

# Higher Education Institutions

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The Open University

# Learning through Work at the University of Chester

Learning through Work students at the University of Chester work towards negotiated awards that are situated within the University's Work Based & Integrative Studies framework (WBIS). Students are able to name their own programme focus (and precise award title) so long as it relates to their area of working practice. Work Based & Integrative Studies is a highly popular programme within the University and provides a framework for accrediting work based learning, ensuring that participants are rewarded for their 'on-the-job' learning achievements.

Students undertake an initial module called 'Self Review & Negotiation of Learning' which enables them to engage in a personal audit and encourages them to reflect on their ideas, assumptions and workplace practice (this initial module requires attendance for half a day at Chester). In this module students are also encouraged to consider their future development needs and how they can use the Work Based & Integrative Studies framework to help them achieve their personal & professional development objectives. This involves the negotiation of a learning pathway towards the appropriate desired award.

Students are able to build up academic credit points towards their award through a negotiated combination of taught modules, work based projects and claims for prior learning.

## Notable features

We now offer a selection of distance learning modules which are supported by experienced online tutors; however, many of the programme's taught modules are delivered through a combination of one-to-one tutorials and online support, and formal taught sessions.

As well as offering relevant modules from the University's 'bank' of taught modules, we also fully utilise the academic specialism of the programme's own staff by offering specific taught modules in generic 'soft skills'. These currently include conflict transformation skills, stress management, communication skills and change management. The University specialises in helping students formulate claims for prior learning so that participants receive the maximum reward possible for their previous efforts and achievements in the workplace. Our tutors are also specialist supervisors of work based projects, helping students plan their projects, write their own learning outcomes and reflect upon their workplace practice.

## Qualification, Credits & Levels Subject areas or specialisms offered

### Undergraduate Award Credit requirements:

*Professional Certificate* 60 CATS points at undergraduate levels (3 modules)

*Certificate of Higher Education* 120 CATS points (6 modules)

*Diploma of Higher Education / Foundation Degree* 240 CATS points (12 modules)

*BA/BSc (Hons) degree* 360 CATS points (18 modules)

*Graduate Certificate* 60 CATS points at Level 3 (3 modules)

*Graduate Diploma* 120 CATS points at Level 3 (6 modules)

### Postgraduate Award Credit requirements:

*Postgraduate Certificate* 60 CATS points at Masters Level (3 modules)

*Postgraduate Diploma* 120 CATS points at Masters Level (6 modules)

*Master's degree* 180 CATS points at Master's level (9 modules)

*Certificate of Academic Credit* (all levels) 20 CATS points (for a module)

Students negotiate their own programme focus within the Work Based & Integrative Studies framework. Current examples include:

Project and Programme Management  
Administration  
ICT  
Business & Finance  
Leadership  
Business & Management  
Management & ICT  
Business Studies  
Management Studies  
Computer Science  
Midwifery  
Conflict Transformation  
Nursing Studies  
Continuing Professional Development  
Public Policy Management  
Public Administration  
Trade Union Studies  
Education  
Teaching & Learning  
Public Sector Management  
Exercise & Nutrition  
Regeneration  
Overview & Scrutiny  
Health Studies  
Human Resource Management  
Women's Health  
Other programme focus titles can be negotiated, as appropriate.

**Exclusions** – please note it is not normally possible for *Learning through Work* at Chester to support individual students' resident outside the European Union.

**Guidance on completion/timescales:**

**Award:** Diploma of HE/Foundation Degree

**Indicative timescales:** Up to 5 years, though typically about 1- 2 years with maximum APEL, 3-4 years without.

**Award:** BA/BSc Degree

**Indicative timescales:** Up to 7 years, though typically around 2-3 years with maximum APEL, 5-6 years without.

**Award:** Master's Degree

**Indicative timescales:** Up to 6 years, though typically 1-2 years with maximum APEL, 3-4 years without.

**Fee information for new entrants – academic year 2009/2010**

Undergraduate 20 credit modules – £340 each for self-funding learners, and multiples thereof (for double, triple modules). Foundation degree students who are self-funding pay £215 per module.

