Access to University (HE)

Course Guide
2027/28

Lincoln College
University
Centre



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What Is an *Access to University Course?*

The Access to University course (Access to Higher Education (HE) Diploma) is a qualification which prepares students for study at degree level.

It has been designed to give students relevant academic subject knowledge and the opportunity to learn how to approach study at university-level and develop techniques to help them succeed.

Successful students achieve a full Level 3 qualification, enabling them to progress to study a Higher Education course at university or college.

It is an intensive course, typically run over one year, for students aged 19 and over and especially intended for students returning to education.

The courses have been designed to complement those with work and family commitments.

Achievement of the Access to HE Diploma:

60 credits need to be obtained to achieve the Access to Higher Education Diploma. **45** credits are graded at Pass, Merit or Distinction with **15** credits being non-graded.

University/college offers may request a specified number of credits at Merit or Distinction or a specific number of UCAS tariff points.

It is important to research university/college entry criteria and consider which Higher Education course you wish to study before starting the Access course.

Apply Today
www.lincolncollege.ac.uk/access

For More Information
01522 876000 | appa@lincolncollege.ac.uk

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Entry Criteria

Applicants Aged 18 –
Mathematics and English GCSE (minimum grade 4 or equivalent) prior to enrolling on the programme.

Applicants Aged 19+ –
GCSE English and Maths at grade 4 (C) or above, or Level 2 Functional Skills in both subjects (pass)*

*Some universities may accept Functional Skills Level 2 qualifications instead of GCSEs. If you possess a Level 2 equivalent and have written evidence that the university you intend to apply to accepts them as part of their entry requirements, you will be accepted onto the Access to University course.

You must possess at least one Level 2 qualification in English or Maths. If you do not possess both English and Maths Level 2 qualifications (GCSE or Functional Skills), an alternative condition of entry is that you must complete a diagnostic test at a sufficient level to demonstrate you are capable of successfully studying and achieving the missing qualification alongside your Access to University studies.

Please note, for most home learners with international qualifications in English are not equivalent to Level 2 English Language and these learners are likely to complete the diagnostic test to see viability of completing Level 2 English language alongside.

International Applicants –
The English entry requirements is CEFR B2 (UKVI SELT IELTS 6.0, with (UKVI SELT IELTS 5.5 in each band).

Don't meet the entry criteria?
Please speak to one of our friendly advisers as there might be other options available.

Application Process
As part of the application process an informal interview will be undertaken; this is typically in person, but alternative arrangements can be arranged.

Following any offers, you will also be given tasks to complete before starting the course to support you getting back into study.

Progression
It is advised to check the entry requirements with a university's or college's admissions team in case there are other entry criteria required before starting the Diploma.

Fees and Funding

Don't let paying for courses hold you back from achieving your goals.

Fees listed on the website are for those aged 19 years and over only.

Students aged 19-23 who do not already have a full Level 3 qualification - this qualification is **normally free of charge.**

Students aged 19-23 on 1st September of the year of study who already have a full Level 3 qualification, and for those aged over 23, fees are payable upfront, in **instalments** or by **Advanced Learner Loan.**

For students aged 19-23, there may be fee remission if in receipt of benefits – please contact Student Services to find out more about this.

Students funded through the Advanced Learner Loan who successfully achieve their Access to University course and complete their higher-level studies, can have the balance of their Advance Learner Loan written off. Watch CAVA's Advanced Learner Loan explainer video by scanning the QR:





Did you know?
If you successfully go on to complete a Higher Education qualification following an Access to University course, you won't have to pay your Advanced Learner Loan back at all!

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Our Facilities

Our students have access to a wide range of facilities - from sports and leisure, to refectories, libraries and dedicated study spaces.

Sports and Leisure
Our Lincoln College campus has its own leisure complex with a purpose-built gym, physical performance lab, outdoor gym, basketball courts and five-aside football pitches all **free of charge for students to use.**

Our students can also enjoy a full range of beauty therapies and massages or visit our hair salon, Aura. Lincoln College is also home to an Escape room on campus!

