



**NORTHERN**  
Regional College

**2023/24**  
Further Education &  
Work-Based Learning  
College Guide

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## Welcome

When you join Northern Regional College as a student, you will embark on a career journey of real meaningful value to you. The course of your choice, as listed in this guide, are all relevant to your chosen pathway, either into employment or to proceed with your ongoing journey in education.

Northern Regional College is the place for you to learn the skills and gain the qualifications which employers want. All of our lecturers have specialist expertise in their subject areas, and many continue to work as professionals in industry.

At Northern Regional College, we want you to succeed in your chosen course and in your future career. Our quality courses will help you to get on the best career path for you. No matter what subject or qualification you choose, your course will be geared towards helping you to strengthen your future career prospects.

Our careers advisors are here to provide you with advice about your career options and they will help you to identify which one of our courses will benefit you and your future. Our website gives you detailed information on all of our courses.

Whether you are a recent school leaver, or you are returning to study after time away, this guide presents you with the excellent opportunities across our six campuses.

I am looking forward to welcoming you as a student of Northern Regional College in September 2023, when you will join the College at an exciting period of transformation as work continues on our new state of the art campus redevelopment projects in Coleraine and Ballymena.

**Mel Higgins**  
Principal & Chief Executive



Coleraine

## Campus Development

The College has started its exciting £85 million capital investment, delivering new state of the art campuses in Coleraine and Ballymena. The projects, funded by the Department for the Economy will provide enhanced teaching and learning facilities to meet the needs of local employers and deliver our 10x Economy.

### Coleraine

Construction commenced in September 2021 for the

new, purpose-built campus on the existing (but extended) site at Union Street Coleraine and is due to open Spring 2024. This iconic building will link to the town centre via Anderson Park providing an innovation zone for flexible learning and cross curriculum projects. A student led 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 will also use the former St Patrick's Church Parish Centre as a stand-alone performing arts centre.

While the above is being finalised all course delivery is temporarily being accommodated at the former St Josephs School at Beresford Avenue.

### Ballymena

Construction commenced in July 2022 to rationalise our existing three buildings into one new modern campus on the existing Farm Lodge site. The new campus is due to complete by December 2024 and will link directly onto the new £6m, St

Patrick's Barracks Link Road. The new College as part of the wider St Patrick's site will help regenerate the Ballymena area and offer students and adults with life-long learning opportunities using innovative and collaborative technologies, delivered by first-class lecturers.

While the new Ballymena campus is being constructed, all course delivery will continue at the three locations, Farm Lodge, Trostan Avenue and Lamont Building.

Find out more at [www.nrc.ac.uk](http://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](mailto: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 8 February 2023

**4pm – 8pm**

### **Ballymoney**

Thursday 9 February 2023

**4pm – 8pm**

### **Coleraine**

Monday 6 February 2023

**4pm – 8pm**

### **Magherafelt**

Tuesday 7 February 2023

**4pm – 8pm**

### **Newtownabbey**

Wednesday 8 February 2023

**4pm – 8pm**

Full details available on our website.



## 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







## Facilities

### Library Services and Study Centres

There is a study centre located at each of our main campuses with access to printed and digital resources, computers, Wi-Fi and a range of study areas and facilities. A larger collection of print books is held at our central repository. These resources can be searched for and requested via the library's online discovery service.

Our digital resources can be accessed online 24/7 and include electronic books, online journal articles, popular magazines, 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 study centres and help you to find 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.



## Entrepreneurship Club

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. Through the Entrepreneurship Club you can explore the skills needed to bring your idea to fruition. You have the potential to start your learning journey as a student and complete as a business owner. You can also enhance your future prospects by attaining the Certificate in Entrepreneurship.

