



NORTHERN
Regional College

2022/23
Further Education &
Work-Based Learning
Course Guide

Covid-19 Update

Our priority is the health, safety and well-being of our staff, students and visitors. Each campus has safety measures in place to keep everyone safe when on-site and detailed guidance has been produced for both staff and students to help prevent the spread of Covid-19. In the event of further lockdowns, we have invested in our online teaching facilities and equipment with all staff fully equipped to work remotely from home ensuring you can continue your studies.

At the time of going to print we are still in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. All information contained within this publication reflects 'typical' life at College as we hope to be beyond the pandemic when you start your studies with us in September. Most of our photography was taken pre-Covid restrictions.





Welcome

Congratulations on taking the next step towards building on your education and developing your future career. You are joining the College at an exciting period of transformation as we progress through our campus development plans but also during a time of global uncertainty.

I want to reassure you that the health, safety and well-being of our staff, students and visitors is paramount, and we have measures in place to keep everyone safe on campus. We have also invested heavily in our College Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), Canvas, to deliver quality blended learning as and when it is required. There has been a significant increase in the use of digital technology with a staggering 10.6 million page views on Canvas for 2020/21.

Blended learning will continue to play a key role in your learning experience, allowing lecturers to use a wide range of technology and digital platforms to engage and interact through apps, games and other programmes to deliver a first-rate student experience.

As you embark on your career journey, we have carefully selected each of the courses listed in this guide as programmes that offer real value to our students and are relevant to the needs of employers or to progression within education. Whether you are a recent school leaver, or you are returning to study after time away, this guide summarises the excellent opportunities available across our six campuses.

Whilst at the College you will interact with our professional teaching staff. All of our lecturers have specialist expertise in their subject areas and many continue to work as professionals in industry.

This connection with industry is important to us and as a College we work closely with businesses to ensure our provision is relevant and reflects the needs of employers. No matter what subject or qualification you choose, your course will be geared towards helping you to enhance your career prospects. Remarkably, over 43% of FE College leavers who completed a qualification at Level 3 or below were in employment six months after achieving their 2019/20 qualification.

If you already know what subject you are interested in you will find more detailed information on our website, so please make sure you visit www.nrc.ac.uk to find out more.

If you are still trying to decide on what to do next please make use of the careers service we offer across our campuses. Why not talk to one of our careers advisors who can discuss the options available to you? We would be delighted to hear from you.

I hope you find this guide useful and informative – and I look forward to welcoming you as student of Northern Regional College in September 2022.

Mel Higgins
Principal & Chief Executive

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Coleraine

Campus Development

The College is embarking on an £84 million capital investment, delivering state of the art campuses on the current sites in Union Street, Coleraine and Farm Lodge, Ballymena. The projects are funded by the Department for the Economy.

Coleraine

There will be a new, purpose-built campus on the existing (but extended) site at Union Street Coleraine, due to open in the academic year 2023/24. The innovation zone will be a flexible area that can be adapted for a wide range of activities including cross curriculum project based learning and conferences. The training restaurant and hair and beauty salon will, at set times, be open to the public to provide our students with the opportunity to train in

a realistic environment. The College plans also include the sympathetic refurbishments of the former St Patrick's Church Parish Centre as a the stand alone performing arts centre for the new campus.

Ballymena

Our plans are for one campus for Ballymena with a new build on the existing Farm Lodge site, with the closure of Trostan Avenue and Lamont Building. The new campus is scheduled to open in the academic year 2024/25.

A small number of courses currently offered in Ballymena (Farm Lodge) may be moved to alternative suitable locations, each location playing an important role in maintaining the College curriculum offering.

Find out more at
www.nrc.ac.uk



Ballymena



Study at Northern Regional College

At Northern Regional College you can shape the direction of your education and career. Our range of qualifications and wide selection of subject areas gives you choice in your learning. Whether you want to work towards a trade or progress to university you will find a course for your needs.

We offer Traineeships/ Apprenticeships/GCSE equivalent courses (Level 2 BTEC Diploma), A Level equivalent courses (Level 3 BTEC Extended Diploma) and Access to University courses.

Excellent quality of teaching and learning

Many of our lecturers continue to work as industry professionals and offer extensive knowledge and experience of their specialist area.

Practical work-based structure

All courses are designed to provide you with the skills required to meet the needs of employers.

Financial support

Depending on your course of study you may be eligible for a travel pass or other financial support such as EMA (Education Maintenance Allowance), Further Education Grants, Access to Learning Fund, hardship payments, childcare assistance. Student Finance staff are available to advise you on other types of financial support you could access while at the College.

See website or contact studentfinance@nrc.ac.uk for further details.

Modern equipment and facilities

All subject areas are delivered with the latest equipment and facilities to meet industry standards.

Progression

Our courses offer excellent progression routes. Qualifications are available from Level 1 through to Level 6 (Higher Education), all within the College. You can move onto more advanced qualifications in the same subject or into new areas.

Excellent industry links

The College has excellent links with local, national and international employers who provide students with valuable placement opportunities, guest lectures and site visits.



*Open Days

Open Days are a great opportunity to visit your local campus, speak to our friendly staff and find out more about our courses and facilities.

Ballymena (Farm Lodge and Trostan Avenue)

Wednesday 9 February 2022
4pm – 8pm

Ballymoney

Thursday 10 February 2022
4pm – 8pm

Coleraine

Monday 7 February 2022
4pm – 8pm

Magherafelt

Tuesday 8 February 2022
4pm – 8pm

Newtownabbey

Wednesday 9 February 2022
4pm – 8pm

Registration is essential.
Full details available on
our website.

*These are subject to the
ongoing Covid-19 situation.