Refectories
The Lincoln College campus has two refectories and Costa Coffee concessions offering a range of healthy and fast-food options.

Libraries
Our spacious and well-equipped libraries are designed to provide a safe, supportive and stimulating environment for independent study.

Students have access to computers and laptops to use within the library or can also use their own laptop or mobile device with WiFi hotspots available across campus.

A team of experienced library staff are always on hand to help learners find resources for their studies. Our Library Information Advisers offer study skills workshops including; locating information for assignments and referencing.

HE Common Room
Our Access to University students can use the HE Common Room (The Drawing Room) in the refurbished Gibney building. This Common Room offers computer access and WiFi, plus a kitchen area with free tea and coffee.



Support at College

We offer comprehensive and dedicated one-to-one support from enquiry to transition - from campus tours, to support with the application process or finances, we're here to support our students every step of the way.

We have a specialist team of professional Student Support Advisors who can offer guidance and support on a wide range of financial, personal and career-related issues.

Our Student Services team are here to help students with any questions or problems they have before, during and after their time at college.

We recognise and understand the challenges faced by adult learners.
Each pathway is designed to fit alongside family and employment commitments. Learners study on a blended timetable that involves a condensed timetable of two-days a week of face-to-face classes, alongside additional online sessions with tutors. We also offer purely evening class options for some pathways. This approach provides the flexibility and support to help busy adults balance their studies and additional responsibilities successfully.

Careers Advice
Personal one-to-one careers guidance is available for all our students. Our fully qualified and experienced Careers Guidance Practitioners provide impartial advice and guidance.

Our qualified Careers Guidance Advisers support learners in their career planning and help them to make well informed decisions about their progression and future plans.

They can help with:
- Career planning and career decisions
- Researching career opportunities
- UCAS applications and personal statements
- Job search and application skills, including CV advice

We help students to draw an action plan of the steps they need to take to achieve their career and education goals.

Financial Support
Certain students may be eligible for additional financial support.

For more information about our support services for Access to University students at Lincoln College, visit our Adult support web page:
www.lincolncollege.ac.uk/support/adult-support

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Lincoln College
University Centre

WHICH ACCESS TO UNIVERSITY COURSE IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

For degrees/careers in....

Humanities and Social Science

- Criminology
- Film and Media
- Geography
- Health and Social Care
- History
- Journalism
- Law
- Literature
- Photography
- Policing
- Politics
- Psychology
- Social Work / Social Science
- Teaching / Education

Business

- Business Management
- Leadership and Management
- Marketing
- Business Economics
- Events Management

Science

- Astrophysics
- Biology
- Biomedical Science
- Chemistry
- Clinical Herbalism
- Computing
- Dental Nursing or Hygienist
- Ecology/Environmental Science
- Engineering
- Mathematics
- Nutrition and Dietetics
- Pharmacy
- Physics
- Physiotherapy
- Radiotherapy
- Sports Science
- Statistics
- Veterinary Medicine or Nursing

Health Professions

- Animal Management
- Complementary Healthcare
- Midwifery
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy
- Operating Department Practice
- Paramedic Science
- Physiotherapy
- Sports Therapy

*This is not an exhaustive list and if the degree/career interest is not listed, please contact us to see which pathway would be best suited for you. WWW.LINCOLNCOLLEGE.AC.UK/ACCESS



Access to University Health Professions

About

The Access to University Health Professions course covers three subjects relevant to degrees in healthcare at university/college: Biology, Psychology and Sociology. Biology modules include a wide range of topics, such as cell biology, nutrition and digestion, reproduction, infectious diseases, and genetics amongst others. Psychology modules explore differing psychological approaches, early social development, abnormal psychology, and memory. Within Sociology, students examine key theoretical ideas, mental health, inequalities, and death and dying.

