Welcome to Activate Learning

Gain the skills you need for the career you want

Do you want to advance in your career, but not sure how? Looking to progress to higher education after A Levels/Level 3?

At Activate Learning, we help people to develop their employability and further their career through qualifications, or go to university to explore new opportunities. Whatever your academic background or current qualifications, with our support, you can:

» Refresh your career. Move up the career ladder or into a different line of work
» Study and stay close to home
» Gain a nationally-recognised qualification
» Return to education after a break from studying
» Develop your self-esteem through learning something new
» Make a lifestyle change or take on a new challenge

A higher education qualification can help you to get ahead. With our expert help and guidance, you can improve your employment chances, income potential and enjoy a brighter future.
Higher Education (HE) is the continuation of study after the age of 18 up to degree level.

Sign up to an HE programme at Activate Learning to:

**Stay local, go far**

» Our employment-focused courses and partnerships with industry leaders offer flexible routes to higher education.

» We offer degree-level pathways, professional diplomas and apprenticeships

» Lower cost. Save on living and travel costs and benefit from lower tuition fees.

» We offer a wide range of options for your next move in education

**94%* of our graduates progress to employment or further study**

Be part of a community

» Centrally-located, easy-to-reach colleges in Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Surrey

» Modern, attractive learning facilities

» Libraries with online learning

» Well-equipped IT suites

» Childcare facilities (Bracknell and Wokingham campuses only)

» Cafés and shops

» Hair and beauty salons

» Students’ Unions

» Prayer and meditation rooms

» Campus parking (at selected campuses)

» Close proximity to amenities and excellent transport links

» Virtual learning environment

*Teaching Excellence Framework data published by the Office for Students (2018)
WHAT HIGHER EDUCATION CAN DO FOR YOU

EMPLOYABILITY
Develop the technical skills required for your future career in industry-standard facilities

INDUSTRY BACKING
Develop professional practices in programmes co-created with industry

SPECIALIST COURSES
We offer unique courses, such as our Furniture Design and Make programmes

INTERNAL PROGRESSION
Clear pathways to progress to higher level courses

LOCATION
Study locally and maintain work or family commitments

SATISFACTION
Meet new people, develop new relationships and learn with professionally experienced tutors

MORE SUPPORT
Smaller class sizes mean more individual attention and support

STUDENT EXPERIENCE
Access to facilities at our colleges and partner universities

LOWER COST
Save on living and travel costs if staying close to home and benefit from our lower tuition fees
At Activate Learning, we provide higher education students with opportunities to develop and enhance invaluable employability skills.

All of our higher education provision is vocationally orientated and career focused, providing direct routes to employment and/or further study. This is reflected in student destinations data, which in 2018, reported 94% of students progressing to employment or further study after graduating.

The Quality Assurance Agency also identified good practice in how Activate Learning effectively embeds employability in the curriculum, by reporting, on "the effective strategic commitment to develop and enhance student employability, which is linked to learning opportunities."
The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) - most recent HE Review Report

» “The Group supports students by offering a good experience at initial application and admissions stages and by offering appropriate support to those who need it.”

» “Students are positive with regard to the development of their academic and employability skills through study skills modules and the wide range of opportunities to interact with employers and industry.”

» “Students commented positively on the information and support they receive from the Group.”

Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF)

Based on the evidence available, the TEF Panel judged that “Activate Learning delivers high-quality teaching, learning and outcomes for its students. It consistently exceeds rigorous, national quality requirements for UK Higher Education.”

Activate Learning works with the awarding bodies listed below to provide accredited higher education qualifications:

OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY

Kingston University London

University of Reading

University of Northampton

UNIVERSITY of GREENWICH

Pearson

Students on accredited programmes are enrolled at these universities too and in most cases can use their facilities, including halls of residence, libraries and sports facilities.
**QUALIFICATIONS EXPLAINED**

**Higher Apprenticeship**
Set at a Level 4 qualification (the next step up from A Levels) or above, higher apprenticeships are work-based programmes that include part-time study at college.

**Higher National Certificate (HNC)**
A HNC takes one year to complete and is generally equivalent to the first year of university. It can be used to progress to a Higher National Diploma (HND).

**Higher National Diploma (HND)**
A HND is equivalent to the second year of university and is a work-related course.

**Foundation Degree**
A Foundation Degree is the equivalent to the first two years at university and is a combination of workplace learning and studying at college.