Our Campuses

Coleraine

Beresford Avenue
Coleraine
BT52 1HJ

Ballymoney

2 Coleraine Road
Ballymoney
BT53 6BP

Ballymena

Farm Lodge Buildings
Ballymena
BT43 7DF

Ballymena

Trostan Avenue
Building Ballymena
BT43 7BN

Magherafelt

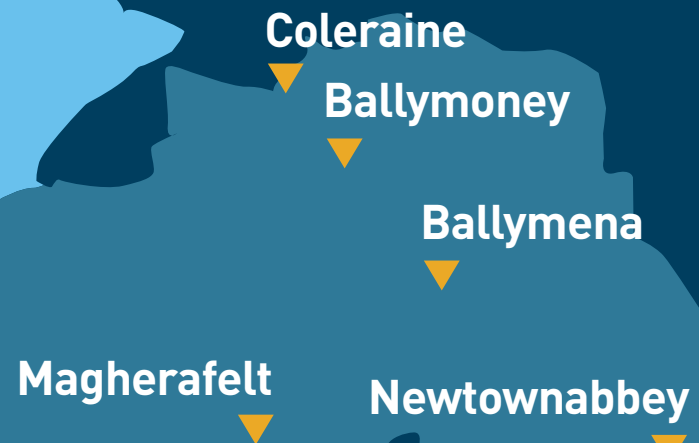
22 Moneymore Road
Magherafelt
BT45 6AE

Newtownabbey

400 Shore Road
Newtownabbey
BT37 9RS

Ballymoney

2 Coleraine Road
Ballymoney
BT53 6BP





Facilities

Libraries

Each campus has its own library with access to printed and digital resources, computers, Wi-Fi and a range of study areas and facilities.

Our digital resources can be accessed online 24/7 and include electronic-books, online journal articles, subject e-databases and a range of vocational online learning tools.

Inductions and guidance are provided at the beginning of each academic year. Throughout the year, dedicated library staff will support you in using the library and finding the resources you need to succeed on your course.

Teaching Facilities

You will be taught with the equipment and facilities needed to provide you with a high quality learning experience in your subject area. Our campuses are equipped with everything from standard teaching rooms to a wide variety of specialist equipment including engineering, sports and fitness, car maintenance, beauty, graphic design and science laboratories.

Learning Online

Computers and printers are available on all campuses. You will also have access to a wide range of learning resources on and off campus via the College's Canvas VLE. Many subject areas deliver some teaching online giving you more flexibility in when and where you study.

Canteen

Each campus has a canteen offering a selection of affordable snacks, sandwiches and meals. Meal deals, daily specials and healthy options are available throughout the week.

Seating Areas

Comfortable seating areas are available around the campuses for meeting friends and relaxing outside of class.

Free Wi-Fi

Free Wi-Fi is available at each campus. There are also designated Wi-Fi hotspots in each library for personal devices.

As a student of the College, you will have the opportunity to join the Entrepreneurship Club. Whether you have a business idea or just thinking about it the College Entrepreneurship Club can provide you with the support to grow your idea. We can signpost you to mentors, provide advice on what is needed to 'start a business' and offer unique access to events, courses and competitions to help you start your business venture.

For further details, contact
EntrepreneurshipClub@nrc.ac.uk





Students' Union

All College students automatically become members of the Students' Union. The Union is responsible for representing the views of all students. You and your fellow students will elect someone in your class to be your representative and to feedback your views to the Students' Union and the College at various times throughout the year. The Union is run by the Student President along with the Student Leadership Team and Class Representatives. Meetings are generally campus based and held once per term.

As a member of the Students' Union, you will be able to:

- ▶ put yourself forward for election as class representative
- ▶ vote in College elections and attend meetings
- ▶ have your opinion heard across College through your class representative (if this isn't you)
- ▶ stand for election for Students' Union Officer posts if you are a class representative
- ▶ sit on College committees as deemed appropriate by the Students' Union/College

Ashlyn Close Student President

“My role is to listen and respond to your ideas and thoughts as well as keeping you updated on key issues that are affecting students in NI and across the UK. I look forward to welcoming you as a student at Northern Regional College.”



Supporting Students

Careers Advice and Guidance

Our team of Careers Advisers provide a professional, impartial and confidential advice and guidance service. We help you make informed careers choices and support you as you progress through your learning, training and work opportunities.

Education Support

We offer comprehensive education support tailored to your specific needs in order to ensure you have the support to attend College and to succeed on your course. If you are unsure about the support we can offer, we can offer transition visits prior to starting your course which will provide a personal review of your needs.



Counselling Services

Beginning a new course can be a stressful time. There may be occasions where you may need to speak to someone outside of your course about issues affecting you. Our College counselling service is available 24 hours per day, 365 days per year and is staffed by professionally trained counsellors who you can talk to on the phone or in person. Group counselling is also available.

Autism Friendly College

We are proud to be an Autism Friendly College! If you are considering studying at the College, you can contact the Education Support Co-ordinators before making the decision on your next step. We offer bespoke orientation visits where we will tell you about the support we offer, give you a tour of the areas you are interested in and meet with some relevant staff to answer any queries you may have ahead of coming to College.



How You Will Learn

Teaching and assessment methods vary but most courses are taught through traditional lectures and practical sessions. You may be taught on campus, by eLearning, or a combination of both (blended learning).

Teaching methods may include:

- ▷ Guest lectures from industry professionals or specialists
- ▷ One-to-one sessions with your lecturer
- ▷ Workshops
- ▷ Case studies
- ▷ Directed learning
- ▷ Independent study
- ▷ Visits e.g. to museums and exhibitions or into industry
- ▷ Productions
- ▷ Design studio work
- ▷ Laboratory work

Assessment methods may include:

- ▷ Formal examinations
- ▷ Practical exercises
- ▷ Coursework
- ▷ Online examinations
- ▷ Written assignments
- ▷ Reports
- ▷ Essays
- ▷ Case studies
- ▷ Reports
- ▷ Observation of skills
- ▷ Real-life industry projects
- ▷ Presentations

Industrial Visits

We have excellent industrial links with local, national and international employers who provide you with valuable seminars, visits and placement opportunities.





Digital Learning

On many of our courses teaching is delivered partly online and can be completed at home or on campus. We have invested heavily in online teaching facilities and computer equipment to provide our students with a high quality learning experience.

We are continually refining, expanding and enhancing our online course delivery, offering the flexibility of studying parts of your course online.

This means you can:

- ▷ Access course material online 24/7
- ▷ Experience interactive and engaging online programmes
- ▷ Enhance and develop your digital skills
- ▷ Balance study, work and family commitments

In addition to course materials provided by our lecturers, all students at Northern Regional College have access to online resources in topics such as employability, IT and study skills developed by industry experts.



