



"Being a college student has given me a taste of adult life and responsibilities that I never had before. This has given me confidence to try new things, meet new people and have fun while still learning."

NORTHUMBERLAND COLLEGE'S FOUNDATION LEARNING DEPARTMENT

About the department

Northumberland College's Foundation Learning Department gives students the opportunity to gain skills that will help them to live independently, move onto further education courses, into employment or other training.

Students are taught in small classes with group sizes typically between 8 and 10 students. Experienced and qualified staff provide a supportive environment for students to develop their confidence both in and outside of the classroom.

Additional Learning Support Team provides services for learners with a wide range of learning support needs including one to one classroom support and personal supervision.

Who are the courses for?

The department caters for a wide range of students including:

- School leavers aged 16-19 with emotional and behavioural difficulties or moderate learning difficulties, who need a little help and extra support before moving onto a full time vocational course or into employment. Programmes of study include: Bridging, Pathways, Self Development and Employability Skills.
- School leavers aged 19+ with a range of learning difficulties and/or disabilities who need additional help and support in small groups. Programme of study includes: Extended Education School Leavers.
- Adults with a range of learning difficulties and/or disabilities who need additional help and support in small groups. Programme of study includes: Extended Education Adult Returners.

What are the benefits of the courses?

All of the Foundation Learning courses are designed to develop confidence and social skills, whilst encouraging involvement in the local community. Many of the courses are specifically designed to prepare students for the world of work.

Students can study a wide variety of topics enabling them to gain employment and vocational skills in order to prepare them for and give them an insight into the world of work. Depending on the programme, some students will have the opportunity to experience vocational areas within the college as well as through work placements.



"The teachers and support staff helped me to learn at my own speed taking it bit by bit so I knew what I was doing and what I was going to achieve. They made me feel like giving it ago instead of giving up!"

What else can students do whilst on the course?

Students will also be able to get involved with team building activities, conservation work, independent travel training and voluntary work within the local community, to help develop personal and social skills to ultimately help them to live independently.

Students aged 16-18 are also given the opportunity to take part in the college's enrichment programme which covers a wide and wonderful range of activities from badminton and basketball to street dancing, cookery and personal presentation skills. Introducing students to new hobbies and skills enables them to develop their confidence in dealing with new experiences.

Where are courses offered?

Courses are offered at the college's main campus in Ashington and at the Berwick centre, with some options of study at the Kirkley Hall campus.

"At school I didn't really learn what I should have because I didn't attend regularly and was a slow learner. I was worried that I wouldn't be able to do what I wanted to do in life, but that has all changed since coming to college."

Students will be interviewed before enrolling on a course to find out what level they should be working at.

For more information

To find out more about Northumberland College's Foundation Learning Department and the courses on offer call our advice centre on **01670 841200**, email advicecentre@northland.ac.uk or visit www.northumberland.ac.uk

