



Blackpool FC Sports College

Prospectus

Community Trust Overview

Blackpool FC Community Trust (BFCCT) is the official charity of Blackpool FC, based at Bloomfield Road Stadium. Working with residents as young as two years old up to adults in the later stages of life, BFCCT provide a diverse range of programmes to increase social inclusion opportunities; improve physical fitness, health, and education; and lessen involvement in anti-social behaviour.

Many of the initiatives we deliver are directly funded through partner organisations and grant-awarding bodies. Some of these include The Premier League; the EFL Trust; The PFA; Sport England; Big Lottery; The Football Foundation; NHS Blackpool CCG and Blackpool Council to name a few. BFCCT constantly evolves to support local need and by linking with local partners we can increase our impact on the town.

Working with so many organisations has allowed us to become a vital strategic partner in activity provision across Blackpool and the Fylde Coast. In addition to the wealth of programmes out in the community and local schools, BFCCT provide several education opportunities on site. These include an alternative to main-stream schooling for Year 10 and 11 students Blackpool FC School, as well as full-time education offers as part of Blackpool FC Sports College. Studying at Blackpool FC Sports College gives students the unique opportunity to learn within the largest sports organisation in Blackpool. This means students can speak to, and gain experience from, professionals currently working in the sport, fitness, and leisure sector.

In recent years, BFCCT has grown into a well-established organisation, providing something for everybody, that every Blackpool FC fan and resident should be involved with and very proud of.

Please follow the progress of BFCCT and get involved where you can.



Sports College Overview

Blackpool FC Community Trust have been delivering education programmes since 2013. Our students achieve exceptional grades and secure the best progression into Higher Education and employment. To deliver these high levels of achievement, we focus on constantly providing outstanding teaching, exceptional pastoral support and opportunities to develop key life skills.

Our full time education offer, that now operates under the name Blackpool FC Sports College, includes BTEC Education, and Foundation and Top Up Degree courses for anybody looking to take the steps to progress into a higher level of education and employment in sport.

Our courses give students the chance to develop academically and socially, giving them the knowledge, skills and experience to succeed in their chosen career. Studying with us can lead to a wide variety of career opportunities from Teaching, Sports Coaching and Fitness Instructing to becoming a Sports Nutritionist or a Therapist.

Studying at Blackpool FC Sports College gives students the unique opportunity to learn within the largest sports organisation in Blackpool. Allowing students to speak to, and gain experience from professionals already working in the sport, fitness, and leisure sector.

We care about our students' future and pride ourselves on providing a safe and stimulating environment to learn. We have strong partnerships with local employers and organisations, and this is embedded into college life to ensure all students gain the experience required to progress onto the next level course or into employment.

As you explore our prospectus, you will see the level of passion and commitment we bring to all aspects of College life. We hope you will decide to become a part of our Sports College, and in doing so, create your own outstanding experiences and achievements to shape your future.

It doesn't matter what qualifications you have – we have a course for you...

Supported by:



 **100%**

of our students achieved or surpassed their target grade

97%
of our BTEC students achieved a Sport qualification

368
extracurricular activity sessions delivered throughout the year

 **132** life skills tutorials delivered each year

 **100%**
of our graduates progressed into further education or paid work

BFCCT have employed almost **70%** of our degree graduates 

BTEC Level 2

Sports Industry Skills (Leading Children's Sports Activities)

This qualification is for you if you want to start a career in leisure, working as a children's sports activities leader.

This one-year course will enable you to gain insight into the National Curriculum framework for Physical Education, school sport and the skills and qualities to become a successful sports leader. Recognised by the professional development body for the UK's sport and physical activity sector, the Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA), the qualification allows you to apply for CIMSPA membership.

The course incorporates theory lessons and coaching workshops, designed to further develop your ability to plan and deliver engaging coaching sessions.

Next steps:

- Continue onto a Level 3 Sports course
- Take up employment in the leisure industry

Enrolment onto our BTEC Level 2 or BTEC Level 3 courses will depend on your achievements at GCSE.