**For further details, contact**  
**[EntrepreneurshipClub@nrc.ac.uk](mailto:EntrepreneurshipClub@nrc.ac.uk)**







## Students' Union

*"Inspiring and empowering students to take charge of their education"*

All College students automatically become members of the Students' Union. The Students' 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 student led and is run by the Student President, 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:**

- ▶ elect yourself as a class representative and Student Officer
- ▶ have your voice heard across College through your class representative (if this isn't you)
- ▶ join or set up your own clubs and societies
- ▶ attend health and wellbeing workshops, activities and trips

“ 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. ”

**Amy Morrow**  
Student President



## 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 028 2563 6230  
or email  
[studentfinance@nrc.ac.uk](mailto: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 either 1 or 2 years, full-time depending on the vocational area of study

#### 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). Age restrictions are currently under review by the Department for the Economy. There may be additional entry requirements please check the 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

## 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 and in paid employment (at least 21 hours per week including College release). Age restrictions are currently under review by the Department for the Economy. There may be additional entry requirements please check the 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

Advanced **Techs** 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. Advanced **Techs** 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 at Level 2
- ▶ 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 take one or two years to complete on a full-time basis, depending on the vocational area of study. Trainees who achieve qualifications during their first year may progress earlier to an apprenticeship or further education.

## Apprenticeships

### What is an Apprenticeship?

Apprentice 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 (age restrictions are currently under review by the Department for the Economy).

### 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 4 or above). 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**
- ▷ **Architectural Technology**
- ▷ **Children's Care, Learning and Development**
- ▷ **Computing**
- ▷ **Construction**
- ▷ **Construction Engineering with Surveying**
- ▷ **Engineering**
- ▷ **Supply Chain & Logistics**

Full course details can be viewed online.



## Advice on how to secure an employer for 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 and follow us on social media to keep up-to-date with the latest apprenticeship vacancies.



## What is an Advanced Technical Award (AdvancedTech)?

Advanced**Techs** are new Level 3 (A-Level equivalent) vocational courses aimed at young people who have completed GCSEs. Launched in September 2021, Advanced**Techs** 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 Advanced**Tech** award brings together a number of key components that make up this new and exciting programme of learning. Advanced**Techs** 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 2023 entry.

Applications are made through our website

[www.nrc.ac.uk](http://www.nrc.ac.uk)

follow these steps:





## What Our Students Say

**Caitlin Allen**

Level 3 in Travel & Tourism



**Caitlin opted to do a vocational course instead of A-levels as she had struggled with the pressure of exams at school. She explains:**

*I could have stayed on at school to do A-levels, but felt I needed a break from the stress of exams. With the Level 3 BTEC Extended Diploma, the emphasis is on coursework and independent learning. It is a good preparation for university and, also a great option for anyone interested in travel and tourism as it gives an overview of the different careers in the sector.*



**Caitlin has since graduated with a BA (Hons) Festival and Event Management degree at Southampton Solent University. She has embarked on the next stage of her education and professional development journey and is studying a MSc degree in International Event Management at Ulster University.**

**Ciarrai Mulholland**

Level 2 and 3 in Health & Social Care



**Ciarrai was awarded a scholarship to do a Nursing degree at Stirling University. Having studied both Level 2 and 3 in Health & Social Care at the College, she explains why she wanted to study nursing:**

*I want to do an Adult Nursing degree at university and progress to do a Master's degree to specialise in something more specific. This is something I've wanted to do since completing my three placements during my time at the College. I knew that I wanted to work in healthcare but, the different placement helped me decide what my next route would be. I couldn't have completed the courses and progressed to university without the support of my lecturers who really helped me every step of the way to get the grades needed to succeed.*



## Molly Jamison

Level 3 in Performing Arts Practice

**Molly Jamison reflects on how she made the “best decision” by leaving school after her GCSEs to complete the Level 3 Performing Arts course. While she loved the academic side of school, she wanted to move somewhere where she would fit in:**



*That's exactly what I got at the College. Being on stage gives me confidence and makes me feel safe. The entire rehearsal process leading up to our end of year show was amazing and taught me so much I didn't know about acting. This allowed me to grow, not only as an actor but also as a person.*

*As the performance is recorded, I was to use clips for my showreel to send to casting agents, directors, and assistants. I am very thankful and grateful to have achieved what I wanted from the course and am excited to move forward.”*



