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Cover image of college © Peebles Camera Club - Kathy Henry
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. Despite the difficulties we have all faced since 2020, our college community continued to support staff, students and the wider community we serve.

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. As we look forward to 2021 with optimism, why not make Newbattle Abbey College the next chapter of your life?

Marian Docherty
Principal
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.
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. 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, the student body elects a Student Representative Council (SRC). The SRC ensures that all students can make a valuable contribution to the life of the college. The SRC also organises a range of social activities and fundraisers which further enhance the role of the college in the local and wider community. SRC office bearers represent the student body on various college committees in order to help improve the quality of all aspects of college life.

Being a member of the SRC provides students with valuable experience.
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 Studies
- 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

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.

For further details:

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

Student Awards Agency Scotland
Saughton House
Broomhouse Drive
Edinburgh
EH11 3UT
Telephone: 0300 555 0505
Website: www.saas.gov.uk
Accommodation

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!).

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.
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.

All applications for this course are through UCAS (code P5B9). Applications can be made to UCAS until the end of June or until the course closes.
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 help you become more independent and prepared for 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 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 route offers entry to Queen Margaret University degrees with alternative 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.
Access to Higher Education (SWAP)

Overview
Part of the Scottish Wider Access Programme (SWAP), this course offers a unique learning experience to adults 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 colleges 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.

Link to Scottish Wider Access Programme (SWAP) website: www.scottishwideraccess.org/east

SCQF Level 6

DURATION:
One year

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS:
There are no formal entry requirements for SWAP programmes. Students must have been out of full-time education for three years or more, at the start of the course. Students who have previous qualifications at SCQF level 6 may also be eligible, provided these qualifications were obtained at least 5 years before starting the course. Special circumstances can 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

- Communication
- History
- ICT
- Literature
- Core Maths
- Philosophy
- Politics & Political Theory
- Psychology
- Sociology, Academic Skills, Research Methods
Scottish Wider Access Programme (SWAP)

Access to Higher Education (SWAP): Primary Education

Overview

Part of the Scottish Wider Access Programme (SWAP), this course offers a unique learning experience to adults 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.

Link to Scottish Wider Access Programme (SWAP) website: www.scottishwideraccess.org/east

SCQF Level 6

DURATION:
One year

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS:
There are no formal entry requirements for SWAP programmes. Students must have been out of full-time education for three years or more, at the start of the course. Students who have previous qualifications at SCQF level 6 may also be eligible, provided these qualifications were obtained at least 5 years before starting the course. Special circumstances can 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

- Communication
- History
- ICT
- Literature
- Maths (National 5)
- Politics
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Child Development
SCOTTISH WIDER ACCESS PROGRAMME (SWAP)

Access to Higher Education (SWAP): Celtic Studies

Overview
Part of the Scottish Wider Access Programme (SWAP), this course offers a unique learning experience to adults with an interest in Celtic Studies, but with few or no qualifications.

If you complete the course successfully, you can progress to higher education programmes such as Celtic Studies. This course may include a residential visit to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in Skye to develop Gaelic language skills.

Link to Scottish Wider Access Programme (SWAP) website: www.scottishwideraccess.org/east

SCQF LEVEL 6

DURATION:
One year

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS:
There are no formal entry requirements for SWAP programmes. Students must have been out of full-time education for three years or more, at the start of the course. Students who have previous qualifications at SCQF level 6 may also be eligible, provided these qualifications were obtained at least 5 years before starting the course. Special circumstances can 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

• Communication
• History
• ICT
• Literature
• Core Maths
• Celtic Studies, Heritage, History of the Celts
• Politics
• Psychology
• Sociology
Preparation for Further Education

Overview
The Preparation for Further Education course is delivered by Newbattle Abbey College, in partnership with Midlothian Council.

The course is aimed at adults returning to learning, who may have previously been involved in community-based programmes.

This course provides excellent transition support for adults, especially those who have been out of education for a long time and it offers the opportunity to progress to either further education or, after additional study, higher education.