Fees and Funding

The College has a dedicated Student Finance team who can provide you with support and assistance with applying for funding to support your studies and in accessing any additional College funds.

Where courses have additional mandatory expenses we make every effort to highlight them in the online prospectus. These may include uniforms, kits, IrishFA registration, residential visits, field trips, materials, security checks, computer equipment.

**For further information contact
Student Finance
on 028 9085 5000
ext. 1249 or 1239
or email
studentfinance@nrc.ac.uk.**

EMA

Traineeship/Further Education students aged between 16 and 19 may be entitled to receive a weekly EMA (Education Maintenance Allowance) payment of £30. This award is means-tested on household income.

Travel Pass

Students aged 19 or younger on 1 July and on a full-time Further Education/Traineeship course may apply for a Travel Pass or travel allowance. Other criteria and age restrictions may apply and you should contact the Education Authority for further information.



Further Education Grant

Students enrolled on a Further Education course must be 19 or older on 1 July. This is a means tested award for full-time students and usually has a closing date. Early application is recommended. Other criteria and age restrictions may apply and you should contact the Education Authority for further information.

Access to Learning Fund

Students must be 18 or older at the start of the academic year. Assistance is means tested and students must have applied to all other sources of finance that are available to them in the first instance. This fund is administered by the College. Application criteria are available upon request.

Care to Learn Scheme

If you have care of a child then you may be able to get help with childcare and travel costs. You must be aged between 16 and 19 at the start of the course. This fund is administered by the College.

Childcare Assistance

Help with childcare costs may be available to both further and higher education students through Education Authority/Student Finance NI.

Other Sources of Help

There may be other sources of support available to you, such as free school meals, or the Disabled Student Allowance. Please refer to our website for further details.

Guide to Qualifications

There are different ways to achieve your career goals. You can work towards a range of qualifications at Northern Regional College, each with varied pathways and progression routes, which will allow for further study or employment.

Selecting which qualification is right for you can be complicated. We have provided a guide to give you an overview of the qualifications available to you at Northern Regional College.



Level 1 **Diploma** (Vocational Qualification - NVQ)

Further Education

Entry Requirements*

Check website for details

Study Time

Typically 1 year, full-time | 2 years, part-time

Description

Diplomas (NVQs) are work-related qualifications that apply practical skills and knowledge gained at College directly into the workplace. These can be studied on a full-time basis, or part-time while in a job, work placement or on an apprenticeship.

Progression

Employment | Further Training |
Level 2 Qualification

Level 2 **BTEC Diploma**

Further Education

Entry Requirements*

4 GCSEs Grade D-G or above or equivalent

Study Time

1 Year, full-time

Description

BTEC Diplomas are vocational qualifications and combine practical, career-orientated skills with academic study.

Progression

Employment | Further Training | Level 3
Qualification

Level 2 **Diploma** (Vocational Qualification - NVQ)

Further Education

Entry Requirements*

Check website for details

Study Time

1 Year, full-time

Description

Diplomas (NVQs) are work-related qualifications that apply practical skills and knowledge gained at College directly into the workplace. These can be studied on a full-time basis, or part-time while in a job, work placement or on an apprenticeship. Level 2 Diploma (NVQ) is typically equivalent to GCSE (A-C).

Progression

Employment | Further Training |
Level 3 Qualification

Level 2 **Traineeship****

Further Education

Entry Requirements*

4 GCSEs (D-G) including Maths and
English grades D-F or equivalent

Study Time

Typically 2 years, full-time

Description

The Traineeship provides a high-quality vocational education and training programme at Level 2 aimed at those who aspire to work within a specific sector. The new Traineeship programme will allow you to achieve a full Level 2 qualification comprising of a vocational qualification (equivalent to at least 3 GCSEs in the chosen occupational area); vocational skills development; developing wider work ready skills and digital skills; work placement; literacy and numeracy qualifications at Level 2 (may include GCSE qualifications in English and Mathematics); and additional qualifications deemed necessary for work within a sector eg. Health and Safety, CSR, manual handling. This course is typically equivalent to 5 GCSEs.

Progression

Employment | Further Training |
Level 3 Qualification

Level 2 **Apprenticeship****

Further Education

Entry Requirements*

You must be aged between 16 and 24 years of age and in paid employment (at least 21 hours per week including College release). There may be additional entry requirements please check website for details

Study Time

2 Years, full-time

Description

Apprentices are employed as full-time members of staff and typically work for an employer three or four days a week. One or two days a week are spent at college, studying for nationally-recognised qualifications (such as a NVQ) in the same profession as the apprenticeship. Employers pay apprentices for the day(s) they are in College, meaning they earn a full-time wage. Level 2 is the level that most apprentices will start on.

Progression

Employment | Further Training |
Level 3 Qualification

* Entry requirements may vary for some courses. Check our website for specific entry requirements for each course.

For direct entry onto the full Traineeship you will be required to meet the enhanced entry requirements in Maths and English for the programme. Details of enhanced criteria can be found under Traineeships on the website.

**Also referred to as Work-based learning. This 'umbrella' term is used to refer to courses that provide you with real-life work experiences whilst applying academic and technical skills to enhance your employment opportunities.

Level 3 **Diploma** (Vocational Qualification - NVQ)

Further Education

Entry Requirements*

Check website for details

Study Time

Typically 1 year, full-time | 2 years, part-time

Description

Diplomas (NVQs) are work-related qualifications that apply practical skills and knowledge gained at college directly into the workplace. These can be studied on a full-time basis, or part-time while in a job, work placement or on an apprenticeship.

Progression

Employment | Further Training | Higher Education - Level 4-5 Qualification

Level 3 **Access to University**

Further Education

Entry Requirements*

You must normally be 19 years of age or over at the date of entry to the course and provide evidence of basic competence in written, oral communication and numeracy skills. You will be requested to undertake a short, written assessment.

Study Time

1 Year, full-time | 2 Years, part-time

Description

Access to university courses are designed to encourage and facilitate students who have been away from formal education but who wish to return, many with a view to progressing to higher education. Courses are modularised and set at A-Level standard.

