). Length of study and entry requirements can vary so make sure you do your research carefully.

There are many ways to find out information on ROI courses:

- Download the CAO Handbook from www.cao.ie. This provides full listings of all courses available at all HE institutions. It also provides vital information on the CAO process and how to apply.
- Check out course search on www.cao.ie. You can search by institution or course name, which brings you directly to the institution's website or course webpage to find details about the course, the university offering the course, start dates, entry requirements and selection criteria. You can also find out what points were accepted for courses in previous years in 'Points by Year' in the 'Student Resources' section.
- Attend university or college open days and get a feel for what's actually like to be a student there.

*These four NUI universities will have enhanced entry requirements around having studied GCSE Languages.

- Check out the ROI prospectuses from your campus Careers Resource Centre or request a prospectus directly from the universities or colleges you are interested in.
-

Meeting Entry Requirements

It is very important that you check the entry requirements for the courses you are interested in by visiting the institution's website and contacting the relevant admissions team by email if necessary.

A-Level Applicants

A-level qualifications are widely recognised in the ROI and you can find out the admissions points system for A-levels by visiting www.cao.ie and clicking on Student Resources – Applicant Scoring. It is worth noting, however, that Applied or Vocational A Levels are rarely accepted by ROI universities and, in addition, you may not be eligible if you have not completed GCSEs, AS and A2 level in consecutive years or have cashed in all A Levels in the same session.

The IoTs / TU's may be more flexible in their entry criteria and admission requirements. However, it is advisable to contact the institutions directly for guidance on your own particular circumstances.

BTEC Applicants

Please note all of the 7 traditional universities in the Republic do not normally accept BTEC Level 3 or HNC/HND qualifications. IoTs / TU's do, although they rarely provide guidance online regarding the grades required. You should make direct contact with the admissions teams of the institutions to clarify their requirements.

Access Applicants

Change to Access students can apply through the mainstream CAO application process for individual courses that accept their qualifications. In addition to this, if over 23 they can also apply through the Mature Students application process. Mature students completing courses other than access, who are 23 years old on or before the 1st January in the year of entry may be considered by both Universities and TU's / IoT's.

Applying through CAO

You must apply for courses either online at www.cao.ie or by completing and returning a paper application form to CAO. It is important that you read the CAO handbook (available on the website) before submitting your application.

Course Choices

There are 2 course choice lists on the CAO application & applicants may make up to 10 course choices on each list:

- 10 choices may be made on the level 8 list (Honours degree level)
 - 10 choices may be made on the level 7/6 list (Below honours degree level)
-

Please note: You need to rank your courses in order of preference. That is different to a UCAS application, in which courses are not listed in any particular order.

Key Dates

CAO applications open 5th November 2025.

- 20 January 2026 (5.15pm) – apply by this date to avail of discounted fee of €30.
- 1 February 2026 (5.15pm) – normal closing date for applications, €45.
- 1 May 2026 (5.15pm) – TU's late application deadline.

Change of mind

Unlike the UCAS process, you can change your course choices. The CAO online 'Change of Mind' facility opens in early May and closes on 1st July at 5:15pm.

You can use the online facility as many times as you like to add, remove or re-order your courses for no extra charge until the 1st July at 5:15pm.

This will allow you the time and opportunity to really know if the courses you have listed are really the courses you want to study. You should make sure to attend open days, talk to lecturers, other students, friends and family as it's much easier when you get it right the first time round.

Offers

Unlike the UCAS system in which universities make offers based on your predicted grades, institutions in the Republic usually only issue offers once they have received your actual results. For NI applicants with A level results this means decisions on applications are not normally taken until mid-August at the earliest.

The table below shows the four main rounds of offers:

Round A (early July)	Deferred applicants; mature applicants; mature nursing/midwifery code applicants; some graduate entry pathways; applicants who may be required to make visa arrangements; applicants who have completed an Access course.
Round Zero (early August)	Graduate entry medicine applicants; additional mature, deferred and Access applicants; and applicants presenting QQI FET/FETAC for consideration for entry to courses with a quota for QQI FET/FETAC applicants.
Round One (mid-August)	All applicants applying on the basis of school leaving examination results, regardless of year completed.
Round Two and subsequent offers (late-August to mid-October)	Offers are issued until the offer season closes, or until all places are filled, whichever comes first.