**Bachelor’s Degree**
This is the most common type of university degree, taking three to four years to complete on a full-time basis. Foundation Degrees and HNDs can lead on to Bachelor Degree courses.

**QUALIFICATIONS EXPLAINED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualification</th>
<th>Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HNC (Higher National Certificate)</td>
<td>Level 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HND (Higher National Diploma)</td>
<td>Level 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FD (Foundation Degree)</td>
<td>Level 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA/BSc (Hons) Degree</td>
<td>Level 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGCE (Professional Graduate Certificate in Education)</td>
<td>Level 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGCE (Postgraduate Certificate in Education)</td>
<td>Level 7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
YOUR APPLICATION

STEP 1: Explore your options
You may have already decided how to return to education, advance your career, or make a change, but if you haven’t, we are here to advise and support you. View our courses on our website or the UCAS course finder at ucas.com. You can also contact us directly if you have any questions at he@activatelearning.ac.uk

STEP 2: Give us a call or make a visit
Come to one of our open events to speak to tutors and students and get a feel for the college environment and discuss your options. Register for an open event here: www.activatelearning.ac.uk/events

STEP 3: Apply
Full-time programmes – UCAS begins to accept applications in September 2020, apply directly via www.ucas.com
Part-time programmes – Register and apply online at www.activatelearning.ac.uk or at an Open Event.

STEP 4: Interview and assessment
You’ll be invited to meet one of our friendly Advice and Admissions team to discuss your application further. For some of our courses you may need to attend an interview and to carry out an assessment of your existing level before an offer is made.

STEP 5: Offer
Written confirmation of the outcome of your interview will be sent to you. We will let you know then if we can offer you a place on your chosen programme.

STEP 6: Finance
You can begin to apply for your student finance. Further information can be found on page 16.

STEP 7: Conditional Offer
If we have made a conditional offer based on you achieving a certain level of grades, then you will need to wait for your results before you can secure your place with us.

STEP 8: Begin your journey!
Meet your new tutors and classmates, enjoy the facilities and start studying! We’re here to support you so that you gain the qualifications you need and get the most out of your experience.
Higher education students on a university-level programme need to pay tuition fees. However, you are not expected to pay upfront and there are a range of options available to help you spread the financial cost.

You may be able to pay in instalments, or you can apply for a loan. Tuition fee loans are also available to cover tuition fees for HNDs, Foundation Degrees and full degrees. Part-time students can apply for a tuition fee loan too.

For further information on funding for HE courses:

- [www.activatelearning.ac.uk/higher-education-fees](http://www.activatelearning.ac.uk/higher-education-fees)
- [he@activatelearning.ac.uk](mailto:he@activatelearning.ac.uk)
- [0800 612 6008](tel:0800 612 6008)

For further advice visit the government’s student finance website:

- [www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)
# Higher Education Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>FT/PT*</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>UCAS Code</th>
<th>UCAS Institution Code</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HNC Construction and the Built Environment</td>
<td>PT</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Level 4</td>
<td>Reading, Oxford, Guildford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HNC Electrical and Electronic Engineering</td>
<td>PT</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Level 4</td>
<td>Reading, Oxford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HNC Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>PT</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Level 4</td>
<td>Reading, Oxford</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>FT/PT*</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>UCAS Code</th>
<th>UCAS Institution Code</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Degree (Arts) Furniture: Design and Make</td>
<td>FT</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>W261</td>
<td>O66</td>
<td>Level 5</td>
<td>Oxford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Degree (Arts) Furniture: Design and Make</td>
<td>PT</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Level 5</td>
<td>Oxford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Degree (Arts) in Educational Practice</td>
<td>FT</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>X102</td>
<td>O66</td>
<td>Level 5</td>
<td>Bracknell, Oxford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Degree (Science) Sports Coaching, Fitness and Rehabilitation</td>
<td>FT</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>C613</td>
<td>O66</td>
<td>Level 5</td>
<td>Oxford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Degree (Science) in Counselling</td>
<td>FT</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>B941</td>
<td>O25</td>
<td>Level 5</td>
<td>Guildford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Degree (Science) in Animal Behaviour and Welfare</td>
<td>FT</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>D028</td>
<td>O66</td>
<td>Level 5</td>
<td>Merrist Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Degree (Science) in Zoo Management</td>
<td>FT</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>C030</td>
<td>O25</td>
<td>Level 5</td>
<td>Merrist Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Degree (Science) in Equine Management</td>
<td>FT</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>D042</td>
<td>O66</td>
<td>Level 5</td>
<td>Merrist Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Degree (Science) in Wildlife and Conservation</td>
<td>FT</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>D4D4</td>
<td>O66</td>
<td>Level 5</td>
<td>Merrist Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Degree (Science) in Companion Animal Behaviour and Welfare</td>
<td>FT</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>C33D</td>
<td>O66</td>
<td>Level 5</td>
<td>Merrist Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Degree (Science) in Animal Science</td>
<td>FT</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>D3D3</td>
<td>O25</td>
<td>Level 5</td>
<td>Merrist Wood</td>
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</table>