Progression

Employment | Further Training | Higher Education - Level 4-5 Qualification (including University Degrees and Foundation Degrees)

Level 3 **Apprenticeship****

Further Education

Entry Requirements*

You must have a Level 2 Apprenticeship and be aged between 16 and 24 years of age in paid employment (at least 21 hours per week including College release). There may be additional entry requirements please check website for details.

Description

Apprentices are employed as full-time members of staff and typically work for an employer three or four days a week. One or two days a week are spent at college, studying for nationally-recognised qualifications (such as a NVQ) in the same profession as the apprenticeship.

Progression

Employment | Further Training | Higher Education - Level 4-5 Qualification

**Also referred to as Work-based learning. This 'umbrella' term is used to refer to courses that provide you with real-life work experiences whilst applying academic and technical skills to enhance your employment opportunities.

* Entry requirements may vary for some courses. Check our website for specific entry requirements for each course.

Level 3 **Extended Diploma/National Extended Diploma**

Further Education

Entry Requirements*

4 GCSEs at Grade C or above

Study Time

2 Year, full-time

Description

This qualification combines practical, career-orientated skills with academic study. You will typically study a Subsidiary or 90 Credit/National Foundation Diploma in one year and then continue to the Extended Diploma in the second year.

Equivalence:

These qualifications are equivalent to 3 A-Levels.

Progression

Employment | Further Training | Higher Education - Level 4-6 Qualification (including University Degrees and Foundation Degrees)

Level 3 **BTEC 90 Credit Diploma /BTEC National Foundation Diploma BTEC Subsidiary Diploma**

Further Education

Entry Requirements*

4 GCSEs at Grade C or above

Study Time

1 Year, full-time

Description

These qualifications combine practical, career-orientated skills with academic study. You will typically study a Subsidiary or 90 Credit/National Foundation Diploma in one year and then continue to the extended diploma in the second year.

Equivalence:

Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma - 1 A-Level
Level 3 90 Credit Diploma/National Foundation Diploma - 1.5 A-Levels

Progression

Employment | Further Training | Higher Education - Level 4-6 Qualification (including University Degrees and Foundation Degrees)



Level 3 **Advanced Technical Award (AdvancedTech)**

Further Education

Entry Requirements*

4 GCSEs at Grade C or above

Study Time

2 Years, full-time

Description

AdvancedTechs are a brand-new, 2-year qualification that young people or adults can do as an alternative to A-Levels, other post-16 courses or an apprenticeship. They bring classroom learning and industry practice together on a course designed with industry for industry. AdvancedTechs are ideal for those who complete GCSEs and want the knowledge and experience to get straight into employment, an Apprenticeship or Higher Education. Students will typically spend 80% of their time in college and 20% on a placement with an employer to further develop skills and knowledge.

Progression

Employment | Apprenticeship | Higher Education – Level 4-6 Qualifications (including University Degrees and Foundation Degrees)

Level **Higher Education level courses** 4 & 5

Higher Education

Description

[View our courses online for further details.](#)

* Entry requirements may vary for some courses. Check our website for specific entry requirements for each course.

Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning

Where mature students wish to have prior education and/or experience taken into account, in lieu of meeting the full course entry requirements, they should contact the relevant Course Director by 10 August, as an application deadline will apply. Applicants must also refer to further details available online.

What is a Traineeship?

The Traineeship will provide a high-quality vocational education and training programme at Level 2 and is aimed at school leavers and adults who aspire to work within a specific sector.

The Traineeship will be available to all school leavers and adults providing participants with the skills and qualifications necessary to secure employment in their chosen occupation. Each Traineeship has been developed with employers to ensure that what you learn and the skills you develop are what employers are looking for. The Traineeship will allow you to progress to an apprenticeship at Level 3 or alternatively to Further Education at Level 3.

The Traineeship Programme will allow you to achieve a full Level 2 qualification and will comprise the following key elements:

- ▷ A main vocational based qualification, equivalent to at least 3 GCSEs in the chosen occupational area
- ▷ Vocational Skills development
- ▷ Transversal and digital skills
- ▷ Work placement
- ▷ Literacy and numeracy qualifications at Level 2 (may include GCSE qualifications in English and mathematics)
- ▷ Additional qualifications deemed necessary for work within a sector e.g Health and Safety, CSR, manual handling

As well as providing you with the technical skills and knowledge in your chosen area, the Traineeship will help you to develop a range of transversal skills that are important for employment including:

- ▷ Problem solving
- ▷ Teamwork
- ▷ Communication
- ▷ Time management
- ▷ Entrepreneurship

Project Based Learning will also be a key feature of Traineeships. This is a dynamic approach to learning in which you will explore real-world problems and challenges that have been developed with employers. With this type of active and engaged learning, you will be inspired to obtain a deeper knowledge of the subjects you are studying and develop a wide range of hands on skills.

For direct entry onto the full Traineeship you will be required to meet the enhanced entry requirements in Maths and English for the programme. Details of enhanced criteria can be found under Traineeships on the website.

The Traineeship programme will normally take up to two years to complete on a full time basis. Trainees who achieve qualifications during their first year may progress earlier to an apprenticeship or further education.

Apprenticeships

What is an Apprenticeship?

Apprentices are permanently employed as full-time members of staff and typically work three days a week. Up to two days a week are spent at College, studying for nationally-recognised qualifications in the same profession as the apprenticeship.

- ▷ You must be employed from day one
- ▷ Some employers may require GCSEs
- ▷ It might be possible to do an apprenticeship with a current employer
- ▷ You work all year round, but your College classes run from September to July
- ▷ Employers pay you for the days you are in College, meaning you will receive a full-time wage in accordance with the national minimum wage

Around 600 apprentices train with us every year and we are expanding to include a broader range of professions. Apprenticeships are a popular way to learn skills, get qualifications and kick start a career.

ApprenticeshipsNI

Course Details

Apprenticeships offer training to people aged 16 and over who are employed for a minimum of 21 hours per week. Restrictions apply for those over 25.

Training

Your training support officer will meet with you and your employer to discuss your training needs and develop a training programme for you.

Timetable

Usually you are with your employer three days a week and at College up to two days a week.

