PROSPECTUS
2019-20
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Welcome from the Principal

Newbattle Abbey College offers adults of all ages the opportunity to enjoy a high quality learning experience within an historic heritage site. We are a residential college and our motto is ‘Sero Sed Serio’ (Late but in Earnest). This describes our students, most of whom are over 18 years of age, who are returning to education after varied life experiences. We also work with young people at points of transition in school or in the community.

Taking the first steps back to education can be daunting but we offer a range of support from experienced and committed staff. We are a small college and have developed a strong community environment over the past 80 years. Students gain confidence in tutorial groups and get to know all of their tutors very well. For many people, studying at Newbattle has been a life-changing experience.

The college is set in 125 acres of beautiful parkland and ancient woodland, just outside Edinburgh. Our historic 16th century building and peaceful surroundings make Newbattle a unique place to learn and to plan for the future. When the 11th Marquis of Lothian gifted this former Cistercian monastery to the people of Scotland in 1937, he wanted people who had limited education to benefit. Newbattle still operates within the same principles. Our core strengths are the quality of our teaching, the support we offer our students and the dedication of our staff. Students are at the centre of everything that happens here. Why not make Newbattle Abbey College the next chapter of your life?

Marian Docherty
Principal
About the college

Have you been out of education for a while? Do you have few or no qualifications? Perhaps you are working and want to get a qualification to help you move forward. Have you just left or are about to leave school? Are you worried about making the jump to university?

**College may be the answer.**

Newbattle Abbey College is one of Scotland’s smallest colleges, offering residential and non-residential opportunities. We are a supportive community, providing a welcoming place to study.

*The college has a strong focus on quality and a good track record for achievement and progression of learners.*

*Education Scotland*

The crypt is a social area for students to relax and has its own *treasure chest* from the Spanish Armada.
ICT
The college has two fully equipped ICT Rooms open seven days a week. Our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) allows students to access learning resources 24 hours a day within and outwith college. Our classrooms are fully equipped with state of the art ICT, including Smartboards.

Library and Resource Room
We have a beautiful library offering a quiet and comfortable place to study. Students can also access learning materials in the Resource Room.

Support for Learning
The college has a strong ethos of support for all learners regardless of their status. You will receive support from a Personal Tutor, who will meet you regularly to help you progress and advance to future opportunities.

Small Tutorial Groups will support your learning and prepare you for future study.

Our Support for Learning staff are experienced in working with adults with a range of additional support needs, including dyslexia. Counselling services are also available. Please let us know about any need you may have when you apply.

The Learner Voice
Each year, students elect a Student Representative Council, which is an asset to the college and organises a range of social activities. Students are also represented on various college committees and help staff improve the quality of all aspects of college life.

100% of students who completed the SSES* said they were satisfied with their college experience.

* Student Satisfaction Engagement Survey 2017-18
Finance

A Further Education bursary is available for eligible full-time students, aged 18 and over, for the following courses:

- Access to Higher Education (SWAP) – Arts & Social Sciences
- Access to Higher Education (SWAP) – Primary Education
- Access to Higher Education (SWAP) – Celtic Culture with Gaelic
- National Certificate (NC) - Celtic Culture with Gaelic
- National Certificate (NC) - Rural Skills
- Preparation for Further Education

An Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available for eligible students. The EMA programme aims to provide financial support to 16 to 19 year olds who are attending non-advanced learning in school, college or are on an Activity Agreement. It is also available to those who are home-educated.

HNC Social Sciences

Students ordinarily resident in Scotland have their tuition fees paid for them. You must apply to the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) to have your fees paid. Your entitlement to Tuition Fees and Bursary support may be affected if you have already undertaken degree level studies. You should consult SAAS for further guidance.

For further details contact:
Administration Office
Newbattle Abbey College
E-mail: office@newbattleabbeycollege.ac.uk
Telephone: 0131 663 1921

The college has a proven track record of helping people change their lives for the better

94% of students who completed the SSES felt that all students at the college were treated equally and fairly by staff.

For further details contact:
Student Awards Agency for Scotland
Gyleview House
3 Redheughs Rigg
Edinburgh
EH12 9HH
Telephone: 0300 555 0505
Website: www.saas.gov.uk
Accommodation

Our student residency is adjacent to the main building. All meals are provided by the college, but you can also access a shared kitchen where you can make meals or refreshments.