Postgraduate 20 credit modules – £390 each, and multiples thereof (for double, triple modules)

Claims for prior experiential learning – £200 per single 20 credit module, and multiples thereof (for double, triple modules, etc) at undergraduate level and postgraduate level. Certificated learning or credit transfer that is 'current' – no charge. Certificated learning or credit transfer where currency needs to be demonstrated – a one off tuition fee of £200, not related to the number of modules claimed.

**NB**

Some organisations have negotiated special arrangements whereby learning opportunities are delivered and – in part – assessed by their own, qualified staff. Modules delivered in this way are typically offered at two-thirds the standard price.

**Contact information**

PDU Admin Office  
Tel: (01244) 221420  
[pdu@chester.ac.uk](mailto:pdu@chester.ac.uk)  
[www.chester.ac.uk/pdu](http://www.chester.ac.uk/pdu)

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## Learning through Work at University of Derby

The University of Derby is a leading provider of flexible, work-based routes to Higher Education qualifications via the **learning through work** scheme.

Learning through work (paid or voluntary) enables people to:

- gain a university qualification without taking time off work
- enhance capability and effectiveness
- develop reflection and planning skills
- gain recognition for existing expertise
- avoid the need for regular attendance at college or university
- learn at any time throughout the year.

### Notable features

#### APL (accreditation of prior learning)

The scheme supports many learners to build upon existing, recent and relevant certificated and / or experiential learning. This is a feature which is particularly valued by individual learners.

**Individual Learners** will be supported in developing a unique learning contract using online resources and tutorial support to:

- Evaluate their prior experience and current circumstances
- Identify their immediate and long-term needs and aspirations
- Formulate their own learning programme
- Organise their learning activities, develop their evidence for assignments, and record their progress and achievements

Learners will also be able to access full supporting resources of the University, especially an extensive electronic library and dedicated support team for off-campus users. There is also web-based support material developed to support our learners in specific aspects of LTW such as APL, Learning Contract development, links into the wider University, etc

Learners can choose their own timescales, and study at home, at work, on campus (here at Derby or by transferring relevant credits from other universities as appropriate). They can also access specific e-learning modules, within LTW or from programmes across the University. We like to describe this as work-based and blended learning.

### Cohort Learners

Besides the above we also offer opportunities for several different kinds of cohort, or group learning, usually towards smaller, minor awards rather than intermediate or major awards (see below).

Examples of such opportunities include:

- opportunities for **employers** to work with staff of the University to develop **customised programmes** of learning for groups of their employees (for example a local authority has worked with us on a programme for middle managers on Service Redesign and Improvement, a Housing Association on Training the Trainers, a large engineering company on Technical development (Heat and Stress Transfer). The lead-in development time for this kind of tailored programme is usually between 2 – 6 months, depending on complexity.

- opportunities for **individuals** who are **local to Derby** to join group programmes which involve a mixture of attendance at evening classes and applying the learning to their workplace, often geared for particular skills within employment sectors (for example Computer Aided Design in Architecture, and in Product Design, Design for Print, Ceramics, Technical Inspection for Motorsports)
- opportunities for **individuals from any geographical area** to study common programmes by distance learning, where the programme outline has been devised by academic staff (sometimes in conjunction with professionals in workplaces) to suit a common work sector skill need rather than a specific group of employees (for example leg ulcer management, web site design and creation for small businesses, infertility ultrasound).

The range of such cohort programmes is developing all the time – please contact us if you have a specific need you wish to discuss)

### Qualification, Credits & Levels

Award Credit requirements:

<b>Minor Awards:</b>
Certificate of Achievement 30 credits at any level
University Certificate 60 credits at level 4
University Diploma 60 credits at level 5
<b>Intermediate Awards:</b>
Certificate of Higher Education 120 credits at level 4
Diploma of Higher Education 240 credits at level 5
Postgraduate Certificate 60 credits at level 7
Postgraduate Diploma 120 credits at level 7
<b>Major Awards:</b>
Bachelor's Degree with Honours (BA/BSc) 360 credits at level 6
Masters (MA/MSc) 180 credits at level 7

### Subject areas or specialisms offered

Work-based learning in relation to every subject discipline within the University is possible. However, programmes leading to professional “licence to practice” such as Qualified Teacher status, social work training, nurse registration or Chartered Institute Status etc are NOT available through LTW, though members of each of these professions do develop LTW contracts for Continuing Professional Development purposes.