* FT – full-time, PT – part-time
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>FT/PT*</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>UCAS Code</th>
<th>UCAS Institution Code</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PGCE Professional/Postgraduate</td>
<td>PT</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>APPLY ONLINE</td>
<td></td>
<td>Level 6</td>
<td>Reading, Oxford, Guildford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA (Hons) (Top up) Business and Enterprise</td>
<td>FT</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>NN19</td>
<td>O66</td>
<td>Level 6</td>
<td>Oxford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA (Hons) (Top up) Furniture: Design and Make</td>
<td>FT</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>W260</td>
<td>O66</td>
<td>Level 6</td>
<td>Oxford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA (Hons) (Top up) Furniture: Design and Make</td>
<td>PT</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>APPLY ONLINE</td>
<td></td>
<td>Level 6</td>
<td>Oxford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA (Hons) (Top up) Education and Lifelong Learning</td>
<td>FT</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>X302</td>
<td>O66</td>
<td>Level 6</td>
<td>Oxford, Bracknell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSc (Hons) (Top-up) Sports Coaching, Fitness and Rehabilitation</td>
<td>FT</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>C360</td>
<td>O66</td>
<td>Level 6</td>
<td>Oxford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSc (Hons) Psychology &amp; Criminology**</td>
<td>FT</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>C200</td>
<td>O25</td>
<td>Level 6</td>
<td>Oxford/Reading</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSc (Hons) Animal Science (top-up)</td>
<td>FT</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>S023</td>
<td>O25</td>
<td>Level 6</td>
<td>Merrist Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSc (Hons) Wildlife and Conservation (top-up)</td>
<td>FT</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>S039</td>
<td>O25</td>
<td>Level 6</td>
<td>Merrist Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSc (Hons) Zoo Management (top-up)</td>
<td>FT</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>S098</td>
<td>O25</td>
<td>Level 6</td>
<td>Merrist Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSc (Hons) Wildlife Rehabilitation (top-up)</td>
<td>FT</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>Level 6</td>
<td>Merrist Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSc (Hons) Animal Behaviour and Welfare (top-up)</td>
<td>FT</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>D300</td>
<td>O25</td>
<td>Level 6</td>
<td>Merrist Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA (Hons) Counselling (top-up)</td>
<td>FT</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>B940</td>
<td>O25</td>
<td>Level 6</td>
<td>Guildford</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* FT – full-time, PT – part-time  
**Subject to validation

For full course listing visit: www.activatelearning.ac.uk/study/find-a-course and select HE from the dropdown menu.

**INARA KIADHRA**

**Foundation Degree in Business and Enterprise**

"I'm really enjoying my time at Activate Learning. I chose this college because of the modern facilities and the friendliness and professionalism of the staff. They're really helpful and supportive, as are the tutors. I've used the learner attributes system here to identify my own strengths and weaknesses and now I feel more confident and open and have no problem communicating my ideas to an audience. I plan to progress from this course to complete the BA (Hons) here at Activate Learning before going on to a part-time MBA, which will mean I can work full-time while continuing with my studies."
HiGHer eDUcAtion coUrseS
Apprenticeships are a great alternative to university, offering higher-level qualifications, no tuition fees and the opportunity to earn while you learn.

We offer a full range of apprenticeship programmes at all levels in:

- Automotive
- Business and enterprise
- Civil engineering
- Construction
- Customer service
- Digital and IT
- Education
- Engineering
- Furniture
- Hair
- Healthcare
- Hospitality
- Leadership and management

To see our complete course list visit: www.activatelearning.ac.uk/apprenticeships
Whatever you choose to study at an Activate Learning college, you will be surrounded by fantastic, state-of-the-art facilities that support your studies and lifestyle. We have everything you’d expect at college, and more.