Any dietary needs, such as food intolerances or allergies, can be discussed with the Catering Team. There are shared toilets, baths, shower rooms and laundry facilities on each floor of the Residency.

Students with a particular medical condition may request an en-suite room, subject to medical evidence. Wi-Fi is available throughout the college. However, if you choose to bring your own television, you are responsible for a TV Licence.

The main college building, which is open until midnight, has TVs, a pool table and table tennis facilities. Students often use the crypt, which was part of the old abbey, for social activities (especially Hallowe’en parties as the setting is ideal!).

“It’s the whole experience, it’s the community feel ...it’s the best place to study.”
What is an Associate Student?

Newbattle Abbey College and Queen Margaret University (QMU) have developed a new way to achieve a degree. As an Associate Student, you will be fully enrolled as a QMU student from day one, but you will study the first year of your degree course at Newbattle Abbey College to complete an HNC.

Overview

Our one year full-time HNC Social Sciences is an Associate Student Scheme, run in partnership with QMU. Students who successfully complete this course will progress to Year 2 in certain undergraduate programmes at QMU. Students may also choose to apply to Year 1 undergraduate courses in other universities. This course is available on a residential and non-residential basis.

Content

Sociology
Psychology
Politics

History
Philosophy

I found that I really enjoyed the course and the best bit of the course was psychology.

Higher National Certificate (HNC)

SCQF Level 7

Duration:
One year

Entrance requirements:
All applications are through UCAS (code P5B9). Applications can be made to UCAS until the end of June or until the course closes. You will be expected to have three Highers at level C or above, preferably in English or Social Science subjects, (Modern Studies, Psychology, Sociology, History, Geography and Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies).

Students who have successfully completed a SCQF level 6 course, including Literature and Communication, will also be considered. For mature students, life skills and experience in the workplace may allow entry, subject to availability.

Progression routes:
On successful completion of this HNC course, students may progress to 2nd year at Queen Margaret University to study:
• BSc (Hons) Psychology
• BSc (Hons) Psychology & Sociology
• BSc (Hons) Sociology or Public Sociology

For more information, please see QMU website:
www.qmu.ac.uk
What are the benefits for me?

1. If you are unsure about making the leap from school to university, studying at college can be a good way to prepare yourself. One of the benefits for you may be that you get to study for a year in smaller classes than university. As you work through your HNC, the college will prepare you for the more independent learning style and the academic standards required at university.

2. If you have been out of education for a while, or have been working in industry, and now want to gain a relevant qualification, college may also be a more suitable entry route for you. Colleges specialise in helping people returning to education after a break, and learning styles are a lot more vocational and practical. The first year of the Associate Student route is designed to reflect these types of learning styles.

3. You may have found that your Higher results after school were not good enough to get you into university, or they were not up to date if you took your school qualifications a while ago. The Associate Student routes offer entry to Queen Margaret University degrees with slightly lower entry qualifications as the first year is spent at college.

4. As you progress through your HNC course, we will arrange visits to the university campus, workshops on academic skills and guest lectures – this will ensure you are prepared for your transition to 2nd year at Queen Margaret.

5. You will be in a class where there are other Associate Students, so you will be able to make friends with the people who you will study with for four years, before joining a bigger cohort of students at Queen Margaret in 2nd year.

The college’s vision is to be Scotland’s Life–Changing College.
Overview

Part of the Scottish Wider Access Programme (SWAP), this course offers a unique learning experience to adults aged 18 or over, with few or no qualifications. If students complete the course successfully, they can progress to higher education.

Currently our former students are studying a wide range of subjects, including Literature, Politics, Psychology, Social Work and History in universities across Scotland. Many students study on a residential basis, but we also offer non residential places.

Newbattle offers a unique experience to students:

• It is one of the few places in the UK where you can enjoy residential living.
• Our courses are tailored to adults with few or no qualifications.
• It is a transformative learning experience.
• We offer high quality support and extensive preparation for higher education.