The **4 Faculties** of the University contributing to the scheme are:

Faculty of Art, Design & Technology

Faculty of Business, Computing & Law

Faculty of Education, Health & Sciences

University of Derby - Buxton (Tourism, Hospitality, Early Childhood, Outdoor Activities, Sport, Hair & Beauty)

Each Faculty has a Coordinator for LTW with whom you can discuss detailed questions.

A strong central team in the School of Flexible & Partnership Learning leads the LTW initiative, and they also tutor and support many learners whose main focus is work-based learning across subject disciplines and continuing professional development.

## **Exclusions**

**We are currently unable to accept learners through LtW wanting individualised work-based learning programmes.**

Currently, we are unable to support overseas based learners.

All programmes are at Higher Education levels not Further Education levels.

Contact University for details.

## **Guidance on completion/timescales**

### **Fee information – academic year 2009 /2010**

Standard UK fees for Academic Year 2007 /2008 are:

£249 for each Undergraduate Module of 15 credits

£345 for each Postgraduate Module of 15 credits

## **Contact information**

### **Programme Leader – Stephanie Kearsley**

Tel: 01332 591698 (central contact for all LTW enquiries)

[ltw@derby.ac.uk](mailto:ltw@derby.ac.uk)

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# Learning through Work at University of the West of England, Bristol

## Faculty of Health and Social Care

Learning through work has been an integral part of all professional courses within the **Faculty of Health and Social Care**. It is valued as a realistic way to enhance transferable and clinical skills to support career development. The post qualifying courses include practice modules, which are designed around specific learning outcomes.

At least 3 modules per academic level, called Evidencing Work-based learning are available. These are supported by a common structure/model that includes the use of portfolio evidence, and tripartite relationship of learner, mentor and academic facilitator.

All post qualifying framework programmes include these work based modules as well as specialist focussed, core and independent study modules. These allow practitioners to design pathways according to their developmental need. The programmes may be undertaken on a part time or full time basis.

The work-based learning modules can be taken over 3 or 6 month periods. Multidisciplinary and interprofessional groups working in learning sets are encouraged.

The type of assessment of learning through work can be chosen by the student, and agreed by the mentor/manager and academic facilitator, from a menu indicated as per module. The project, which is relevant to the workplace, can be presented in various forms as well as portfolio evidence and a reflection of salient learning.

### Notable features

- On-line and distance learning materials. Students undertaking work-based learning and Independent Study modules have access to online journals, distance learning materials, and study modules via the university intranet. Issued with a student password the learner can access these facilities both from work and home bases.
- The library, which has centres on all of the satellite sites of the Faculty, contain a wide range of distance and open learning material as well as the largest collection of journals and on-line journals in the South West Region.
- Online theoretical modules are currently being designed to support the programmes.
- Work-based learning and Independent Study Modules.
- Independent Study and Evidencing Work-based Learning and Practice modules from Level 1 to Masters are available via a post- qualifying framework.
- Distance learning: Governance: Evaluating Quality Care in Organisations. L2 and L3 and some management modules are available.
- The number of work-based learning and independent study modules that can be accessed by the learner at each level of the award is determined by the compulsory elements of each programme and the level the student enters the programme. It is possible to access 60 credits of WBL per level or choose options from a number of identified modules and one choice from the overall post qualifying menu of modules. At level 3 of the named awards the dissertation normally attracts 40 credits; therefore at this level the learner could access one level 3, 20 credit WBL module from the post qualifying menu.

- Learners undertaking the Professional Studies Awards have more opportunity of accessing WBL modules, potentially 3 per level.
- Accreditation of Experiential Learning (AEL) and Accredited Learning (AL).

**According to the University Academic Regulations the maximum permitted contribution of AL and AEL to awards is:**

A student may be permitted to count credit gained through AL and/or AEL as contributing to the credit requirements of an undergraduate or post graduate taught award of the University up to a maximum of two thirds of the credit total required for the award for which a student is registered. This limit shall not apply to credit obtained through study and assessment under the Regulations.

Where a student fails to meet the requirements of the award on which he or she is registered but is eligible to receive a lower award, the two thirds limit for credit gained by AL or AEL shall be reduced accordingly for the lower award.

