Disclaimer
This publication is intended principally as a guide for prospective students. The matters covered by it – academic and otherwise – are subject to change from time to time, both before and after students are admitted, and the information contained in it does not form part of any contract. While every reasonable precaution was taken in the production of this brochure, the University does not accept liability for any inaccuracies.
The Foundation Year is designed to ensure that participants develop the knowledge and skills needed for progression to the first year of their chosen degree courses, whether in the Humanities or Social Sciences. It is designed to appeal to those who are currently at school or college as well as those who have been out of education for some time and who might not have the required academic profile for level 4 entry. We expect applicants to demonstrate a strength/experience/interest in a related subject.

The Foundation Year provides a supportive learning environment in which students from a diversity of academic and cultural backgrounds can develop their knowledge of themselves, their skills and the academic requirements of UK HE.

Students will be engaged in a variety of learning activities and assessment methodologies designed to prepare them for the learning environment they will encounter on the degrees to which they will progress. This can include tutorials, seminars, workshops, student discussions, on-line support learning and an introduction to directed independent study.

As with the learning and teaching strategies, a variety of assessment strategies will be employed in order to prepare students for the assessment methods common to UK HE and their progression degrees. To this end, traditional examinations, on-line examinations, reports, essays and oral presentations will be focused upon and utilised where appropriate.

In addition, students will be assessed through a portfolio of smaller assessments in a number of modules. These aim to develop reflective awareness and understanding as well as being developmental and will require students to engage in a variety of smaller assessed pieces of work which prepare them for extended assessments.

The aims of the Foundation Year are to:

- Provide students with the academic and transferable skills necessary to succeed in higher education.
- Provide subject knowledge as appropriate and where required, to facilitate progression to level 4 studies, by introducing students to a range of academic disciplines relating to issues in the Social Sciences and Humanities.
- Encourage learners to manage their own learning and to work as part of a group.
- Develop confidence to be able to engage in studies at level 4 and beyond.
- Widely access, locally and globally, to those who, by virtue of prior educational experience, would not otherwise be able to enter into UK higher education.

The distinctive features of the Foundation Year are:

- It provides students who do not meet the normal admissions criteria for level 4 studies with an access route into higher education.
- It enables students from a variety of educational backgrounds and educational aspirations to progress in their chosen field of study to level 4 and beyond.
- It provides a supportive university context and environment in which students can develop and gain confidence.

NB. Progression: Acceptance onto Yr 1 of a student’s chosen degree programme is subject to satisfactory progression through the Foundation Year.

The module explores a range of topics including personal and study-related skills such as organisational techniques and time management, both of which are important foundations for success in Higher Education. Other classes include critical thinking classes, which aim to develop an analytical attitude; classes on learning styles theory, which enable students to develop a more effective understanding of their range of strengths and areas that they need to develop; assertiveness techniques, which do not develop confidence but also provide students with a range of tools and techniques that enable them to attain more positive outcomes; training in how to give presentations, as well as other techniques such as note-making skills and exam strategies, for example.

Introduction to study in the Social Sciences (Option)

Having considered the essential characteristics of the social sciences, the module explores a range of historical, sociological, political and other materials to explore key concepts. Issues relating to law, crime, gender, social stratification etc. are explored as they emerge from the materials and subsequent discussions. Emerging concepts are then placed in the context of major and alternative theories.

As the module develops, students are encouraged to use current news items to further explore, develop and refine their understanding. To encourage synergies, students are also encouraged to consider the application of theories and data from this module when engaged in other areas of study.

Introduction to study in the Humanities (Option)

The module utilizes a variety of resources, including novels, films and aspects of the visual arts, to facilitate a general understanding of approaches to study in the Humanities which will equip students with a range of analytical and theoretical tools they will find invaluable as they progress along their academic journey.

The module aims to facilitate clear, analytical thinking. Hence students will be introduced to a range of theoretical approaches including feminism and Marxism as they explore topics including the individual and society; patriarchy and the social construction of gender; the ideal of the Proper Lady; social class; Romanticism; Modernism.

Departmental Modules

Two core modules will be offered by every subject area that offers a Foundation Year. For information on the module titles and content, please contact the relevant department.

UCAS Codes

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q310</td>
<td>English with Foundation Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>V201</td>
<td>History with Foundation Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>M302</td>
<td>Law with Foundation Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>RF02</td>
<td>Modern Languages with Foundation Year</td>
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<td>Music with Foundation Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>L201</td>
<td>Politics with Foundation Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>ML93</td>
<td>Social Sciences with Foundation Year</td>
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NB. Additional Foundation Year Programmes may be available in the future.

For more information contact the Faculty Admissions coordinator.

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