Scottish Wider Access Programme (SWAP)

SCQF Level 6

Duration:
One year

Entrance requirements:
Over 18 during year of study, applicants should have been out of education for five years at SCQF Level 6 and three years at SCQF Level 5.

Progression routes:
On successful completion of this course, students can progress to a range of degrees at universities in Scotland.

Content
Creative Writing
Communication
History
ICT
Literature

Maths
Philosophy
Politics
Psychology
Sociology

Arts & Social Sciences
Access to Higher Education (SWAP)
Overview

Part of the Scottish Wider Access Programme (SWAP), this course offers a unique learning experience to adults aged 18 or over, for those with an interest in teaching, but have few or no qualifications.

Those who complete the course successfully can progress to the BA (Hons) Education Studies (Primary) at Queen Margaret University.

The course will suit candidates who want to engage with issues such as equality, child welfare, psychology and wellbeing, and who have a passion for making a difference to the world around them.

Content

Creative Writing
Communication
History
ICT
Literature
Maths (National 5)

Philosophy
Politics
Psychology
Sociology
Child Development

Scottish Wider Access Programme (SWAP)

SCQF Level 6

Duration:
One year

Entrance requirements:
Applicants should have been out of formal full-time education for five years at SCQF Level 6 or three years at SCQF Level 5.

Progression routes:
On successful completion of this course, students can progress to either the BA (Hons) Education Studies (Primary) or BA (Hons) Education Studies at Queen Margaret University or to a range of degrees at universities throughout Scotland.
Overview

Our six month full-time Preparation for FE Course, delivered over three days a week, offers adults an opportunity to prepare to return to full-time study. The course is delivered in partnership with Midlothian Council.

Content

Psychology
Creative Writing
History

Philosophy
Politics
Sociology

90% of students who completed the SSES felt that they were able to influence learning on their course.
Celtic Culture with Gaelic
Access to Higher Education (SWAP)

**Overview**
Our one year full-time Celtic Culture with Gaelic course is part of the Scottish Wider Access Programme (SWAP). This course is available on a residential and non-residential basis for adults aged 18 or over with few or no qualifications.

If you complete the course successfully, you can progress to higher education programmes such as Celtic Culture with Gaelic and Primary Education. This course includes a residential cultural visit to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in Skye to develop Gaelic language skills.

**Content**
- Celtic Studies
- Contemporary Gaelic Language and Culture
- Gaelic: Speaking and Writing for New Learners
- Gaidhlig: Speaking and Writing for Fluent Learners
- Storytelling in the Celtic Tradition
- Heritage Industry in Scotland
- History of the Celts in Scotland
- Politics of the Celtic Nations
- Literature
- Maths
- Family History and Genealogy
- Contemporary Gaelic Music and Song

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**Scottish Wider Access Programme (SWAP)**

**SCQF Level 6**

**Duration:**
One year

**Entrance requirements:**
Over 18 during year of study, applicants should have been out of education for five years at SCQF Level 6 and three years at SCQF Level 5. Special circumstances will be taken into consideration.

**Progression routes:**
Offers progression to Primary Education with Gaelic and other undergraduate courses.
Celtic Culture with Gaelic

Celtic Studies

Overview
This one year full-time course is designed for students who wish to develop knowledge and skills in Gaelic and Celtic culture.

This course includes a residential cultural visit to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in Skye to develop Gaelic language skills.

Content
Celtic Studies
Contemporary Gaelic Language and Culture
Gaelic: Speaking and Writing for New Learners
Gàidhlig: Speaking and Writing for Fluent Learners
Storytelling in the Celtic Tradition
Heritage Industry in Scotland
History of the Celts in Scotland
Politics of the Celtic Nations
Literature
Family History and Genealogy
Contemporary Gaelic Music and Song

National Certificate (NC)

SCQF Level 6

Duration:
One year

Entrance requirements:
The course is open to all candidates but is aimed particularly at school leavers and mature applicants. Candidates should ideally have 3 National 5s or equivalent, one of which should be English. Work experience or volunteering in the creative and culture industries will be considered for mature students.

Progression routes:
On successful completion of the programme, students can move on to employment or further study.
I really liked my time at Newbattle and would recommend it to anyone looking to get started in Rural Skills.