For a master’s degree, all credit beyond the credit total required to achieve a postgraduate diploma must be achieved by study and assessment under the Regulations.

Accredited learning shall be subject to scrutiny and verification by the University in order to establish that the learning achieved by the student meets the specified learning outcomes of defined modules or other similar units of study approved by the University for the award Route on which the student is registered.

**Qualification, Credits & Levels Subject areas or specialisms offered**

Award	Credit requirements
The following programmes (awards) fall within a common post-qualifying framework of modules that relate to the following themes: Management and Leadership Context of Health and Social Care Research Advancing Practice Educational Practice BSc(Hons) Professional Studies (generic title)	Learners need to be working in a health and social care setting Normally academic recognition given to professional health and social care qualifications, depending when attained. Some level 2 and Accreditation of Experiential Learning (AEL) available for those without a diploma or equivalence. Credit required for degree = 360 credits
BSc(Hons) Health and Community Studies: Generic Social Work	As above. Level 2 modules and AEL available for those without a diploma of 240 credits. Full time students undertake 6 modules per year
Community and Youth Work	Part time students work at their own pace, normally 2 or 3 modules per year.
Dip HE Health and Community Studies	240 credits (120 level 1 + 120 level 2) AEL available
Certificate in Health Education	120 credits level 1
Cert HE Professional Studies	120 credits level 1

Cert HE Empowering Practice: Working with People with Learning Difficulties	120 credits level 1
BSc(Hons): Cancer Care, Care of the Older Person, Child Health, Children and Young Persons Mental Health, Children's Critical Care, Contemporary Midwifery, Critical Care, Emergency Care, Learning Disability Studies, Mental Health, Palliative Care, Specialist Practice	For professionals in health and social care – 120 credits at level 3. Some level 2 modules and AEL available for those without a diploma.
MSc/PGDip/PGCert: Advanced Practice Mental Health and PG Cert Specialist Practice	180 credits level M for MSC 120 credits level M for PGDip 60 credits level M for PGCert. Some choice of modules at level 3. Normally 3 20 credit modules studied per year ) For registered Radiographers ) and technologists only
Public Health with specialist pathways: (Health Promotion) (Healthy Communities) (Nursing) (Public/Consumer Protection)	As above
MSc/PGDip Health and Social Care Research	180 credits at level M for MSc 120 credits at level M for PGDip
PGDip/PGCert Medical Ultrasound with specialist pathways: (Obstetric and Gynaecological Ultrasound) (Medical or Vascular Ultrasound) (Generic ultrasound)	PHCert = 60 level M credits PH Diploma = total of 120 level M credits
A range of short courses for qualified nurses. These used to be the numbered ENB courses. Now they can contribute to the Diploma and Bsc pathways above or taken as a specific stand alone course.	40 credits at level 2 or 3
Evidencing work-based learning modules	20 credits for module – level 1 to Master

The following subject areas are post qualifying. Learners need to be working in a health and social care setting. Nursing (all branches), Midwifery, Public Health, Radiography, Nuclear Medicine, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Social Work, Health Sciences, Medical Ultrasound

**Exclusions:** None stated

### **Guidance on completion/timescales**

**Award:** All awards follow the University Regulations for AEL/AL, see above. An AEL co-ordinator and administrator provide support and guidance. All modules have a handbook providing the learner with specific advice.

Faculty and the University student handbooks are provided for each student. These set out the details of university rules and processes including, assessment criteria, extenuating circumstances and late work panels. Specific guidance per module is provided by a module handbook.

**Indicative timescales:** With all awards PT students normally complete within 4 to 6 years, FT timescales: students normally undertake 6 modules per year. Flexibility allows students to work at their own pace normally within the overall parameter of 4 years.

## Fee information – academic year 2009/2010

There is no charge for AL. However, the cost of APEL per 20 credits is the same cost as per module.

With HEFCE funding, Band D the costs are as follows:

### Home and EU

Flat rate	Cost per 20 credit module self funding student	Cost per 20 credit module sponsored student
Undergraduate	£450	£677
Postgraduate	£450	£677

Overseas student will need to contact us for further information.