Entry requirements

- 16 - 18 years of age
- Strong interest in sport
- Willingness to learn
- Successful interview

Modules

- Working in the Sport and Active Leisure Industry
- Physical Education and Sport in School and Community Settings
- Sports Leadership
- Working as a Sports Leader

Assessment methods

- Posters / leaflets
- Presentations
- Written reports
- Planning and leading Sports activities
- Practical assessments



"Learners describe their study programme as challenging, brilliant, refreshing, inclusive, and offering new opportunities."
- Quality visit (2022)

BTEC Level 3

Diploma or Extended Diploma in Sports Coaching and Development

Delivered over two years, this course is designed to be in line with current industry practice.

Recognised by the professional development body for the UK's sport and physical activity sector, the Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA), the qualification allows you to apply for CIMSPA membership and is recognised by employers for entry roles such as a multi-skills sports coach.

Throughout the course, you will have the opportunity to work alongside and learn from qualified coaches and staff in various sectors of the sports industry including exclusive access to the wide range of Blackpool FC Community Trust programmes.

Next steps:

This qualification provides you with the skills and knowledge to continue into higher education courses related to sports coaching, sports development, sports management, and PE teaching (view our degree opportunities on page 20).

Career opportunities through studying this course include sports coaching, sport development co-ordinator and more specialised roles such as a PE teacher, physiotherapist, personal trainer, sports business, and event management.

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Entry requirements

- 4 GCSE's (Grade 4 and above)
 - Successful interview
- OR**
- Level 2 BTEC Sport qualification

Modules in year one

- Careers in the Sport and Active Leisure Industry
- Developing Coaching Skills
- Health, Wellbeing and Sport

Modules in year two

- Applied Coaching Skills
- Sports Development
- Organising Events in Sports and Physical Activities
- Self-Employment in Sport

Additional extended units

- Research Project in Sport
- Sports Psychology
- Technical and Tactical Skills in Sport
- Fitness Training
- Fitness Testing

Assessment methods

- Academic posters / leaflets
- Presentations
- Written reports
- Portfolios
- Practical assessments

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Pick an Enrichment Pathway

1 Sports Coaching

Blackpool FC Sports College offers a dynamic sports coaching pathway that provides you with exceptional opportunities to develop your coaching skills and knowledge. With a focus on practical experience and theoretical understanding, our pathway equips aspiring coaches with the tools and expertise needed to succeed in the sports industry.

Here are some of the exciting opportunities available on our sports coaching pathway:

- **Practical training**
Our pathway emphasises hands-on experience, allowing you to gain practical coaching skills through regular training sessions, workshops, and placement opportunities.
- **Observation and analysis**
You will have the chance to observe professional coaching sessions and matches, honing your ability to analyse performance, tactics, and strategies.
- **Specialised workshops**
We organise specialised workshops on topics such as coaching methodologies, sports psychology, injury prevention, and athlete development, providing you with a well-rounded coaching education.
- **Guest lectures**
Renowned guest speakers from the sports industry will deliver inspiring lectures, sharing their experiences and insights into the coaching profession.
- **Expert coaching staff**
You will be mentored by highly qualified and experienced coaches who possess a wealth of knowledge in various sports disciplines.



- **Coaching qualifications**
Our pathway offers opportunities for you to gain coaching qualifications, such as FA coaching badges, enhancing your credibility and employability.
- **Placement opportunities**
We have established partnerships with local sports clubs, academies, and organisations, providing you with valuable placement opportunities to apply your skills in real-world settings.
- **Networking**
You will have the chance to connect with professionals in the sports industry, fostering valuable networks and potential mentoring opportunities during and after your education with us.
- **Career guidance**
Our dedicated staff offer career guidance and support, helping you to explore various career paths within sports coaching, whether it's in grassroots development, professional academies, or performance coaching at elite levels.



At Blackpool FC Sports College, we are committed to nurturing the next generation of sports coaches, providing them with a comprehensive pathway that blends practical experience, theoretical knowledge, and valuable industry connections. Through our sports coaching pathway, you will be equipped with the skills and confidence to make a significant impact in the dynamic world of sports coaching.

Pick an Enrichment Pathway

2 Football Academy

Blackpool FC Sports College offers an exceptional football pathway designed to provide you with a comprehensive and enriching experience. With a focus on both academic excellence and football development, our pathway offers numerous opportunities for you to enhance your football performance.

