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Newbattle Abbey College

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 national college and our students come from across the UK and from several parts of the world.

We offer residential facilities and also welcome day students. Newbattle’s 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 their lives.

Taking the first steps back to education can be daunting but we offer a range of support from experienced and committed staff. As a small college, Newbattle has developed a supportive community for over 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 never had an 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 at Newbattle. Why not make Newbattle Abbey College the next chapter of your life?

Marian Docherty
Principal
Newbattle Abbey College

About the college

Do you have few or no qualifications?
Perhaps you are working and want to get a qualification to help you move forward. Have you been out of education for a while?
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.

91% of students who completed the Student Satisfaction and Engagement Survey (SSES) felt that their time at college helped them develop knowledge and skills for the workplace.

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

Education Scotland
ICT
The college has two fully-equipped ICT Rooms, open seven days a week. Our students can access learning resources 24 hours a day within and outwith college. Our classrooms are 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.
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.

* Scottish Wider Access Programme

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**Social Sciences: Associate Degree**

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.
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. Most rooms are en suite with shared laundry facilities.

Students with a particular medical condition may request an accessible ground floor room, subject to medical evidence. There is also a shared social space for residential students. Wi-Fi is available throughout the college. However, if you choose to bring your own television, you are responsible for a TV licence.

Students can access the main college building until midnight and there is a common room available for all students. Students often use the crypt, which was part of the old abbey, for social activities (especially Hallowe’en parties as the setting is ideal!).

"Every member of staff I met was very helpful, friendly and approachable. This really helped me to settle in and feel a part of the place, unlike other institutions I’ve been in."

Student feedback 2019
**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 the 1st year of this course, students will 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](http://www.qmu.ac.uk)

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**Social Sciences: Associate Degree**

**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. This course is available on a residential and non-residential basis.

98% of students who completed the SSES said they were satisfied with their college experience.
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 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.
Arts & Social Sciences

Access to Higher Education (SWAP)

Scottish Wider Access Programme (SWAP)

SCQF Level 6

Duration:
One year

Entrance requirements:
Over 18 during the 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:
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

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.
Arts & Social Sciences

Primary Education Access to Higher Education (SWAP)

Scottish Wider Access Programme (SWAP)

SCQF Level 6

Duration:
One year

Entrance requirements:
Over 18 during the 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:
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.

Content
- Creative Writing
- Communication
- History
- ICT
- Literature
- Maths (National 5)
- Philosophy
- Politics
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Child Development

Overview

Part of the Scottish Wider Access Programme (SWAP), this course offers a unique learning experience to adults, aged 18 or over, with an interest in teaching, but with 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.

The support from tutors and staff is totally amazing. It makes all the difference.

Student feedback 2019
Scottish Wider Access Programme (SWAP)

**SCQF Level 4**

**Duration:**
Six months

**Entrance requirements:**
None

**Progression routes:**
Other courses at Newbattle Abbey College or other FE colleges.

**Content**
- Psychology
- Creative Writing
- History
- Philosophy
- Politics
- Sociology

### 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.

91% of students who completed the SSES believe that student suggestions are taken seriously.
Celtic Culture with Gaelic

Access to Higher Education (SWAP)

Please note we are currently reviewing the delivery of this course

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.

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
- ICT
- History of the Celts in Scotland
- Politics of the Celtic Nations
- Literature
- Maths
- Family History and Genealogy
- Contemporary Gaelic Music and Song

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 and Lews Castle in Stornoway to develop Gaelic language skills.

The support I received regarding my limited capabilities (physically) has been great.

Student feedback 2019
Celtic Culture with Gaelic

Celtic Studies

Please note we are currently reviewing the delivery of this course

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.

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
• Family History and Genealogy
• Contemporary Gaelic Music and Song

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 and Lews Castle in Stornoway to develop Gaelic language skills.

96% of students who completed the SSES felt that staff encouraged students to take responsibility for their learning.
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.

I was nervous/anxious about starting college; I feel right at home now.

Student feedback 2019
Overview

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.

‘Induction week was informative, interesting and certainly took me out of my comfort zone. I learned a great deal.’

Student feedback 2019
Gaelic Language

Overview
Gaelic language classes for Beginners and Improving Beginners are available at the college or in community locations in Edinburgh.

"I have enjoyed every minute of it. I’m so happy I did it and plan to come back. I especially enjoyed ICT. I was such a technophobe and I’m slowly overcoming these issues."

Student feedback 2019
Adult Achievement Awards

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.

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 2–6. 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
What we do

- Deliver courses and training for learners
- Support organisations to lead courses and training
- Provide accreditation for the Forest and Outdoor Learning Awards
- Support access for communities to Lord Ancrum’s Wood at Newbattle Abbey College

Who are they for?

For learners and leaders of all ages who want to develop their knowledge, skills and leadership in the forest and outdoors.

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.
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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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
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 an hourly 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 Borders Bus 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.

Newbattle Abbey is the perfect venue for meetings, conferences, residential workshops or team building events.

For further details please call our Events Team on: 0131 663 1921 or email: events@newbattleabbeycollege.ac.uk