Rural Skills

Overview

This full-time practical course offers an introduction to gardening and estate maintenance in the college’s Community Garden, Italian Garden, woodlands and 125 acre estate.

The college provides all protective equipment and tools. The course runs for three days a week in college with an additional half day of private study. Students gain valuable work experience within the college estate.

Content

Tree and Shrub Planting
Rural Estate Maintenance
Tools and Equipment
Soft Landscaping
Core Skills
Introduction to Gardening Skills

Employability
Rural Species Identification
Enterprise Skills
Work Experience
Constructing Rural Features Structures

National Certificate (NC)

SCQF Level 4

Duration:
One year

Entrance requirements:
There are no entry requirements for this course, but an interest in working outdoors is required.

Progression routes:
SRUC or other land-based courses at FE Colleges, work opportunities.
Short Courses

Beekeeping

Learn about the honey bee, the hive, how to carry out a hive inspection, the tools you need to start up a hive, the problems you might encounter and, of course, how to harvest your honey!

Observe practical bee handling in our college apiary and help put together wax frames to prepare next year’s harvest.

“The support is immense and I wouldn’t be where I am now without the faith the staff had in me.”

Newbattle Abbey College Prospectus 2019-20
Overview

Gaelic language classes for Beginners and Improving Beginners are available at the college or in community locations in Edinburgh.
Adult Achievement Awards give learners the opportunity to gain a qualification for the learning they have undertaken in a variety of places:

- in the community
- at work
- in the home
- in college
- in volunteering programmes

The awards are currently available on the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) at Levels 2, 3, 4 and 6. (Level 5 is in development). There are no entry requirements for the awards. Organisations currently delivering the Awards include:

- local authorities
- third sector organisations
- colleges
- prison services
- trade unions
- armed forces

How Do the Awards Work?
In all of the levels, learners are asked to review and reflect on the learning they have undertaken and plan for the future. This learning may have taken place within the past 12 months or can be something they are involved in at the moment. Work is completed at a pace and level appropriate for the learner.

Support from Newbattle Abbey College
Newbattle Abbey College is the national accreditation centre for the Adult Achievement Awards. The college produces Learner Guides, Reflective Journals and Tutor Guides and organises training programmes for tutors. The college also provides administrative support and quality assurance advice.
Newbattle’s Forest College is a national centre to support lifelong learning outdoors and aims to:

- Support all learners in early years, schools, colleges and communities.
- Connect people to the forest and outdoors.
- Develop creative learning, teaching and leadership.
- Contribute to learning for sustainability.

The Forest and Outdoor Learning Awards (FOLAs) enable people of all ages to:

- Gain practical knowledge of being, working and leading in the forest and outdoors.
- Gain a national qualification at Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) levels 2-6, & 8.
- Progress to employment or education.
Further Information

What is SCQF?
The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Partnership (SCQF) promotes lifelong learning in Scotland. Through the Framework below, you can gain a better understanding of qualifications in Scotland and plan your future learning.

For further information, go to www.scqf.org.uk

### THE SCOTTISH CREDIT AND QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

This Framework diagram has been produced to show the mainstream Scottish qualifications already credit rated by SQA and HEIs. However, there are a diverse number of learning programmes on the Framework, which, due to the limitations of this format, cannot be represented here. For more information, please visit the SCQF website at www.scqf.org.uk to view the interactive version of the Framework or search the Database.

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For further information, go to [www.scqf.org.uk](http://www.scqf.org.uk)

100% of students who completed the SSES felt that staff encouraged students to take responsibility for their learning.
Contact details

To speak to someone directly about any course, call us on: 0131 663 1921

Newbattle Abbey College is located 7 miles south of Edinburgh and is served by a regular bus service.

Newbattle Abbey College, Newbattle Road, Dalkeith, Midlothian, EH22 3LL
E-mail: office@newbattleabbeycollege.ac.uk
Website: www.newbattleabbeycollege.ac.uk

By Bus
Take the First X95 (Edinburgh – Hawick). Ask the driver to alert you at Newbattle Abbey College stop. Download X95 timetable from our website.
www.newbattleabbeycollege.ac.uk/find-us

By Rail
The nearest railway station from Edinburgh Waverley is Eskbank. You can use the National Rail Journey Planner to find the most convenient route from your location.