Course Content

- Study Skills
- Human Biology
- Sociology
- Psychology
- Maths in a Healthcare Context

Proposed Days and Times*

Full-Time Options | September - June

Daytime Group 1:
Tuesday and Wednesday
9.30am - 3.30pm

Daytime Group 2:
Thursday and Friday
9.30am - 3.30pm

Evening Group:
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
5.00pm – 9.00pm

In addition to lessons, it is expected for you to spend time studying and completing assessments, on average 4-5 hours a week at least.

For 18 year old learners, you will need to complete an additional hour CPD session within your timetabled days.

Progression

Successful students will achieve a full Level 3 qualification enabling them to enter Higher Education to study Nursing, Midwifery or other health-related degrees.

*Subject to change



Ellie Carlisle

Access to University Health Professions

"Although intensive, completing the equivalent of three A Levels in one year was an incredibly rewarding experience that opened the door to the life I'm living today.

I made great friends, built my confidence and felt fully prepared for my university degree. The lecturers were amazing and supportive, and I genuinely enjoyed my time at Lincoln College.

I'm now a qualified nurse working in my dream department, and it all started at Lincoln College!"

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Access to University Humanities and Social Science

About

The Access to University Humanities and Social Science course is designed to provide a variety of subject options in which students can choose where to specialise depending on their intended university option.

Subjects cover key areas of humanities and social science and include Psychology, Sociology, English Literature and History.

Course Content

We currently offer this combination of subjects†:

- Sociology and Psychology
- Sociology and History
- English and History
- English and Psychology

In Sociology, students study units such as The English Courts, Law and Morality, Crime and Deviance, Mass Media, Youth Subcultures and Research Methods.

In History, students study units such as the Industrialisation of the Nineteenth century, the Enlightenment, Women's Suffrage Campaign, the British General Strike, the Atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Archaeology and Ancient Rome and an historical study on an area selected by the student.

In English Literature, students study units such as the 'The Story of an Hour,' 'The Yellow Wallpaper,' The Importance of Being Earnest, The Handmaid's Tale, Much Ado About Nothing, poetry of loss and sorrow, exploration of Marxism, Feminism, New Historicism, and Psychoanalytical Critical Theories, and an independent module of three texts selected by the student.

In Psychology, students study units such as Abnormal Psychology; Research in Psychology; Conformity and Obedience; Early Social Development; Memory; Freewill and Determinism; Understanding Stress.

Proposed Days and Times*

Full-Time Options | September - June

Daytime Group:
Wednesday and Thursday
9.30am - 3.30pm

In addition to lessons, it is expected for you to spend time studying and completing assessments, on average 4-5 hours a week at least. For 18 year old learners, you will need to complete an additional hour CPD session within your timetabled days.

Progression

Students may progress to degrees in Psychology, Sociology, Social Work, English Literature, History, Journalism, Law, Criminology, Heritage Studies, or the BA (Hons) Social Science: Criminology and Law at Lincoln College.

† Subject to change
*Subject to change



Holly Layden

Access to University Humanities and Social Science

"As a mature student with a young child, I initially had reservations about starting the Access Course, but I found the workload manageable and the support from my tutors, Amy and Robin, invaluable.

The course helped me develop my academic writing and referencing skills, prepare for university, and complete my UCAS application. Thanks to the excellent teaching and regular one-to-one support at Lincoln College, I found the transition to university much easier."

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Access to University Science

About

The Access to University Science course aims to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed for a Science based degree. The course allows students to tailor the content studied by choosing blocks of units within Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Physics.