On this pathway, you can benefit from the following:

- **Professional coaching**
You will receive coaching from experienced Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) qualified professionals who have a deep understanding of the game and a passion for nurturing talent.
- **Competitive fixtures**
You will have the chance to represent BFCCT in football fixtures against other professional football clubs, such as Manchester City, Everton and more, allowing you to test your skills and gain valuable match experience.
- **Individual development**
Our pathway focuses on the personal growth of each student, helping you enhance your technical abilities, tactical understanding, and physical fitness through personalised training programmes.
- **Scholarships**
Exceptional students on our football pathway may have the opportunity to earn scholarships, which can provide financial support and open doors to further educational and footballing opportunities.
- **Guest speakers and workshops**
We organise regular guest speaker sessions and workshops with industry professionals, providing you with insights, guidance, and inspiration to pursue your chosen career.
- **Career guidance**
Our dedicated staff offer career guidance and support to help you explore various career options within the football industry, whether as players, coaches, or fitness professionals.



At Blackpool FC Sports College, we strive to provide a comprehensive football pathway that combines excellence in education and sport, empowering our students to reach their full potential on and off the pitch.

BTEC Level 2

Esports

This qualification is aimed at students who are looking to progress into employment in the Esports industry. The qualification is endorsed by the British Esports Association as being suitable for students wanting to work in the industry.

Delivered at Bloomfield Road Stadium, this one-year full-time course emphasises the development of skills needed to be successful in the Esports industry, including entrepreneurship, innovation, teamwork, communication, leadership skills, confidence building, decision-making, reaction times, reading comprehension skills, cyber skills, dexterity, and concentration.

This engaging and stimulating qualification will prepare students for successful performance in working life, and progression into employment, by developing a range of essential skills, techniques, and attitudes.

This qualification provides an extensive study of the sector, supporting progression to Level 3 qualifications and employment in key areas of the industry. Studying Esports can lead to a range of careers, not only within Esports but also across the technical, digital and STEM industries.

Studying three to four days per week learning will be a mixture of theory and practical lessons alongside six hours of gaming as part of the course enrichment programme.

You can re-sit GCSE Maths and English alongside this course.

Supported by:



Entry requirements

- 16 - 18 years of age
- Strong interest in Esport
- Successful interview
- Willingness to learn
- Minimum of three GCSE subjects at Grade 3
- Pass/Merit in a relevant Level 1

Modules

- Esports Games, Teams and Tournaments
- Establishing an Esports Organisation
- Streaming for Esports
- Plan for an Esports Enterprise
- Start an Enterprise in Esports
- Positive Health and Well-being in Esports

Assessment methods

- Written reports
- Presentations
- Practical assessments
- Audio reflections



SCAN ME

BTEC Level 3

Esports, Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

Delivered at Bloomfield Road Stadium, studying full-time, this two-year course provides an in-depth study of the sector, supporting progression to Higher Education and employment in key areas of the industry such as:

- Business and Enterprise
- Finance, Marketing
- Entrepreneurship
- Coaching, Analysis
- Events Management
- Shoutcasting
- Video Production
- Live-Streamed Broadcasting
- Digital and STEM industries

You will also develop core employability skills such as teamwork, communication, leadership skills, confidence building, decision-making, reaction times, reading comprehension skills, cyber skills, and concentration.

We have facilities that are tailored to the development of Esport, enterprise and entrepreneurship including a dedicated games room along with a classroom environment that provides a unique experience for you to truly get a feel for business expectations within the industry.



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Entry requirements

- A keen interest and willingness to be involved in the Esports, Enterprise and Entrepreneurship industries.
- Five GCSEs at grade 4 or above including English and Maths or Level 2 Esports plus GCSE English at grade 3 or above.
- You will be required to undertake a Disclosure and Barring Services check along with Initial Assessments in Literacy and Numeracy.

Modules

- Introduction to Esports
- Enterprise and Entrepreneurship
- Esports Skills, Strategy and Analysis
- Health, Wellbeing and Fitness for Esports Players
- Esports Events
- Live-streamed Broadcasting
- Business Applications of Esports in Social Media
- Shoutcasting
- Esports Coaching

Assessment methods

- Written reports
- Presentations
- Practical assessments
- Audio reflections

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SCAN ME

Esports Enrichment Pathway

Competitive Gaming

Blackpool FC Sports College offers an exciting Competitive Gaming pathway designed to provide you with a variety of opportunities to further develop your skills and enhance learning.