Apprenticeships are offered from Level 2 to Level 3 with Higher Level Apprenticeships from Level 5 upwards. Level 2 is the level that most new apprentices will start on. Depending on your experience and previous qualification(s) you may be able to start at Level 3. Once you complete Level 3 you may be able to progress to a Higher Level Apprenticeship.

What is a Higher Level Apprenticeship?

A Higher Level Apprenticeship (HLA) is a nationally accredited workbased programme similar to traditional apprenticeships but at a higher level (Level 5). It is designed to meet the needs of employers for higher skill levels and leads to qualifications equivalent to university level.

Current Higher Level Apprenticeships available at the College include:

- ▷ **Accountancy**
- ▷ **Computing**
- ▷ **Construction**
- ▷ **Construction Engineering with Surveying**
- ▷ **Engineering**
- ▷ **Supply Chain & Logistics**

Full course details can be viewed online.





Advice on how to secure an apprenticeship

Before starting your apprenticeship you must secure full-time employment. Below are some guidelines to assist you:

- ▶ Consider working with a suitable employer over the summer months to give you a better insight into the industry in which you are thinking of a career
- ▶ Remember to check that you are adequately covered by the employer's insurance, and that you have also received suitable Health & Safety training
- ▶ Phone, email or arrange to meet with as many local companies/employers as you can and remember to have an updated curriculum vitae (CV) ready to hand over, post, or email to employers
- ▶ Contact your local Careers Service, school careers teacher or a member of our College careers team to get useful information on your chosen career as well as help in preparing your CV
- ▶ You can contact a Department for the Economy (DfE) careers advisor by phone, Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm Tel: 0300 200 7820
- ▶ Scan your local press job section and online job sites for companies advertising apprenticeship opportunities, especially during summer months

What is an Advanced Technical Award (AdvancedTech)?

AdvancedTechs are new Level 3 (A-Level equivalent) vocational courses aimed at young people who have completed GCSEs. Launched in September 2021, AdvancedTechs have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work, further training or study.

The AdvancedTech award brings together a number of key components that make up this new and exciting programme of learning. AdvancedTechs include the following elements:

A work based qualification equating to 3 A-Levels, which includes:

- ▷ knowledge content, concepts and skills for an industry area
- ▷ specialist skills and knowledge for an occupation or career
- ▷ Project Based Learning;
- ▷ Development of IT skills (transversal or soft skills)
- ▷ A structured industry placement with an employer.

Students will also be required to undertake literacy and numeracy classes should they have not already achieved GCSE grade A*-C in Maths and English.

Full details available on our website.



How to Apply

You can apply online NOW
for September 2022 entry.

Applications are made
through our website

www.nrc.ac.uk

follow these steps:





What Our Students Say

Caroline Nugent

Access Diploma in Social Sciences



The Access Diploma has been life changing for me and I couldn't recommend it enough. Courses like this can be a platform for success. They create opportunities to help you go further. I would encourage anyone who wants to progress to university or climb the career ladder to check out the options in their area. It was my pathway to university, and, in the longer term, I know that this will improve my employability.



Caroline is now studying a midwifery degree course at Queen's University, Belfast.

Klaudia Skawinska

Level 3 in Travel & Tourism



Studying Travel and Tourism at the College has provided with me the knowledge and skills to prepare to work in tourism. I really enjoyed my work experience as a receptionist at the Causeway Hotel at the Giant's Causeway. This helped me gain self-confidence and develop my knowledge of the tourism industry.



Leah Spratt
Level 3 Children's Care
Learning & Development

After her A-Levels, Leah decided to study Level 3 in Children's Care Learning & Development



I wasn't mature enough when I left school to know what I really wanted to do. The Level 3 course, which included work placements, gave me more time to pinpoint what area I was really interested in. A compulsory part of the course is to complete four placements. I undertook my placement in day nurseries and primary schools. They were all enjoyable but very different and helped me realise where I would like to work in the longer term."

Looking to the future, Leah hopes to study a PGCE and train as a primary school/early years teacher.

"If you want to work with children this is the perfect course for you! My experience at the College has helped sharpen my focus to succeed.



Rory Loughran
Level 3 in IT



Unlike the traditional grammar school route, the College allowed me to specialise in the subject I am passionate about which is IT. Instead of studying A-levels in various subject areas I could gain the equivalent of 3 A-levels in the one subject. I would recommend this course to anyone wanting to either enter the world of IT as it is a respected qualification or to someone who wants to progress directly to university. There are no limits as to where this course can take you in terms of the world of IT!





Daniel Strong

Level 3 in Sport Exercise & Science



This course gives a great insight to the sports industry and is a pathway to many different career opportunities. Our assignments were all based on realistic workplace activities and demands, highlighting the importance and relevance of the theory we were being taught in class. Due to Covid-19 classes were delivered for pro-longed periods of time. Lockdown was frustrating, but our lecturers were great. Independent learning was encouraged but support was always there when it was needed. I experienced a steep learning curve, but even with all the challenges we faced due to Covid-19, the course is a great preparation for going on to university he explained.



Daniel is now studying a Degree in Health, Physical Activity and Sport (Hons) at Stranmillis University College.

Elizabeth Cheung

Level 3 Construction & the Built Environment



With 10 GCSEs under her belt, Elizabeth returned to school to study A-Levels but realised that A-Levels weren't for her. Instead of completing her A-Levels, she decided to go down the vocational route and opted to study a Level 3 Extended Diploma.



While I enjoyed the subjects I was doing at A-Level, I feel no matter what A-Level subjects I chose to do for two years, I would never have gained the level of knowledge and insight into the construction industry that I got with the Level 3 course. Construction is very specialised so the Level 3 course was the right decision for me as it was a much better preparation for university.



Elizabeth is now studying Architecture at Queen's University Belfast.

Joel Fleming

Level 3 in Music

Joel explained why he opted to study this course at the College instead of returning to school to study A-Levels.



This is a very practical course in terms of developing skills in performance, song writing, production and recording but we also get a thorough understanding of the underpinning theory.