Acceptance

Offers will be presented online at the CAO website www.cao.ie and you may record your acceptance online. In addition, offers of places will be sent by post from the CAO together with the necessary instructions as to how to proceed.

Offers will be issued independently in respect of Level 8 and Level 7/Level 6 courses, so that some applicants may receive two offers of places simultaneously. If you receive more than one offer (i.e. a level 8 course and/or level 7/6 course) you are permitted to have only one current acceptance in the entire CAO system.

Funding your study in ROI

Students who normally live in Northern Ireland and choose to study at a HE institution in ROI (public university or college) are not charged a tuition fee, but may be required to pay a student contribution charge of no more than €2000. Student Finance NI has traditionally provided a Student Contribution Loan to help cover this charge.

Following Brexit students from Northern Ireland will continue to be treated the same as EU students. Student may also be eligible to apply for student funding from the Irish Government and can apply through www.susi.ie.

For further information check out our Applying to Higher Education section of our canvas page which has a section on applying to Republic of Ireland institutions.



STUDYING PART-TIME DEGREES

Studying full-time for three or four years is not the only way to get a degree. Some students choose to study for a degree on a part-time basis often to combine with work or other commitments. Often it may be a cheaper option and funding is also available for part-time HE study. (see page 40-41 for details).

It normally takes anywhere between 4 – 6 years to gain a degree through part-time study, depending on the time you have available to study. Most universities have entry requirements for these degrees but will also take relevant prior experience/ employment into account when considering your application.

Applications for part-time degrees are submitted directly to your chosen institutions(s), rather than through UCAS.

The Open University

Offers part-time, flexible degrees with no entry requirements. Learning is completed entirely online.

You can find out the details of all the programmes open to Northern Ireland based students here: [The Open University in Northern Ireland](#)

Ulster University

Offers part-time degrees in which teaching is delivered on campus or entirely online or a combination of both: [Realise your full potential with part-time undergraduate study - Ulster University](#)

Ulster University have an online portal for applications for part-time study.



FUNDING FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Going to university or college is an investment in your future. You will need to consider tuition fees, accommodation and living costs. Finding out how much it will all cost and what funding is available is an important part of your research.

Tuition Fees

Tuition fees for NI students studying full-time undergraduate degrees are currently:

- If studying in Northern Ireland: £4,855* per year
- If studying in England, Scotland and Wales: Up to £9,535* per year
- If studying in Republic of Ireland: €3,000 per year

Tuition fee costs for full-time Foundation Degree and HND courses at Belfast Met are in the order of £3,110 or more per year.

* Fees quoted are for 2025 entry. Fees for 2026 entry were not available at time of print. Check institution websites for up-to-date information.

Tuition fees for part-time undergraduate degrees and other part time HE qualifications, such as Higher National Certificates, will vary depending on the institution and the course intensity. Check out university or college websites for a list of their current fees.

Accommodation

University websites have information about the range and costs of accommodation options such as halls of residence, purpose built student housing and private rentals.

You can also contact the university accommodation office directly for more guidance. Check out: www.ucas.com/money-and-student-life/student-life/accommodation-advice and www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/student-housing-finding-somewhere-live for more information on the options available.

FUNDING / SCHOLARSHIPS

FUNDING

Full-time study

Regardless of the type of higher education course you are interested in, you need to apply for financial support through www.studentfinanceni.co.uk.

Applications for funding for full-time study usually open around March or April. You do not need to wait until you receive an offer of a place from your university or college and you can apply for a tuition fee loan, maintenance loan and maintenance grant.

All eligible students entering full time higher education can access a tuition fee loan to cover the full cost of their tuition fees. It is paid directly to your university or college.

The maintenance loan is to cover accommodation and living costs. The exact amount you can borrow will depend on several factors, including your household income, where you live while you are studying and whether you are in the final year of your course. It's also affected by any help you get through the maintenance grant. Student Finance NI will usually pay the money into your bank account in three instalments - one at the start of each term.

In addition, and dependent on personal or family income levels, some students may be able to access a maintenance grant which is not repayable. There is also support for childcare.

NB: Special arrangements are currently in place for students applying for the following degrees in NI: Social Work, Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professional degrees e.g. Physiotherapy.