Course Content

Students pick one subject in each block†
Block 1 - Biology A or Physics
Block 2 - Biology B or Chemistry A
Block 3 - Maths or Chemistry B

Subject Descriptions

Biology A
Fundamental Biochemistry
Nutrition and Digestion
Biochemistry of Living Organisms and Plant Transport
Ecosystems and Sustainability
Inheritance and Evolution

Biology B
Cell Biology
Respiratory and Cardiac Systems
Biological Communications Systems
Disease the Fundamentals
Research Project Infectious Disease

Chemistry A
Intro to Chemistry
Atomic Structures
Bonding, reactions, and Organic Chemistry
Chemical Reactions

Chemistry B
Core Chemistry
Inorganic Chemistry
Physical Chemistry
Organic Chemistry

Maths
Introduction to Algebra
Trigonometry
Analysis of Data
Exponentials and Logarithms
Calculus

Physics
Waves and Radioactivity
Medical Physics
Electricity
Mechanics
Energy
Astrophysics

Proposed Days and Times*

Full-Time | September - June
Tuesday and Wednesday
9am - 3.30pm

In addition to lessons, it is expected for you to spend time studying and completing assessments, on average 4-5 hours a week at least. For 18 year old learners, you will need to complete an additional hour CPD session within your timetabled days.

Progression

Successful students achieve a full Level 3 qualification enabling them to progress to university or college to study a degree within Science, Maths, Engineering or Computing.

†Subject to change
*Subject to change



Jake Hoey
Access to University Science

"The Access to HE Science course was really enjoyable, engaging and gave me the opportunity to broaden my horizons and explore subjects I wouldn't normally have studied.

After a decade away from education, the course gave me the science background and confidence I needed to progress to university and pursue my ambition of becoming a physiotherapist. I've now been accepted by the universities of Bristol and Sheffield, and I'm excited to take the next step towards my future career."

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Access to University Business*

About
The Access to University Business course is designed to allow students to study the core modules of Business and Management and specialise in areas that can allow a greater range of courses to study at university or college.

Course Content
- Business Environment
- Business Planning
- Professional Development
- Event Management
- Project Management
- Customer Service
- Marketing
- Business Communication
- Team Working
- Business Finance

Proposed Days and Times†
Full-Time | September - June
Thursday and Friday
9am - 4pm

In addition to lessons, it is expected for you to spend time studying and completing assessments, on average 4-5 hours a week at least.

For 18 year old learners, you will need to complete an additional hour CPD session within your timetabled days.

Progression
Students intending to follow a degree path in Business, Management, Marketing or Event Management, and many other subjects, can benefit from this one-year Access course, including Lincoln College University Centre's own Level 4 HNC Leadership and Management for England programme.

Completion of this course is equivalent to three A Levels and may meet conditions of entry to Higher Education courses.

The skills taught on this course can be valuable when applying for Higher Education courses and can give students a significant advantage in the job market.

*Course running subject to applicant interest
† Subject to change



Teaching, Learning and Assessments

Teaching and Learning

Students learn in classrooms, practical rooms or computer labs to cover a range of theoretical and practical content. Lessons can vary, for example, lessons may be formal lecture based, seminar type sessions, practical sessions or IT based sessions.

Assessments

The Access to University course is achieved through completion of assessments over the academic year. These assessments vary amongst the diplomas but may include: reports, essays, research projects, exams and presentations.



Access to University Graduation

After completion of the Access to University course, we celebrate our students' achievements through a small graduation ceremony.

Teachers and students, along with their friends and family, are invited to come together to mark this fantastic milestone, acknowledge learners who have made key accomplishments, and wish students well on the next stage of their journey to Higher Education.