### Contact information

Debra Campbell

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# Learning through Work at Staffordshire University

## Faculty of Computing Engineering and Technology

Staffordshire University recognises the problems of attending courses while working full time. Learn through work is part of Staffordshire University's approach to adopting a more flexible approach to the method, timing and place of delivery by working with employers to provide new and flexible opportunities for work-based learning, continuing professional development, and in-company provision at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Learning through work will help you:

- gain a qualification without giving up work
- achieve recognition of your work experience
- study at a time that suits you.

Currently we are offering a University Diploma in Applied Computing. As all the modules in the award are part of our full time undergraduate programme you may feel more confident when you have completed the award to apply for entry to our other programmes. More information on the award can be found at

[http://www.staffs.ac.uk/study\\_here/courses/university-diploma-in-applied-computing-udac-tcm4212552.jsp](http://www.staffs.ac.uk/study_here/courses/university-diploma-in-applied-computing-udac-tcm4212552.jsp)

Alternatively there is a choice from 7 modules which can be done on their own to achieve a Certificate of Credit or as a collection of modules to achieve a Certificate of Professional Development.

More information available by emailing the Award Tutor, Jonathan Westlake, [j.c.westlake@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:j.c.westlake@staffs.ac.uk)

### Notable features

We offer a selection of modules that provides coherence in terms of content and learning outcomes.

The modules will be taught using our virtual learning environment Blackboard together with on-line support

The modules cover a range of areas typically, databases, networks, systems analysis, internet etc depending on your background, the portfolio of University modules and your work experience.

### Subject areas or specialisms offered

Continuous Professional Development  
ICT

### Qualification, Credits & Levels

Award Credit requirements:

Award	Credit requirements
University Diploma in Applied Computing	60 credits at level 2
Certificate of Continuous Professional Development	30 credits
Certificate of Credit	15 credits

### Guidance on completion/timescales

**Award:** University Diploma in Applied Computing

**Indicative timescales:** Up to two years though typically 6 months to 1 year. Although there is no APEL on this award as our work experience module has been included to cover expertise that has been gained in the workplace.

**Award:** Certificate of Continuous Professional Development

**Indicative timescales:** Up to one year though typically 6 months

**Award:** Certificate of Credit

**Indicative timescales:** Up to one year although typically 6 months

### **Fee information – academic year 2009/2010**

Undergraduate 15 credit modules - £225 each

30 credit modules - £450 each

### **Professional Development Modules**

All the modules below are available to study via distance learning and involve no attendance at the University.

Each 15 credit module costs £225 and is normally completed over a 12 week period. All assessment work is via coursework and may include online tests. A Certificate in Continuous Professional Development is awarded on completion of two modules and a Diploma of Continuous Professional Development for a further two modules. The modules are designed to be stand alone and fit the need of a skills update for applicants in the workplace. However, the modules at level 1 and level 2 can form a diet of modules as part of entry onto our online BSc (Hons) Applied Computing degree course or entry onto the University Diploma in Applied Computing (UDAC).

#### **Basic (Level 1)**

[Publishing for the World Wide Web](#)

[Introduction to Multimedia](#)

#### **Intermediate (Level 2)**

[E-Commerce](#)

[Relational Database Systems Development](#)

[Advanced Computer Applications](#)

#### **Advanced (Level 3)**

[Developing E-Commerce Applications with XML](#)

[Database Administration and Management](#)

[Java for the World Wide Web](#)

### **Contact information**

Jonathan Westlake

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## Learning through Work at Wakefield College

Wakefield College is using Learning through Work as an exciting new way for employees to gain academic recognition for learning undertaken primarily in the workplace.

We are offering an opportunity for people in the **Glass Manufacturing** or **Logistics industries** to take part in a unique **pilot** using on-line study with tutor support to gain credits towards a Foundation Degree.

### Notable features

The Full Foundation Degree – normally a two year course which can be extended to suit personal requirements.

The course is split into 2 levels – learners need to successfully complete level 1 for progression onto level 2.

8 modules needed to be completed for each level.

There will be four modules available through this site. There are two Personal Development Planning modules (1 and 2) which will involve a guided, self assessment of current knowledge, skills and experience to set up a negotiated programme plan for future study. Students can also make a claim for prior learning which can amount to a maximum of half the credit of a Foundation Degree.