Here are some of the exciting opportunities available on our sports coaching pathway:

- **Event management**
Work with our staff to plan and deliver Esports events across local schools to develop and apply your skills and increase your understanding of Esports events.
- **Training sessions**
Immerse yourself in training sessions led by staff and peers. Learn new strategies, enhance your teamwork, and sharpen your skills. These sessions aim to bring out the best in each player.
- **Fixtures and competitions**
You will take part in weekly fixtures against other Esport teams as well as compete in the British Esports Student Champs in games such as Rocket League, Overwatch 2, League of Legends and Valorant.



Enrichment Curriculum

Educational Trips and Additional Qualifications

Alongside your college course, there are a range of trips and team-building activities. These trips will improve your life skills, confidence, and resilience making you more employable for the future.

Every year, students are given the opportunity to participate in an international trip, allowing them to immerse themselves in diverse environments and cultures whilst engaging in sports and competition.

At Blackpool FC Sports College we pride ourselves on ensuring that all students develop with us, both academically and socially, to become confident individuals that are ready for the future.

Work Experience

As a student on a vocational course, we will encourage you to gain as much coaching and delivery experience as possible by embedding work experience into the programme.

Studying with us provides you with exclusive work experience opportunities in a choice of over 40 different programmes delivered by Blackpool FC Community Trust. Working within a team of qualified staff at Blackpool FC Community Trust you will gain experience across sport, health, physical activity, and community-based programmes which provide you with wide ranging knowledge of how sport can be a vehicle to improve physical and mental wellbeing.

Working with people of all ages across Blackpool and the Fylde Coast, there is no better place to gain a wealth of experience in local schools and communities, as well as build a network of contacts to help you further your career in sport.



Gain Industry Recognised Qualifications

Whilst studying you will be enrolled onto the V100 programme. Our V100 programme is available exclusively to our students and allows you to log your work experience/volunteering hours with Blackpool FC Community Trust and exchange them towards industry recognised qualifications.

Before volunteering you will be provided with training on topics such as safeguarding, behaviour management and inclusion to prepare you for your placement.

Every 100 hours of volunteering can be spent on qualifications such as FA Level 1, FA referee course, 1st4Sport or other National Governing Body coaching qualifications, meaning you will leave our college equipped with the right qualifications to pursue a career in sport.

Integration with Blackpool FC

Being based within Bloomfield Road Stadium provides the unique opportunity of working in partnership with Blackpool FC. Throughout the year you will have the opportunity to engage with professional players, managers, and coaches, providing you with insight into the professional game. Furthermore, you will gain awareness of the careers you could pursue such as sports nutritionist, sport injury and rehabilitation, as well as behind the scenes roles such as journalism and sport and business management.



Study for a Degree with us

Accredited by the University of South Wales (USW), our students can study locally in Blackpool while still having access to the full USW online library and virtual learning environment known as Blackboard. Your lectures will be produced by USW staff, which you will watch remotely at Blackpool FC Sports College supported by a degree tutor, who will advise and guide you throughout your studies.

As part of studying your degree with us, you will spend seven days per year at the USW Sports Park, experiencing their £15m state of the art coaching and performance development centre with accommodation provided.

The degree programme will require you to complete two full days of study in the classroom as well as four to eight hours per week of work placements in year one, and seven to 14 hours per week in year two. This will be organised by your degree tutor and will include being in settings such as schools, local sports clubs, in the community or at formal club events.

With two subjects available, studying a degree with us could lead to a variety of careers such as PE Teaching (Primary & Secondary), Event Management, School Sport Coordinator, Social Inclusion Officer, Football Development Officer, Community Football Coach, or Sports Development Officer for a National Governing Body to name a few.

The benefits of a degree far outweigh the cost - from better career opportunities to skills and experiences you will have for life. No eligible student must pay tuition fees upfront. Eligible students take out a tuition fee loan which doesn't have to be paid until after you graduate and earn a minimum annual salary outlined by the Government. Once finance is arranged, the Student Loans Company (SLC) will pay the fees directly to the University. You can also apply for a maintenance loan to support personal finances throughout your studies, and this is paid directly to you.