You can find further details at:

Department of Health funded courses - Ulster University

and also Student Finance NI:

Student Finance Northern Ireland
(studentfinanceni.co.uk)

Part time study

A part-time student studying at least 25% of an equivalent full-time course, can apply for a tuition fee loan to the current maximum amount of £3,641.25. You may also be eligible for a tuition fee grant (up to £1,230) and course grant (up to £265 for books), with the amount available depending on the course intensity (at least 50%) and your own household income. A maintenance loan is not available to part-time students.

Repayment

Full information on repaying your student loan can be found here: [Repaying your student loan](#) | [nidirect](#)

Additional Financial Support

a) From Universities and Colleges

You may also be entitled to extra financial support from your university or college. This could be a bursary or a scholarship if you meet certain conditions set by your university or college. You can find out if you are eligible by visiting the scholarships sections on university and college websites.

For example go to:

Discover Scholarships at Ulster University - Ulster University

and Queen's University at:

Scholarships | Study | Queen's University Belfast (qub.ac.uk) to

see the range of scholarships available.

b) Specific Scholarships for HE (full study)

SCHOLARSHIPS

In addition to the funding options outlined above some of our students have successfully applied for scholarships eg. Washington Ireland and Uversity. Check the University scholarships section in Applying to Higher Education on our Careers Canvas page.

All Ireland Scholarship Scheme

This scheme provides financial support of £5,500 per academic year to the top-performing students from low-income households, intending to do an undergraduate course in the UK or Republic of Ireland. Six scholarships are available to the top Level 3 Extended Diploma students from further education Colleges. [All Ireland Scholarships | nidirect](#)

Uversity Scholarships

Uversity Scholarships provide financial support to individuals 23 years or older who wish to pursue a Bachelor's degree in any subject in one of their participating institutions in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Past Belfast Met students have been successful recipients of this scholarship award.

Scholarship amounts vary depending on the recipient's circumstances and are allocated on a needs basis, which is assessed via application and interview. Check out [Homepage - Uversity - Higher Education Scholarships for Mature Students](#) for more information and to apply.

Some charities and educational trusts also offer grants and awards. For more information check out: [Bursaries, scholarships and awards | nidirect](#)

Check out following site for more information: [Student Funding - Life at the Met - Belfast Met](#)

CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY SERVICE

Figuring out your next step may seem like a challenging process but help and support is at hand from the college Careers and Employability Service.

Check out our Canvas page [Careers & Employability: Student Support Services](#) for our wide range of resources and updates on events running such as Job Fairs, Higher Education events and Talks. We also send out a regular Bulletin with updates so make sure you can access your canvas notifications.

Follow us on social media to make sure you don't miss out on updates on higher education events, talks or job vacancies.

Facebook:

[Belfast Met Careers Service](#)

Higher Education Presentations

Our service can deliver in class and online presentations to classes applying or thinking of applying to university including applying for Higher Education and UCAS and also Writing 'Personal Statement'. Ask your tutor to contact us about this.

1:1 Careers Advice and Guidance

The Careers Adviser will help you to explore your options to facilitate effective decision-making on your higher education choices. Students can also use this service to review personal statements, book mock university interview practice or prepare support statements for applications to Higher Education bursaries e.g. Uversity.

Book an appointment by emailing:

careers@belfastmet.ac.uk or Phone: 028 90265 066

CAREERS & EMPLOYABILITY: STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

CAREERS ADVISERS:

Laura Baxter, Mark Devenney - Part Time Job Share
Maria Rogers, Full-time Post

CENTRE MANAGER FOR CAREERS & STUDENT FUNDING:

Donna Marie French

CAREERS ADMINISTRATOR:

Akshaya Das

CAREERS EMPLOYABILITY EVENTS OFFICER:

Joel McWilliams

USEFUL CONTACTS

Belfast Met Careers and Employability Service

careers@belfastmet.ac.uk
028 9026 5066

Belfast Met Student Funding Team

studentfunding@belfastmet.ac.uk
028 9026 5183

Student Finance NI

0300 100 0077

UCAS Customer Service

0371 468 0468

Queen's University Admissions

admissions@qub.ac.uk

Ulster University Admissions

admissions@ulster.ac.uk

OPENING HOURS

Careers offices are located in Titanic Quarter and Millfield campuses.

