It’s never too late to go into higher education!

Kelly Self – Project Coordinator
k.self@shu.ac.uk
www.hepp.ac.uk
@Hepp.YES
Who are Higher Education Progression Partnership (Hepp)

Hepp ....

• provide impartial advice and guidance about higher education
• work with all schools across the Sheffield City Region
• encourage more children, young people and adults to consider higher education opportunities
• are jointly funded by Sheffield Hallam University and The University of Sheffield, who are here with me today
Who we are!

Hepp

Kelly Self - Project Coordinator
W:  www.hepp.ac.uk  E:  k.self@shu.ac.uk  M: 07824 431415

The University of Sheffield – Department for Lifelong Learning (DLL)

Helen Roy – Marketing and External Relations Manager
W:  www.sheffield.ac.uk/dll  E:  dllapply@sheffield.ac.uk  T: 0114 222 7000

Sheffield Hallam University

Belle Fletcher – Senior Schools and Colleges Engagement Officer
W:  www.shu.ac.uk/sclo  E:  sclo@shu.ac.uk
Today’s Session

As a partnership we deliver sessions to colleagues working in organisations who support mature students

The session covers:

• Routes into higher education
• The support available at higher education institutions
• Student finance
• How you can support adults think about higher education
The Hepp Hub: www.hepp.ac.uk

- has a lot of useful information/resources about higher education

- provides a number of links to organisations who can help support you in your journey to higher education

- hosts specific information for students with disabilities, young carers, care experienced and mature students
Resources

• Video Clips of Mature Students

• Case Studies of Mature Students

• Higher Education as a Mature Student Booklet

• HeppHUB Mature Students

• Parent/Carer and Supporter Newsletter
Levels of Higher Education

Bachelor Degree (3-4 years full-time) & Degree Apprenticeships

HND and Foundation Degree (two years full-time) & Apprenticeships

HNC (one year full-time) & Apprenticeships

Access to HE & Apprenticeships

Level 6 Degree

Level 5

Level 4

Level 3
There are many routes into higher education – this is a brief overview. The best route for you will depend on your personal circumstances and the higher education provider. For more information please visit www.ucas.com or contact the institution you want to go to.

**Foundation Degree**
These are based around academic and workplace learning. They take two years to complete (full-time) and can often be topped up with a third year to gain a full Bachelor’s degree. Some courses will accept work experience for entry rather than academic qualifications.

**Degree**
The Bachelor’s degree is the most well-known higher education qualification. You focus on one (or sometimes two) specific subjects. They usually take 3-4 years to complete (or 4 years if you have a placement, year in industry or year abroad).

**Higher/Degree Apprenticeships**
These combine work with part-time study and can therefore take 3-6 years to complete. You apply for them like a job and your employer pays your tuition fees as well as a salary.

**HNC/HND**
These are vocational undergraduate courses available at further and higher education colleges. The HNC is roughly equivalent to the first year of a degree, and the HND to the first two years.

**Access Course**
This is the most common route into higher education for mature students (along with Foundation Year). It is a one-year intensive program which can be taken part-time. Entry requirements can vary from needing no previous qualifications to needing GCSEs in Maths and/or English. Some degrees will require a specific course/subjects.

**Foundation Year**
This introductory year at university is often integrated into a degree course, providing essential preparation and progression into a relevant degree if completed successfully.

**A Levels**
These are the most traditional route into higher education for younger students, where you study 3-4 subjects in detail. Some degrees will require specific subjects.

**BTEC/NVQ**
These are a combination of practical learning and academic study. Like A Levels, they are the most common route into higher education for 16-18-year-olds. Not all universities accept them as qualifications, however, so check with your preferred institution.
Higher Education at Local Colleges

**Northern College**

**Level 3**
- Access to HE – Health Science Professions
- Access to HE – Humanities and Social Sciences
- Access to HE – Criminology and Criminal Justice
- Diploma in Counselling
- Certificate in Counselling

**Level 4, 5, 6 and 7 (through University of Huddersfield)**
- Level 4 & 5 - Certificate in Education
- Level 6 – BA (Hons) Education and Professional Development
- Level 7 – PGCE Lifelong Learning

**Sheffield College**

**Level 3 – Access to HE & Apprenticeships**
- Access Policing
- Access Humanities
- Access Nursing

**Level 4 – HNC**
- Computing
- Business

**Level 5 – HND**
- HND - Media & Make-up
- HND - Hair Artistry

**Level 5 – Foundation Degree**
- Bakery & Patisserie Technology
- Photography
- Games Development

**Level 6 – Bachelor Degree & Degree Apprenticeship**
- BA Creative Practice: Graphic Design (Top-up)
- BA Music Performance & Production (Top-up)

**RNN Group**

**Level 3**
- Access to HE – Science

**Level 4**
- HNC – General Engineering
- Level 4 Apprenticeship Manufacturing Technician

**Level 5**
- Foundation Degree – Hospitality and Tourism
- HND – Mechanical Engineering
- Level 5 Apprenticeship – HR Consultant

**Level 6**
- Bachelors – BA Business and Management
- Degree Apprenticeship – BSc Chartered Management Degree
What is a degree with a foundation year?