There are two Work Based Learning modules (1 and 2). In this case, students can identify their own work based project and formulate negotiated learning outcomes with a personal tutor. There will be access to a wide range of learning materials on-line.

The other four modules will be:

#### Level 1

Core Modules - Data Analysis and Business Environment

Option Modules - 2 logistics modules or 2 glass related modules

#### Level 2

Core Modules – Finance and Human Resource Management

Option Modules – 2 logistics modules or 2 glass related modules

### Progression

On successfully completing the Foundation Degree (Level 1 and 2) progression can be to a Hons degree in business related area at Leeds Metropolitan University.

### Qualification, Credits & Levels Subject areas or specialisms offered

Modules for Foundation Degrees in;

**Glass Manufacturing Management and  
Logistics and Supply Chain Management**

**Module titles:** Personal Development Planning 1 and 2  
Work Based Learning 1 and 2

### Guidance on completion/timescales

**Award:** Personal Development Planning 1 module

**Indicative timescales:** September 2009 –January 2010

**Award:** Personal Development Planning 2 module  
**Indicative timescales:** January 2010 –June 2010

**Award:** Work Based Learning 1 module  
**Indicative timescales:** September 2009 –January 2010

**Award:** Work Based Learning 2 module  
**Indicative timescales:** January 2010 –June 2011

### **Fee information – academic year 2009/2010**

Fee for each module - £200  
Each module has 15 credits attached.

Students taking part in the Foundation degree are expected to undertake these 4 modules.

### **Contact information**

Tel: 01924 789801  
[learningthroughwork@wakefield.ac.uk](mailto:learningthroughwork@wakefield.ac.uk)

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## Trinity College Carmarthen

Trinity College is the first HE institution in Wales to offer this learning opportunity with Learning through Work (LtW). We offer a whole range of work-based learning awards at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

### Key features of Trinity College's work-based learning programmes

- Demand-led and quality assured learning that is customised to meet the needs of individuals and the development needs of their employers.
- Learning is primarily work-based and so reduces the time needed to be away from the workplace. Some LtW programmes do not require any attendance and can be studied at work, at home or anywhere there is a computer with an internet connection.
- Negotiated, partnership-focused learning that involves the learner, employer and Trinity College.
- Programmes are offered through the medium of Welsh and English
- Individually designed self-managed learning empowers learners to be responsible for developing their own programme. Learners can enrol on LtW programmes at their convenience, design and develop their own curriculum which meets their learning needs and the needs of their employer within a quality assured framework.
- Accreditation of prior learning can be a feature of the programme, either for learning gained through the experience of work or through previous study.
- Technology-supported learning is a key feature of LtW programmes and is being developed across Trinity's undergraduate and postgraduate work-based curriculum. This allows people to learn at times and in places that are convenient to them.

### Qualification, Credits & Levels

Programme	Credit requirements
Certificate of Higher Education in Professional Work-based Studies	120 credits at level 4. Can be made up from mixture of the following modules (which can all be studied as standalone)
WBL 401 Work-based Learning Programme Plan	15 credits
WBL402 Working and Learning: an introduction to work-based higher education	15 credits
WBL 403 Research methods for WBL	15 credits
WBL 404 Improving Personal Effectiveness at Work	15 credits
WBL 405 An Introduction to Mentoring	20 credits
WBL 406/7/8 Work-based Learning Project	30/45/60 credits
WBL 409/10/11 Competency-based Portfolio	30/45/60 credits
WBL 412-417 Key Skills Portfolios	6x10 credits
WBL 418 Project Management	20 credits
GC401W Vocational Welsh 1 (Listening and Speaking)	10 credits

GC402W Vocational Welsh 2 (Reading and Writing)	10 credits
WBL 419W Language Awareness – Welsh and Bilingualism	10 credits
WBL 420W Bilingualism in the Workplace	10 credits
WBL 421W Promoting Bilingualism	10 credits
We are currently validating programmes at level 5, 6 and 7 (Masters). These should be available from January 2009	

### **Subject areas or specialisms offered**

See modules above, all lead to general credit or award of Certificate of Higher Education in Professional Work-based Studies

All programmes benchmarked to the QAA General Business and Management benchmark (QAA 165 02/07)

### **Exclusions**

None specifically, it depends on our tutor expertise. Please ask for further details. Currently, we are unable to support overseas based learners.