You will receive more information on how to arrange finance when you apply for the course.

Supported by:

University
of South
Wales

Foundation Degree

Sports Coaching & Development

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| Duration 2 year course | Equivalent to Foundation Degree | Requirements DD (or above) at A Level to include PE but exclude General Studies or BTEC Diploma (Merit/Pass) in relevant subject. |
|----------------------------------|---|---|

Modules in year one

- Academic Research and Study Skills
- Introduction to Sports Coaching
- Introduction to Sports Science for Coaching
- Introduction to Sports Development
- Managing Sport
- Sports Development in Practice

Modules in year two

- Project Operations Management
- Community Sports Development
- PE and Community School Sport
- Sports Coaching and Leadership
- Sport Placement (double module)

Qualification can lead to
BSc Hons Sports Coaching and Development (1 year top up)

Community Football Coaching & Development

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Duration 2 year course | Equivalent to Foundation Degree | Requirements DD (or above) at A Level to include PE but exclude General Studies or BTEC Diploma (Merit/Pass) in relevant subject and Level 1 Football Coaching |
|----------------------------------|---|--|

Modules in year one

- Football Event Management
- Academic Research and Study Skills
- Introduction to Sports Science for Coaching
- Introduction to Sport Development
- Football Coaching: Theory to Practice
- Technical Planning and Reflective Practice in Football

Modules in year two

- Football in Society
- Project Operations Management
- Youth Football Coaching
- PE and Community School Sport
- Sport Placement (double module)

Qualification can lead to
BSc Hons in Community Football Coaching and Administration (1 year top up)

Top Up Degree

The Top Up course compliments your foundation degree to become a full undergraduate bachelors student within an associated area of study.

You will undertake your studies at Blackpool FC Sports College while being supported by an experienced degree tutor.

As part of the course you will:

- Attend three residential study visits at the world leading USW Sport Park
- Undertake work-based learning (seven - 14 hours per week)
- Spend an average of 12 hours per week viewing module content, complimented by 10 - 15 hours a week of further or directed study.

“Blackpool FC Sports College presented me with experiences such as becoming captain of the Futsal A Team and playing at St George’s Park, home of the England National Futsal Team, in the EFL Allstars.”

- Luke McNaughton



Sports Coaching & Development

Duration
1 year course

Equivalent to
BSc Honours Degree

Requirements
Related Foundation Degree or equivalent and a DBS check

Modules you will study

- Creatively Teaching Physical Education, Health and Wellbeing
- Critical Issues in Sports Coaching and Leadership
- Strategic Sports Development
- Leadership in Sport
- Applied Professional Project (double module)

Qualification can lead to

Based on your placements and interests you could gain a career as a Sports Coach, PE Teacher, Sports Journalist, Physiotherapy & Sports Administration.

Community Football Coaching & Administration

Duration
1 year course

Equivalent to
BSc Honours Degree

Requirements
Related Foundation Degree or equivalent and a DBS check

Modules you will study

- Community Football Coaching: Theory to Practice
- Critical Issues in Sports Coaching and Leadership
- Business of Football
- Strategic Sports Development
- Applied Professional Project (double module)

Qualification can lead to

Based on your placements and interests you could gain a career as a Community Football Coach, Football Development Officer, PE Teacher and Academy Coach



Robert Mellor

Studied with us:

- BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport
- Foundation Degree in Sports Coaching & Development

Career

Rob is a full time Sports Development Officer with Blackpool FC Community Trust, working on Tiny Tangerines and our primary school provision. Rob also coaches at the Football Camps every half term. After completing his UEFA C coaching award he was offered a paid role coaching Blackpool FC's pre-academy with the opportunity to support main academy training too!

"The Degree with Blackpool FC Sports College so far has been very beneficial for me. The variety of assignments has developed my academic ability and challenged me. I have been given plenty of opportunities to enhance my coaching skills. I have been given ample opportunity to showcase my skills in the work field and the support received throughout is second to none."