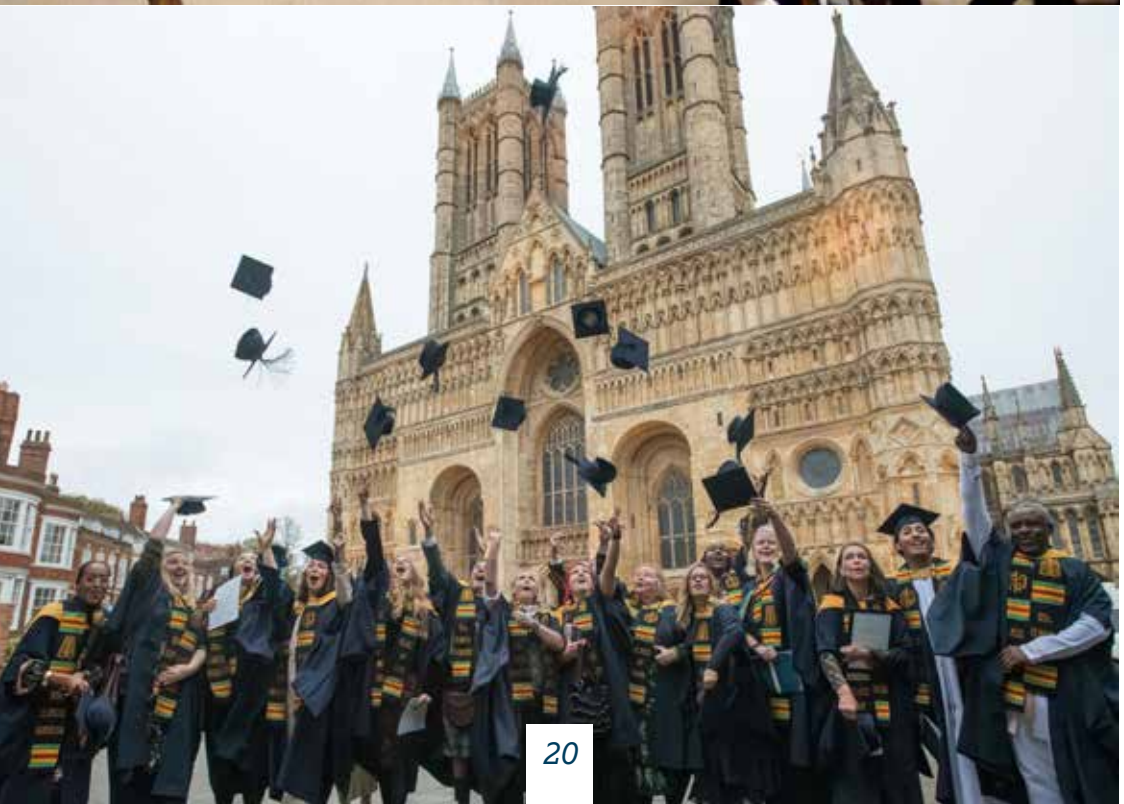
Achievement and Progression

For academic year 2025-2026, the pass rate for the Access to University course was **92.5%**.

Of this, **87.8%** of learners progressed to Higher Education (100% achieved their first choice university) and a further **6%** went into employment or Degree Apprenticeship..







Career Degrees at Lincoln College University Centre

A highly competitive job market across most sectors can make securing graduate roles challenging. That's why we've developed Career Degrees, to give our students the opportunity to get ahead of the competition at interview and help them secure the career of their dreams.

Our **classes are smaller** which means our students can receive more one-to-one time with their tutors, as well as engaging debates and collaborative working with fellow students.

With our **condensed timetables**, students may choose to work while studying, look after family or enjoy a better study-life balance. Plus, our university-level students graduate in an annual ceremony held in and around the grounds of the historic Lincoln Cathedral.

We have a **variety of degrees** covering a wide range of subject areas, including Animal Management, Construction, Computing, Education, Engineering, Leadership and Management, Photography and Digital Media, Policing, Social Sciences, Sports, and Space Technologies. Our provision also offers unique and specialist subjects, including Clinical Herbalism and Air and Space courses.

Visit our website to learn more about these and the many benefits of studying a degree at Lincoln College University Centre or attend our next open day.

Financial Support

We understand finances can be a barrier for accessing Higher Education. At Lincoln College University Centre, we have set up a HE Returner Incentive. **£1,000** is available to students who complete the Access to University course and progress directly onto a full-time Higher Education course at Lincoln College or ASI.

To learn more about our Career Degree programmes, visit:
www.lincolncollege.ac.uk/university-centre

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Could This Be You Next?









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Apply Today
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All information in this guide is correct at the time of printing.
For the latest information please visit our website.

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