**Molly is now doing a HNC in Performing Arts at the College's Newtownabbey campus.**

## Darrell Green

Level 2 Traineeship in Motor Vehicle

**Darrell, who works part-time with MB Auto Repairs, acknowledges that the traineeship certainly improved his employment prospects.**



*I love working with cars and the traineeship helped improve my skills and knowledge no end. I was surprised at how much we had to cover but the lecturers are very supportive.*

*I enjoyed my placement with MB Auto Repair and was fortunate to secure a job out of it. Being in the garage workshop helps me realise the relevance of the theory being taught in class which is always a good thing.*

*If you're like me and enjoy working with cars, I would certainly encourage you to try a traineeship. It could be your stepping stone to a successful career.*







**Lydia Fletcher**  
Level 3 in Information  
Technology/Computing

**From an early age, Lydia wanted to study computing and, after considering her options, decided to go down the vocational route rather than staying on at school.**



*I didn't want to do A-Levels because, although there were some computing options available at school, the subjects offered didn't include in-depth modules. The College's Level 3 Computing course covered a range of interesting topics. I graduated from the course feeling that I had a well-rounded knowledge for a career in IT or computing.*



**Lydia is currently an apprentice at PwC, studying for BEng degree in Software Engineering with Digital Technology at Queen's University, Belfast through the PwC Technology Degree Apprenticeship programme.**

**Karen Cassidy Panoviciu**  
Access Diploma in Social Sciences



*I had plenty of relevant work experience, but I realised that I would need accredited qualifications if I were to progress professionally. I knew a few people who had progressed to university to study nursing after completing the Access Diploma in Social Science at the College. When I investigated the options, I realised that I could apply to university if I successfully completed the one-year 'fast track' course as a full-time student.*

*I enjoyed everything about the course: the timing, the camaraderie with the other students, the variety of subjects covered, and the way they were taught.*



**Karen is now doing a Social Work degree at Ulster University, University Belfast.**

## Casey Doran

Level 3 Children's Care  
Learning and Development

**Casey decided to leave school and attend the College to study Level 3 Diploma in Children's Care Learning and Development, to pursue her goal of becoming a teacher.**

**Casey admitted that while it was a difficult decision to make, it was the right one for her.**



*Leaving my friends at school to start a new course at the College where I wouldn't know anyone in my class was difficult but, after looking at the content of the Level 3 Diploma and the different subjects I would be studying, I was excited. The placements supported my journey to becoming a teacher as they gave me a good insight into what it was like to work with different age groups. This helped me realise my favourite age range and decide what I wanted to focus on at university.*



**Casey has since progressed to Edge Hill University in Ormskirk to study Primary Early Years Education with Qualified Teacher Status. She hopes to work as an early year's teacher and after she graduates, intends to continue with her professional development to learn more about inclusion and special needs in education.**





**Amy Morrow**  
Level 3 TV & Film  
(Creative Media Practice)

**Amy, a former pupil of Coleraine Grammar School explains why she decided to study at the College:**



*I want to go university, but my school didn't offer any A level subjects that interested me, so I felt my best option was Northern Regional College," she said. "I've really enjoyed the responsibility of being involved in practical projects. Working together on projects has helped develop my communication, teamwork, and professional skills.*

*I would fully recommend this course. Anyone who is interested in creative media, tv and film will love it.*



**Amy's dream ambition is to become a TV or Film Producer.**





**Dylan McGaughey**  
Level 2 Traineeship  
in Engineering



*I wanted to further my knowledge and get hands-on experience of my favourite subject, Engineering, so I decided to enrol on the Level 2 Traineeship in Engineering course at the College. I have thoroughly enjoyed the practical activities during class such as welding and bench fitting and have really valued the work placement element of the course. I have learnt so much and have loved the opportunity to put all of my theory and experience into practice during my work placement at CFF Engineering in Ballymoney.*



**Dylan plans to go to university and study a Degree in Engineering.**

**Emmet McAllister**  
Electrical Installation  
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,**



*Northern Regional College was the best place to learn how to do this. 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.*



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All courses are subject to minimum enrolment numbers.

### Equality Opportunity

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**Apprenticeships**



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