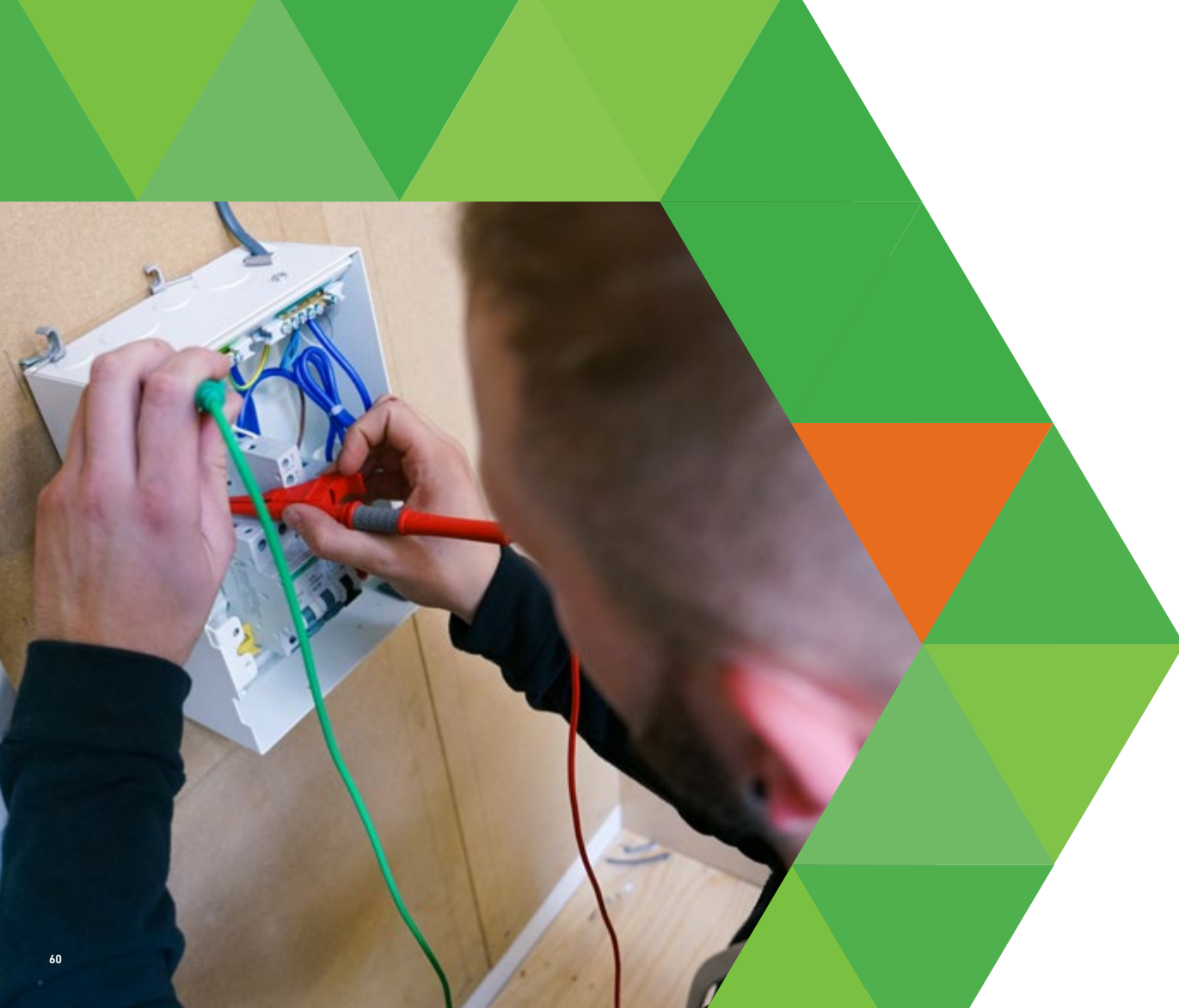
I started off with just a basic knowledge of music theory, but I now have a good understanding of all aspects of the theory of music like chord composition, timing, signatures and so on. This has really benefitted my song writing and, also helped me to understand the music I listen to every day.

If you love music and would enjoy the challenge of developing new skills in composition and performance, you should definitely consider this course.



Joel is now studying Music at the Magee campus of Ulster University.





Matthew Dougan
Bench Joinery Apprenticeship



The College has a good reputation for a solid education", this is one of the reasons Matthew outlined why he decided to start his career journey to becoming a qualified joiner at the College. Matthew continued to explain what he enjoyed most about his apprenticeship, "I have really enjoyed the practical and theory work of my course and have gained the skills to use the machines and hand tools in the workshop. I have also found my lecturers to be of an excellent standard." Recognising the quality of teaching and learning as well as the practical course structure, he added, "I would definitely recommend this course to others."



Emmet McAllister
Electrical Engineering Apprenticeship

Having studied A-Levels at St Louis Grammar School in Ballymena, Emmet had a change of heart and decided he wanted a practical career as an electrician instead of a desk job and said,



Having studied A-Levels at St Louis Grammar School in Ballymena, Emmet had a change of heart and decided he wanted a practical career as an electrician instead of a desk job and said, "Northern Regional College was the best place to learn how to do this."

Emmet continued, "What I enjoy most about the course is the practical side where I have learned how to wire and install containment. I have also gained many skills which will prepare me for my employment such as better hand eye co-ordination, planning and time keeping and I have worked on a variety of jobs with my employer which has helped greatly."

"I would definitely recommend this course and the reason being – you can learn a trade that will be with you for life which allows for further study and the ability to travel around the world and still find employment."





Abigail Reilly



Kirsty Gildea

Abigail Reilly
Level 3 Apprenticeship Plumbing & Heating



I wanted to undertake an apprenticeship as you earn while you learn and straight after finishing you are pretty much guaranteed a job. There is a lot of variety in my work, I get to spend a couple of days onsite which allows me to work on my skills in a professional environment. I also had the great privilege of representing the College at the WorldSkills UK Live final competition which has been a memorable learning experience.



Kirsty Gildea
Level 4 Advanced Motor Studies



Having worked for the past 3 years in the Fleet workshop at Donnelly Group, I have enjoyed the experience of working on all brands of vehicles as well as light and commercial vehicles. The mixture of both practical and theory learning has strengthened my skills and knowledge of the Automotive Industry. My next step is to complete the Master Technician programme.