**Creative spaces**
Whether you’re studying performing arts, music, media or art, all our colleges offer some impressive creative spaces. You will be working in open-plan workshops, photography studios, performance and exhibition spaces, television and radio studios, Mac suites, theatre spaces, recording studios and broadcast rooms. Certainly the perfect places for creative types to thrive!

**Catering kitchens and restaurants**
Our on-site catering kitchens keep the food coming at our cafés and restaurants. Students train in these, preparing food in our industry-standard kitchens before serving paying customers.

**Motor vehicle centre**
We are very proud of our industry-standard motor vehicle centres with engine diagnostic and vehicle-lift equipment. Students may also work on classic and historic vehicles at the Bicester Heritage site.

**Healthcare suites**
Our healthcare suites allow students to practice in realistic environments, alongside their work experience.
Furniture Centre
Rycotewood Furniture Centre has been educating students in the design and craft of fine furniture since 1937, with many of our former students achieving great career success.

Our internationally renowned workshop boasts specialist equipment and state-of-the-art facilities and a team of highly-experienced teachers who will prepare you for industry success.

Construction centre
Our construction centres allow students to learn skills for life in brickwork, plastering, plumbing and carpentry workshops.

Sports and gyms
Working out is great for your body and mental health. At City of Oxford College we have the Oxford Lifestyle Centre, which is run by sports students and is open for all to use, with discounted membership available for students wishing to join the gym.

We offer dedicated sports programmes, so we have a variety of gyms, practice spaces and sports halls. We work with local sports groups to provide industry-standard training at our colleges.

Counselling
A new counselling suite, featuring rooms for group and individual practice with video recording facilities.

Land based facilities
Animal Management Centre
Our Animal Management Centre was opened in 2016 and includes arid and tropical biomes, a nocturnal room and a husbandry room. The Centre provides a state-of-the-art learning environment for students, which enables animals to be studied and cared for in a more natural environment and houses over 1000 animals.

Equine Arena
Our indoor riding arena was used as a pre-Olympic training venue for the London 2012 Olympic Games. One of the largest of any college in the country and one of the top centres in the south east, we have stabling for over 70 horses and a range of livery options, alongside three outdoor schools and two fully accredited cross-country courses.

Wildlife Hospital
We have exciting plans for a new wildlife hospital! Check our website for updates.
HIGHER EDUCATION HELP AND SUPPORT

When it comes to going far in your studies, the relevant support to succeed is paramount. At Activate Learning, your happiness and success is our priority. We offer the following dedicated services to ensure your life while studying is fulfilling, whether that be academically or personally.

Learning support
A resource of qualified tutors who are there to help, assist and coach all students. Available to all students as additional learning support facility. They offer a confidential 1:1 interviews and tailored learning support plans.

Please email gss@activatelearning.ac.uk to find out more.

Counselling
We recognise that everyone needs support at times, so we have a free counselling service available to all students, that offers confidential and impartial advice and guidance.

Tutorials
Once you’re at college, you will have a dedicated personal tutor on hand to coach you and keep you on track to succeed. Their frequent and friendly meetings will ensure your set targets are met and exceeded.

Safeguarding
It is everybody’s responsibility to keep our colleges safe. When you’re on campus, we ask that you wear your lanyard at all times, to identify you and for you to access buildings. We have a team of safeguarding specialists to respond if you feel at risk of harm, on or off campus.

Faith rooms
Faith rooms are available for you to use on all campuses for prayer and quiet reflection.

Careers advice
At Activate Learning, dedicated college support advisors are available for 1:1 consultations to ensure you’re heading in the right direction, even before you join us. These trained advisors are on hand to answer all your questions.

If you are over 19 and looking to kick-start your career, the National Careers Service can offer free and impartial advice within the Thames Valley. They can help you to identify your skills, look at your career options and develop your CV and interview skills.

You can contact them via phone on 0800 100 900 or chat online at nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/webchat/chat. For those in need of additional support, face-to-face appointments can also be arranged.

Student Crew
Looking for a job role while you study? Get in touch with Student Crew for a variety of paid opportunities within our colleges, which includes the chance to serve as a HE Student Ambassador.
Ready to apply?

Apply online today for our Berkshire, Surrey and Oxfordshire colleges here: www.activatelearning.ac.uk/study/how-to-apply

Find out more by visiting: www.activatelearning.ac.uk/he

View information for our courses at Surrey Colleges here: www.guildford.ac.uk and click the ‘Degree Level’ tab

View information for our courses at Merrist Wood College here: www.merristwood.ac.uk and click the ‘Degree Level’ tab