If you have a query drop in, phone or email us in the first instance to discuss and/or book an appointment.

Appointments are also available at Castlereagh Student Hub and the E3 campus.

Titanic Quarter Campus

Careers Resource Area Level 2,
Room 60

Millfield Campus

Building 1, Level 2, Room 14C

UCAS HE PROGRESSION 2024 ENTRY FOR NI FE AND HE COLLEGE STUDENTS

TOP 5 UNIVERSITIES FOR NI FE & HE STUDENTS IN UCAS 2024 ENTRY CYCLE

Ulster University	848
Queen’s University Belfast	365
Liverpool John Moores University	87
Stranmillis University College Belfast	43
Northumbria University Newcastle	16

TOP 10 DEGREE COURSES SECURED UNIVERSITIES BY NI FE & HE STUDENTS IN UCAS 2024 ENTRY CYCLE

1	Nursing & Midwifery	6	Art & Design
2	Computing	7	Social Work
3	Business Management	8	Engineering
4	Allied Health Professions	9	Biomedical Science / Microbiology
5	Sport & Exercise	10	Psychology

848

Ulster
University

16

Northumbria
University Newcastle

365

Queen's
University
Belfast

43

Stranmillis
University
College
Belfast

87

Liverpool John
Moore's University

FEEDBACK FROM STUDENTS 2024/2025

STUDENTS

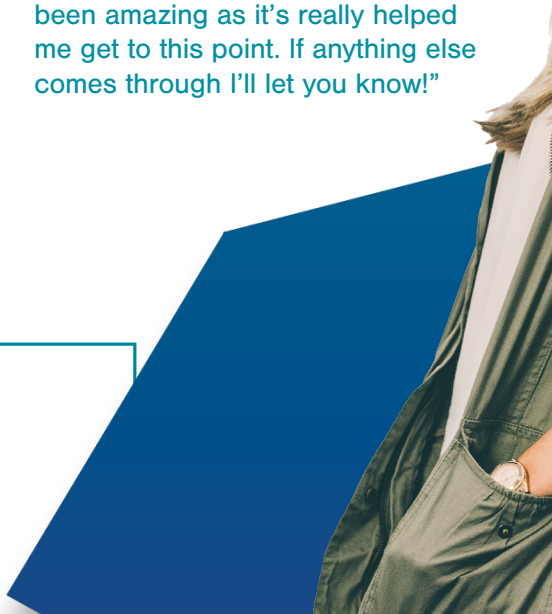
“ I got help with my personal statement and then for my social work interview. The staff are excellent at what they do and very well trained. The Adviser helped me with my interview skills and went above and beyond for me. We did a mock interview and I felt very prepared and confident for my actual interview which I passed and am now heading to university in September.”

“I got an email today to say I was awarded my scholarship!!! The careers department has went above and beyond to help me with my personal statement and Uversity scholarship application. I'm so glad the college has this available to all their students and would encourage everyone to use it.”

“Thank you so much for providing such comprehensive guidance regarding my career planning. I found it very insightful, and I appreciate the effort you have put into sharing these valuable resources and recommendations.”

“I found the mock interview session with the Adviser really really useful. It helped me identify the gaps I still needed to fill and also helped me take a different approach to answering some of the questions. Thank you again for your time and effort in helping me get interview-ready.”

“The UCLAN in person selection day for Paramedicine was a big change of pace. I passed initial selection along with 7 other applicants out of 18 for interview that went pretty good. Staffordshire's Paramedicine interview last week went very well and I'm pleased to tell you I've just been given a conditional offer from them!! Again, thank you so much for your help and support throughout the whole process. It's been amazing as it's really helped me get to this point. If anything else comes through I'll let you know!”



”



Careers and Employability Service

Contact us



careers@belfastmet.ac.uk



028 9026 5066



Belfast Met Careers Service



@careersbelfastmet



@careersbmet



The information contained within this booklet is accurate as of August 2025.
Requests for the provision of all or part of this document in alternative formats
(Braille, Daisy, large print, audio, digital or alternative languages) will be considered.
To submit a request, please contact email: **marketinganddesign@belfastmet.ac.uk**