### **Guidance on completion/timescales**

**Award:** Full Certificate of Higher Education in Professional Work-based Studies

#### **Indicative timescales:**

Between one year and up to six as a maximum. Up to 2/3 award (80 credits) may be claimed through APEL so a candidate with APEL may well complete in a year. With no APEL likely to be 2 years depending on commitment of the learner.

**Award:** Foundation Degree/BA(Hons)/Masters

#### **Indicative timescales:**

Details to follow after validation

### **Fee information – academic year 2009/2010**

10 credits £170

15 credits £250

20 credits £335

Group discounts are available for organisations. APEL charges to be confirmed.

### **Contact information**

Dr Liz Wilson

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[e.wilson@trinity-cm.ac.uk](mailto:e.wilson@trinity-cm.ac.uk)

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## Learning through Work at The Open University

The Open University in the East Midlands (OU) is offering a new programme of training opportunities designed to improve skills, work confidence, productivity and job satisfaction. Building on our successful experience of delivering flexible work-based learning courses and foundation degrees, the OU in the East Midlands is collaborating with Learning through Work and the East Midlands Development Agency to offer the Foundation Degree in Combined Professional Studies (FdCPS)

### Notable Features

The FdCPS a unique degree that enables you to build a learning programme based on your particular personal and career development needs. A typical FdCPS programme blends academic subject knowledge with authentic work-based learning, which ensures that the learning undertaken is directly relevant to your job and maximises the benefits for you and your employer.

The OU also offers a range of flexible online Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses designed to develop the skills you need to help your career. They are designed to give you new skills, knowledge and ideas that you can immediately apply in practice. Courses normally take no longer than 30 hours to complete, so you can fit your study around your work and your life.

### Qualification, Credits & Levels Subject Areas or Specialism Offered

Programme	Credit Requirements
Foundation Degree in Combined Professional Studies (FdCPS)	240 CATS points, usually 120 points at HE level 1 and 120 points at HE level 2
Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Courses	Non credit bearing, short (around 30hrs of study), HE courses. These are OU certificated and can be used to demonstrate CPD activity to employers and/or professional bodies

### Exclusions

**Please note that subsidies for the above courses are only available if you live or work in the East Midlands region. Please contact us for more information.**

**May 2010 start** - The Open University is offering the Foundation Degree in Combined Professional Studies (FdCPS) which allows learners to negotiate a programme of study from over 570 courses in 14 different subject areas. The FdCPS has two compulsory courses, one at the beginning of the degree and one at the end. The first work-based course incorporates a learning plan where learners identify their own negotiated programme of OU courses to meet their personal and professional needs as well as any credit from appropriate prior study that they can be counted towards the degree. The final work based learning course enables learners to identify the skills, knowledge and experience gained throughout their studies and apply them to a real work based project.

**Immediate start** - The Open University's flexible online Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses are available in a wide range of subject areas

- Accounting and financial management
- Business communications
- Innovation
- Leadership
- Management
- Marketing

- Mentoring and coaching
- Research
- Sector specific courses: Food industry, travel, construction & volunteering
- Software management and practice

They are designed to develop the skills you need to help you in your career. Courses normally take no longer than 30 hours to complete, so you can fit your study around your working life. Although the courses do not carry academic credit points, by the end of a course you will have built your own Personal Development or Action Plan.

### **Award: Foundation Degree in Combined Professional Studies (FdCPS)**

#### **Indicative timescales and costs:**

The FdCPS could be completed within four years studying at a rate of 60 credit points a year (the usual rate for part-time study). Accreditation of prior certificated learning is possible for up to 90 CATS points at Level 1 and for up to 60 CATS points at Level 2. Start dates are May and November 2010.

Fees vary according to size, type and media components but a typical course would cost around £630 (2010/2011) before subsidies are applied.

### **Award: Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Courses**

#### **Indicative timescale and costs:**

Courses take no longer than 30hrs to complete and can be started at any time.

A typical course costs £495 and there is 50% off the first course studied (this is not means tested) Therefore the cost to the learner will be just under £250.

#### **Contact information**

Learning through Work Advice Team

Tel: 0845 3660470

[east-midlands@open.ac.uk](mailto:east-midlands@open.ac.uk)

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