Courses Ballymena (Trostan Avenue)

Subject	Level	Duration
Access Diploma in Social Sciences (validated by Ulster University)	Level 3	1 Year
Applied Science (Biomedical Science)	Level 3	1 Year
Art and Design Practice	Level 3	2 Years
Art and Design Skills	Level 2	1 Year
Art, Design and Media Practice	Level 3/4	1 Year
Aspire2Work	Inclusive Learning	1 Year
Barbering	Level 2	1 Year
Barbering	Level 3	1 Year
Beauty Therapy - Massage	Level 3	1 Year
Beauty Therapy	Level 2	1 Year
Business	Level 2	1 Year
Business	Level 3	2 Years
Catering	Level 2 Apprenticeship	1 Year
Children's Care, Learning and Development	Level 2	1 Year
Childrens Care, Learning and Development	Level 3	2 Years
Creative Digital Media Production	Level 2	1 Year

For full course details and up-to-date information visit www.nrc.ac.uk

Please note that due to ongoing major campus construction projects courses at Ballymena, Coleraine and Ballymoney may be relocated to alternative suitable locations as required.



Courses Ballymena (Trostan Avenue)

Subject	Level 3	Duration
Creative Media Practice	Level 3	2 Years
Early Years and Health Studies	Level 2	1 Year
Food & Beverage	Level 2 Apprenticeship	2 Years
Hairdressing	Level 2/3 Apprenticeship	2 Years
Hairdressing	Level 2	2 Years
Hairdressing	Level 3	1 Year
Health and Social Care	Level 2	1 Year
Health and Social Care	Level 3	2 Years
Plumbing	Level 2 Traineeship	2 Years
Plumbing	Level 2/3 Apprenticeship	3 Years
Professional Cookery	Level 1	1 Year
Professional Cookery	Level 2	1 Year
Professional Cookery (Preparation and Cooking)	Level 3	1 Year
Route2Work	Inclusive Learning	1 Year
Transition2College	Inclusive Learning	2 Years
Work Ready	Inclusive Learning	1 Year

For full course details and up-to-date information visit www.nrc.ac.uk

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Courses Ballymena (Farm Lodge)

Subject	Level	Duration
Brickwork	Level 2 Traineeship	2 Years
Brickwork	Level 2/3 Apprenticeship	3 Years
Carpentry & Joinery	Level 2 Traineeship	2 Years
Carpentry & Joinery (Bench)	Level 2/3 Apprenticeship	3 Years
Carpentry & Joinery (Site)	Level 2/3 Apprenticeship	3 Years
College Connect	Level 1	1 Year
Construction and the Built Environment	Level 3	2 Years
Electrical and Electronic Engineering	Level 3	2 Years
Electrical Installation	Level 3 Apprenticeship	5 Years
Engineering	Level 2 Traineeship	2 Years
Engineering	Level 2/3 Apprenticeship	3 Years
Information and Creative Technology	Level 2	1 Year
IT/Computing	Level 3	2 Years
Manufacturing Engineering	Level 3	2 Years
Motor Vehicle	Level 2 Traineeship	2 Years
Motor Vehicle	Level 2/3 Apprenticeship	3 Years
Public Services (Uniformed Protective Services)	Level 3	2 Years

For full course details and up-to-date information visit www.nrc.ac.uk

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Courses Ballymena (Lamont Building)

Subject	Level	Duration
Sport	Level 2	1 Year
Sport (Optional Irish FA specialism)	Level 3	2 Years





Courses Ballymoney

Subject	Level	Duration
Access to Opportunity	Level 2	1 Year
Animal Care	Level 2	1 Year
Animal Management	Level 3	2 Years
Aspire2Work	Inclusive Learning	1 Year
Beauty Therapy - Massage	Level 3	1 Year
Beauty Therapy	Level 2	1 Year
Business	Level 2	1 Year
Carpentry & Joinery	Level 2 Traineeship	2 Years
Carpentry & Joinery (Bench)	Level 2/3 Apprenticeship	3 Years
Carpentry & Joinery (Site)	Level 2/3 Apprenticeship	3 Years
Catering	Level 2 Apprenticeship	2 Years
Children's Care, Learning and Development	Level 2	1 Year

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Courses Ballymoney

Subject	Level	Duration
Children's Care, Learning and Development	Level 3	2 Years
Construction and the Built Environment	Level 3	2 Years
Early Years and Health Studies	Level 2	1 Year
Hairdressing	Level 2	2 Years
Hairdressing	Level 3	1 Year
Motor Vehicle	Level 2 Traineeship	2 Years
Professional Cookery	Level 2	1 Year
Professional Cookery (Preparation and Cooking)	Level 3	1 Year
Professional Cookery	Level 1	1 Year
Route2Work	Inclusive Learning	1 Year
Transition2College	Inclusive Learning	2 Years
Work Ready	Inclusive Learning	1 Year

For full course details and up-to-date information visit www.nrc.ac.uk

Please note that due to ongoing major campus construction projects courses at Ballymena, Coleraine and Ballymoney may be relocated to alternative suitable locations as required.





Courses Coleraine

Subject	Level	Duration
Access Diploma in Social Sciences (validated by Ulster University)	Level 3	1 Year
Access to Education	Level 2	1 Year
Animation and Visual Effects (Creative Media Practice)	Level 3	2 Years
Applied Science (Biomedical Science)	Level 3	2 Years
Business	Level 3	2 Years
Creative Digital Media Production	Level 2	1 Year
Digital Games and Virtual Reality Development (Creative Media Practice)	Level 3	2 Years
Engineering	Level 2 Traineeship	2 Years
Engineering	Level 3	2 Years
Health and Social Care	Level 2	1 Year

For full course details and up-to-date information visit www.nrc.ac.uk

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Courses Coleraine

Subject	Level	Duration
Health and Social Care	Level 3	2 Years
Information and Creative Technology	Level 2	1 Year
Interactive Media (Creative Media Practice)	Level 3	2 Years
IT/Computing	Level 3	2 Years
Music	Level 3	2 Years
Performing Arts	Level 3	2 Years
Sport and Exercise Science	Level 3	2 Years
Sport (Optional Irish FA specialism)	Level 3	2 Years
Travel and Tourism	Level 2	1 Year
Travel and Tourism	Level 3	2 Years
TV & Film (Creative Media Practice)	Level 3	2 Years

For full course details and up-to-date information visit www.nrc.ac.uk

Please note that due to ongoing major campus construction projects courses at Ballymena, Coleraine and Ballymoney may be relocated to alternative suitable locations as required.





