



westnottinghamshire college

Foundation Degree in Business Management

(Developed for people working in or supporting the voluntary and community sector)



Why choose this course?

This innovative work-based programme has been designed with voluntary and community sector specialists, ensuring you will be equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge required to operate successfully in today's challenging voluntary and community sector environment.

Based around core business and management modules, you will be encouraged to explore your own and your organisation's existing practises and undertake genuine work-related projects to make significant improvements, with the support of work-based mentors who are an integral part of the programme.

Business tutors and VCS professionals will work closely with you throughout the course to help you develop a personalised and meaningful career development plan, ensuring that you gain optimum benefit from the programme and exercise your maximum professional potential.

What are foundation degrees?

Foundation degrees have been designed to focus on work-related and employability skills while still allowing progression to full degree study. They also represent an innovative alternative to traditional study at university level. They are normally studied over two or three years, depending on the intensity of study, and students who successfully complete them can automatically progress to the awarding university to complete their degree in either one or two years.

The pattern of delivery is very different from traditional courses as the emphasis is very much on developing vocational skills through work-based learning, so each course will run differently to suit the needs of students in the sector.

What our students have said about us

Sharon Williams who studies on the Foundation Degree in Business Management for the Voluntary Sector said,

"When I first started on this HE course, I had no academic skills to speak of and I was so worried about learning the terminology and that I would struggle. However, after only a few months on the course, I am finding I am now using the terminology myself! I am much more confident academically now and the skills I have learnt are helping me to plan and structure at work. Enrolling on this Foundation Degree has totally changed my perspective on learning and I now know that I can do it!"



HE Suite
West Nottinghamshire College
Derby Road
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
NG18 5BH

01623 413611



What will I study?

The course consists of 16 modules, normally delivered over 2 years. There are four work-based learning modules and four Personal Professional Development modules, together with eight more theoretical modules focusing on different aspects of management within the voluntary sector. Examples include the Voluntary and Community Sector Business Environment, Business Financial Management, Human Resource Management and Introduction to Strategic Management.

The list below indicates the subjects covered in the Business Environment module, giving you a flavour of how the modules have been developed to be directly relevant to the Voluntary and Community Sector

- Types of voluntary and community sector organisations
- The objectives and purposes of voluntary and community sector organisations
- Stakeholder models – their power, interest and influence
- Political influences affecting the sector
- Partnerships and collaborative working – the benefits and disadvantages
- Trans-European partnerships – unlocking European Funding
- Working with the Public and Private Sectors including contacting and public service delivery

How will I study?

Throughout the course you will be expected to attend a variety of classroom sessions, workshops, tutorials and work-based learning activities. Minimum attendance will be 2 working days a month. There will also be a requirement for self-study.

Where will I study?

At West Nottinghamshire College, Derby Road, Mansfield, Nottingham, NG18 5BH.

How will I be assessed?

A variety of assessment methods will be used, for example, personal development plans, reports, presentations, interviews, case studies and work-based projects. All assessments will be directly relevant to your role and the voluntary and community sector.

Do I need previous qualifications?

If you possess relevant work experience in the voluntary and community sector and demonstrate the potential to complete the course, you can secure an interview even if you have few or no formal qualifications. You may even be eligible to apply for advanced standing based on your experience through the 'Accreditation of Prior and Experiential Learning' process.

We also welcome applicants with a wide range of entry requirements which include:

- National Certificate/Diploma
- NVQ Level 3
- City & Guilds qualification at Level 3 or above
- Advanced Modern Apprenticeship with a Level 3 qualification
- 2 A Level passes plus 5 GCSEs grade C or above, including English Language and Maths

Your career

This course can help you to evidence your existing skills and expertise to current and future employers, help you to reflect on and improve your performance at work and give you access to a wide range of resources and skills based upon the latest thinking on best practice in management. The course offers students a first-hand understanding of issues across the sector. Successful completion of the course will give you the opportunity to top-up your award to a full BA (Hons) in Business and Management at West Nottinghamshire College or Leeds Metropolitan University.

Get in touch

For further information or to make your application please contact Dani MacKinnon on 01623 627191 extension 8138, or email danielle.mackinnon@wnc.ac.uk

We look forward to hearing from you.



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