SCQF LEVEL 4

DURATION:
Six months

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS:
None

PROGRESSION ROUTES:
On successful completion of this course, students can progress to the Access to Higher Education (SWAP) at Newbattle Abbey College or other FE college courses.

CONTENT
- Psychology
- Creative Writing
- History
- Philosophy
- Politics
- Sociology
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

- Rural Estate Management
- Rural Work Activities
- Enterprise Activity
- Developing Skills for Employment
- An Introduction to Rural Environment
- Rural Species Identification and Habitats
- Constructing Rural Features and Structures
- Laying Slabs and Paving
- An Introduction to Gardening Skills
- Introduction to Bedding Plant Production
- Forestry: Woodland Skills
- Soft Landscaping
- Tree and Shrub Planting
- Communication
- ICT
Gaelic Language

Overview
Newbattle has been celebrating and promoting Gaelic language and culture for several years and we continue to do so. With support from the Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund (GLAIF) and Bòrd na Gàidhlig, we hope to continue to offer free online Gaelic courses for beginner and intermediate learners at various times throughout the college year.

Beekeeping

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.
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
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.

**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 THE COURSES FOR?**

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

**ENTRY AND DURATION**

Entry and duration of the courses varies by level.

Each level can be a stand-alone or taken as a progression pathway.

Levels 2 - 4 focus on skills development and start with no entry requirements. They can be achieved in 4 - 6 weeks.

Levels 5 - 8 focus on developing leadership. Entry requirement: SCQF 4 -6 or equivalent.

Note level 8 can take between 12 and 16 months.
The college welcomes students from a range of ages, abilities, and backgrounds. We offer targeted support to people who have a range of support for learning requirements. Our Support for Learning team can support students who:

- identify as having a disability
- identify as having a mental health issue
- have specific health issues
- have specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia or dyspraxia
- have a diagnosis of ASD or Aspergers
- have a sensory impairment
- have mobility difficulties

We aim to ensure that each student can participate fully in college life and achieve their potential through the development of a personal learning support plan.

In addition to this, we offer support to students who may have an undiagnosed learning need through screening procedures and one-to-one support. If you believe you have an additional learning need, please contact us before applying to discuss the additional support you may require.

We also encourage you to provide full details on your application form as this allows us to work with you to ensure your support can be in place at the beginning of your course. The service is confidential and designed to be as supportive and person-centred as possible.

**Care-Experienced Students**

The college welcome students who are care-experienced. The term care-experienced refers to anyone who has been, or is currently in care, or is from a looked-after background. There is no time limit on how long someone has been in care, or to the setting in which they spent time in care.

You may be adopted, have spent time in residential or foster care, lived with family under kinship care or been looked after at home under a supervision order.

Our care-experienced students have an identified member of staff who they can contact if they need help with any academic, social, or emotional support.

The college has a care experienced forum, where we consult with our care-experienced students on developments that can be made in the college to support you.

If you believe you are care-experienced, please contact the college prior to making an application to find out more about the support that is available.
Further Information

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

For further information, go to [www.scqf.org.uk](http://www.scqf.org.uk)
By Bus
The college is a 10 minute walk from regular bus services to Edinburgh, Midlothian and East Lothian: Lothian Buses 3, 29, 49, 139 and 140. You can also take the Border Bus X95 (Edinburgh - Hawick). For the X95 service, ask the driver to alert you at Newbattle Abbey College stop. Travel information available at Traveline Scotland: www.travlinescotland.com

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.

www.newbattleabbeycollege.ac.uk/find-us

NEWBATTLE ABBEY COLLEGE

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

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
Newbattle Abbey, an events venue with a difference. Originally a medieval Cistercian Monastery, then a family home, it is now the perfect venue for conferences & meetings, team building, special occasions, weddings, and civil partnerships.

Newbattle provides a backdrop for 900 years of Scottish history – visit us and let us tell you our story.

We are a short distance from Edinburgh and can provide accommodation for your event or meeting. Free car parking is also available.

www.newbattleabbey.com