• Full degree with initial introductory (foundation) year

• Some focus on subject knowledge, but also academic skills and confidence building

• Available across a wide range of degree courses

• Study alongside other mature students

• Traditional entry qualifications not required

• Key requirements: life experience, work experience, passion/interest in your chosen subject
Department for Lifelong Learning at The University of Sheffield

Degrees with a foundation year

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<tr>
<th>Social Sciences</th>
<th>Science and Health</th>
<th>Arts and Humanities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Applied Social Sciences</td>
<td>• Biology</td>
<td>• Chines Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Business Management</td>
<td>• Biomedical Science</td>
<td>• East Asian Studies</td>
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<td>• Education, Culture and Childhood</td>
<td>• Environmental Science</td>
<td>• English Language and Linguistics</td>
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<td>• Geography and Planning</td>
<td>• Orthoptics</td>
<td>• English Literature</td>
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<td>• International Relations and Politics</td>
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<td>• Speech and Language Therapy</td>
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<td>• Quantitative Social Science</td>
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<td>• Philosophy</td>
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<td>• Sociology</td>
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<td>• Philosophy, Religion and Ethics</td>
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<td>• Urban Studies</td>
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<td>• Urban Studies and Planning</td>
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Visit [www.sheffield.ac.uk/dll/courses](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/dll/courses) for the most up to date list
Mature Students at Sheffield Hallam University

**Full time courses**
- Over 500 to choose from
- Usually 3 - 4 years
- Huge range of subjects available
- 8 - 20 hours a week dependent on the course
- Placement opportunities

**Part time courses**
- More than 140 courses with a part-time route
- Around 6 years to complete
- Suitable for students who also work
- Placement Opportunities

**Foundation / Top up courses**
- Academic equivalent of two-thirds of a UG degree
- Not the same as a foundation year
- Top up a foundation, HND or other qualification to a UG degree
- Top ups available in 11 subject areas
- 1 - 2 years

**Degree Apprenticeships**
- Earn while you learn
- Usually 4 - 5 years
- Same qualification on completion
- Available in 9 industry areas
- 80% work based, 20% university based
Support

Every institution has varied levels of support, e.g.

• Tutors – Personal/Academic
• Student Support / Accommodation / Finance
• Study Skills / Mentoring Scheme
• Disability Support Services/Wellbeing/Counselling
• University Health Service
• Students’ Union
Some of the support available is the same for all students. However, some aspects of the funding package may differ slightly based on student age / family situation.

Things that are **always the same** regardless of the age of student include :-

- Tuition Fee Loan (non means tested loan of up to £9,250)
- Disabled Student Allowance (additional support package based on individual student need)
- NHS Support (based on course, not student situation)
- Loan Repayment (rules are based on Plan 1, 2 or 3 rules)

Things that **may be different** for mature learners include :-

- Maintenance Loan (standard or eligible for benefits?)
- Evidence Requirements (partner/spouse income instead of parental income?)
- Dependants Grants (mature students more likely to have children and/or caring responsibilities)
Paying your student loan back

- You only start repaying in the April after you finish your course
- You only repay when you earn more than the threshold figure – currently £27,295 per year
- Repayments are taken directly out of your wages
- You repay 9% of your earnings over this amount
- Any unpaid loan is written off after 30 years
<table>
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Myth Busting

“I am too old”
  • Higher Education Institutions are for students 18+
  • Classes will have a range of age groups
  • Work/life experience are viewed positively by H.E institutions

“I don’t know what to study”
  • There are so many routes and options available, it is always best to ask the institution you are looking at attending. Find out what your options are and what they offer.

“I can’t afford higher education”
  • It is affordable – by disclosing the students financial situation it will help to provide them with financial support that they are eligible for

“I have forgotten how to study”
  • There are study groups for mature students
  • Institutions provide study skills support – e.g helping with essay writing, taking notes
How you can support a Mature Student

• Talk to them about their interests/goals
• Find out what qualifications they already have
• Help them to look at their options
• Encourage them to look at education whatever level
• Encourage them to research
• Explain that there are lots of options open to them and if in doubt ask
• Visit institutions

Contact:
Higher Education Progression Partnership to ask any questions you/they have
hepp@shu.ac.uk
Contacts

Websites:
Higher Education Progression Partnership: www.hepp.ac.uk
TUoS, The Department for Lifelong Learning: www.sheffield.ac.uk/dll
Sheffield Hallam University: https://www.shu.ac.uk/current-students/student-support/mature-students
https://www.shu.ac.uk/current-students/student-support/care-leavers/shu-progress

Emails:
Higher Education Progression Partnership: k.self@shu.ac.uk
TUoS, The Department for Lifelong Learning: dllapply@sheffield.ac.uk
Sheffield Hallam University: sclo@shu.ac.uk