Demi-Leigh Faulkner

Studied with us:

- BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sports Coaching & Development
- Foundation Degree in Sports Coaching & Development

Career

Alongside studying her degree, Demi is also a casual paid member of staff with Blackpool FC Community Trust working on both Tiny Tangerines and Football Camps during every half term.

"Since joining the college, my confidence has grown and I now feel comfortable leading a session. I can engage with children of all ages, from different backgrounds and help them to enjoy sessions."

"I have developed in many ways through my mentoring to become a better coach and through coaching qualifications such as my Multi Skills Level 2 which the college helped pay for."



Lizzy Bradley

Studied with us:

- First Class Honours Degree in Sports Coaching & Development

Career

Lizzy's journey progressed when she became part of the Premier League Wildcats programme. Fuelled by her experiences and driven by her desire to make a lasting impact, she has set her sights on a new goal: becoming a teacher. With new aspirations and help from her degree tutor, Lizzy has laid out a path to achieve her dream by pursuing a postgraduate certificate in education (PGCE).

"Blackpool FC Sports College has not only allowed me to achieve a first class honours degree through the support from my tutor and the resources available within a professional football club setting."

"But, I've been able to develop skills and attributes through an abundance of opportunities which I will use in all future aspects of life."



Luke McNaughton

Studied with us:

- BTEC Level 2 & 3 Extended Diploma in Sports Coaching & Development
- BSc Degree in Community Football Coaching, Development & Administration

Career

Luke has been employed full time with Blackpool FC Community Trust since completing his degree. He started as part of the Premier League Kicks team and has moved into a role within Champions. Luke mentors individuals who are at risk of committing or are already involved in crime, creating a positive environment for them to excel and be the best they can.

"I was supported by highly skilled tutors whose guidance allowed me to develop professionally and academically, which shaped me into the coach I am today."

"My tutors encouraged me to thrive within the classroom and within my coaching practice."

FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I get a training kit?

You will receive your Blackpool FC kit during induction week at college. This is FREE of charge and you are expected to wear the kit for football specific training sessions, match days and/or coaching placements.

Can I apply for a bursary?

Yes, you have the opportunity to apply for a bursary. This is means tested and depends on household income. Bursaries help with transport and meals whilst at college. For more information and documentation, please speak to a member of staff.

What course will I study?

This all depends on your GCSE results and if you have studied BTEC Level 2 Sport at school. The tutors will be able to confirm your course at enrolment.

Can I study English and Maths at college?

If you did not achieve a grade 4 or above in your English and Maths GCSE, you will re-sit these subjects alongside your BTEC Sports Course right here at Bloomfield Road Stadium. GCSE and Functional Skills will be delivered where required to enable you to gain these highly valuable qualifications.

What's the difference between a diploma and extended diploma in sport (Level 3)?

There are two available BTEC Level 3 courses. On diploma, you will study seven units across the two academic years and you will study 12 units on the extended diploma. Your course of study will be determined by GCSE grades, work ethic and level of commitment to college.

Do we get to compete in fixtures?

You will have the chance to represent Blackpool FC in competitive fixtures and tournaments on a weekly basis with other professional clubs throughout the country.

Is it the same as other colleges in the local area?

We offer the same BTEC education course as all other colleges. You will leave with an accredited recognised qualification in the sports industry to progress onto University or employment.

What makes Blackpool FC Sports College unique?

We are situated at Bloomfield Road, the home of Blackpool FC. Learning within a working sports organisation presents you with the chance to observe operations within the Club, Academy, and the Community Trust, through valuable work experience and potential employment across various sectors. You can speak to, and learn from, current professionals working in the sport, fitness, and leisure industry. We take pride in elevating your learning experience by providing unique opportunities not found elsewhere.

Where will my qualification take me?

- University – either our own Foundation Degree or other universities in the country
- Careers in different sectors of the sports and active leisure industry
- Scholarships to America
- Progress from Level 2 to Level 3 BTEC course
- Part-time / full time employment opportunities

Will I be able to work whilst at college/university?

BTEC courses are full time Monday – Friday. Weekend work could be an option for you. Degree courses are two days a week, face to face delivery with tutors. Part time work could be an option. However, we have had learners on the Degree, who are working full time and arrange drop-in sessions with their tutor instead.

**SIGN UP
NOW**