Courses Magherafelt

Subject	Level	Duration
Access Diploma in Social Sciences (validated by Ulster University)	Level 3	1 Year
Access to Education	Level 2	1 Year
Aspire2Work	Inclusive Learning	1 Year
Barbering	Level 3	1 Year
Beauty Therapy - Massage	Level 3	1 Year
Beauty Therapy	Level 2	1 Year
Business	Level 3	2 Years
Carpentry & Joinery	Level 2 Traineeship	2 Years
Carpentry & Joinery (Bench)	Level 2/3 Apprenticeship	3 Years
Carpentry & Joinery (Site)	Level 2/3 Apprenticeship	3 Years
Children's Care, Learning and Development	Level 2	1 Year
Children's Care, Learning and Development	Level 3	2 Years
Civil Engineering	Level 3 Apprenticeship	3 Years
Construction and the Built Environment	Level 3	2 Years
Creative Media Practice	Level 3	2 Years

For full course details and up-to-date information visit www.nrc.ac.uk

Courses Magherafelt

Subject	Level	Duration
Early Years and Health Studies	Level 2	1 Year
Engineering	Level 2 Traineeship	2 Years
Engineering	Level 3	2 Years
Hairdressing	Level 2	2 Years
Health and Social Care	Level 2	1 Year
Health and Social Care	Level 3	2 Years
Information and Creative Technology	Level 2	1 Year
IT/Computing	Level 3	2 Years
Motor Vehicle	Level 2 Traineeship	2 Years
Public Services (Uniformed Protective Services)	Level 3	2 Years
Route2Work	Inclusive Learning	1 Year
Specialist Support For Teaching And Learning In Schools	Level 3	1 Year
Sport (optional Irish FA/GAA specialism)	Level 3	2 Years
Transition2College	Inclusive Learning	1 Year
Travel and Tourism	Level 3	2 Years
Work Ready	Inclusive Learning	1 Year

For full course details and up-to-date information visit www.nrc.ac.uk





Courses Newtownabbey

Subject	Level	Duration
Access Diploma in Social Sciences (validated by Ulster University)	Level 3	1 Year
Animal Care	Level 2	1 Year
Animal Management	Level 3	2 Years
Animation and Visual Effects (Creative Media Practice)	Level 3	2 Years
Applied Science	Level 2	1 Year
Applied Science (Analytical and Forensic Science)	Level 3	2 Years
Aspire2Work	Inclusive Learning	1 Year
Beauty Therapy - Massage	Level 3	1 Year
Beauty Therapy	Level 2	1 Year
Business	Level 2	1 Year
Business	Level 3	2 Years
Carpentry & Joinery	Level 2 Traineeship	2 Years

For full course details and up-to-date information visit www.nrc.ac.uk

Courses Newtownabbey

Subject	Level	Duration
Carpentry & Joinery (Bench)	Level 2/3 Apprenticeship	3 Years
Carpentry & Joinery (Site)	Level 2/3 Apprenticeship	3 Years
Children's Care, Learning and Development	Level 2	1 Year
Children's Care, Learning and Development	Level 3	1 Year
Children's Care, Learning and Development	Level 3	2 Years
College Connect	Level 1	1 Year
Creative Digital Media Production	Level 2	1 Year
Digital Games Development (Creative Media Practice)	Level 3	2 Years
Early Years and Health Studies	Level 2	1 Year
Electrical Installation	Level 3 Apprenticeship	5 Years
Engineering	Level 2 Traineeship	2 Years
Engineering	Level 2/3 Apprenticeship	3 Years

For full course details and up-to-date information visit www.nrc.ac.uk





Courses Newtownabbey

Subject	Level	Duration
Engineering	Level 3	2 Years
Hairdressing	Level 2/3 Apprenticeship	2 Years
Hairdressing	Level 2	2 Years
Hairdressing	Level 3	1 Year
Health and Social Care	Level 2	1 Year
Health and Social Care	Level 3	2 Years
Information and Creative Technology	Level 2	1 Year
Interactive Media (Creative Media Practice)	Level 3	2 Years
IT/Computing	Level 3	2 Years
Motor Vehicle	Level 2 Traineeship	2 Years
Motor Vehicle	Level 2/3 Apprenticeship	3 Years
Performing Arts	Level 2	1 Year

For full course details and up-to-date information visit www.nrc.ac.uk

Courses Newtownabbey

Subject	Level	Duration
Performing Arts Practice	Level 3	2 Years
Plumbing	Level 2 Traineeship	2 Years
Plumbing	Level 2/3 Apprenticeship	3 Years
Public Services (Uniformed Protective Services)	Level 3	2 Years
Route2Work	Inclusive Learning	1 Year
Specialist Support For Teaching and Learning In Schools	Level 3 Diploma	1 Year
Sport	Level 2	1 Year
Sport (optional Irish FA specialism)	Level 3	2 Years
Transition2College	Inclusive Learning	2 Years
Transition2Work	Inclusive Learning	1 Year
Travel and Tourism	Level 2	1 Year
Travel and Tourism	Level 3	2 Years
Work Ready	Inclusive Learning	1 Year

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Disclaimer

Whilst the College makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of this publication, it reserves the right to alter, add or remove any of the courses, or parts thereof, or any other matters of information referred to in this guide or any other literature, without prior notice.

Please note that the College's website is the most up-to-date source of information regarding courses and fees and we strongly recommend that you always visit the website before making any commitments.

All courses are subject to minimum enrolment numbers.

Equality Opportunity

If you require this document in an alternative format please contact equality@nrc.ac.uk

Northern Regional College is committed to the promotion of equality of opportunity in all of its activities. We aim to ensure that we provide a supportive, fair, inclusive and welcoming environment for all staff, students and visitors free from any form of discrimination or harassment.



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ApprenticeshipsNI is part-funded through the Northern Ireland European Social Fund Programme 2014 – 2020 and the Department for the Economy.



NORTHERN Regional College

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