

## FAQS

### 1. WHAT IS AN ACCESS SCIENCE COURSE?

- Level 3 course
- Designed to provide qualifications to allow you to study science at university undergraduate level
- It is equivalent to A level and you will study similar topics to those studying A levels in your chosen science subjects.

### 2. WHO IS IT FOR?

- The course is aimed at Adults; 19 years plus.
- There is not a typical cohort – student ages vary.

### 3. WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO I NEED TO STUDY THE COURSE?

- Primarily you need to be an enthusiastic scientist
- GCSE Maths and English both at grade 4 or grade C (Minimum)
- Formal level 2 Maths and English qualifications will be considered:
  - Level 2 Functional skills Maths and English
  - An international qualification that is equivalent to level 2

(If you do not have GCSE qualifications in Maths and English, please arrange a guidance meeting with us to discuss)

*We understand that people come to Access with a wealth of experience but do not always have the exam certificates to demonstrate their ability or potential. For that reason, we do not insist on any qualifications beyond this.*

*We know from experience if you are a dedicated student who attends regularly and completes the work set you will do well.*

### 4. WHY ARE ENGLISH AND MATHS IMPORTANT?

- The course involves writing assignments, reports and doing calculations so we need you to be at a reasonable standard in your Maths and English
- Most universities will require a level 2 English and Maths qualification as part of their entrance requirements.

### 5. I HAVEN'T STUDIED FOR YEARS AND I AM ANXIOUS THE COURSE WILL BE TOO HARD

- People join the course from many different starting points, our course is designed to get you up to speed and equip you with the skills you need to be successful at university
- We start the courses with ungraded assignments to ease you into the work
- Most topic teaching starts with an assessment of your prior learning and understanding and builds on this.

### 6. HOW IS MY WORK ASSESSED?

- You are assessed in many different ways.
- Your work is continually assessed as you go along, this means you get feedback on how you are doing and you can measure your progress towards your goal.
- Assessment takes the form of reports, practical assignments, project work and tests.

### 7. I HAVE SPECIFIC NEEDS

- We are used to making adjustments for a whole range of needs
- We have a range of learning support provision to help you reach your full potential.
- You can arrange to discuss your particular circumstances and we can tell you how we can support you in achieving your goals.

## 8. WHAT QUALIFICATION WILL I GET?

- The course is made up of different units, each unit is worth a different number of credits
- You will gain 60 credits overall
  - 15 ungraded credits
  - 45 graded credit
  - See the unit information for more details
- Credits are awarded at Pass, Merit or Distinction
- You do not get an overall grade as each unit is graded separately

e.g. 15 ungraded units completed, 39 credits at Distinction, 6 credits at Merit.

## 9. DO I NEED TO ATTEND AN INTERVIEW TO BE ACCEPTED ONTO THIS COURSE?

- All prospective students who apply will have a guidance discussion meeting.
- This is not an interview it is a two-way discussion so that you know about the course and that it is suitable for your needs
- It is important to us to get you on the right course for you, so that we can help you achieve your goals.

## 10. HOW DO I PAY FOR THE COURSE?

- Most students will apply for an Advanced learner loan
- More details here <https://www.gov.uk/advanced-learner-loan>
- Our finance team will be able to give you more details

## 11. WHAT IS MY TIME COMMITMENT?

- It is a full-time course and you will need to commit to studying outside lesson times
- We aim to time-table lessons on three days per week
- We understand that many of our students will have commitments in addition to studying and the majority of students are able to juggle work or other commitments and study. However, you must remember science and maths courses are typically more demanding

in terms of time than many other courses at this level. If you want to be successful you will need to put the time in.

Don't worry we will support you.

## 13. DO UNIVERSITIES ACCEPT THIS QUALIFICATION?

- Yes, but you will need to check with the specific university
- You can do this by checking the entrance requirements on UCAS
- We also recommend that you contact the admissions tutor to confirm their requirements
- They will normally ask for so many credits at Merit and a certain number of credits at Distinction sometimes in specific subject areas
- You can check UCAS points for courses here <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/tariff-calculator>

## 14. WILL YOU HELP ME APPLY TO UNIVERSITY?

- We have a well-established programme to support you making your application.
- We advise doing preparatory work before you start the course
  - Research universities and courses
  - Attend open events
  - Look at entrance requirements
  - Contact admissions tutors
  - Ask us for advice – we are here to help
- We will help you write your personal statement and provide you with an academic reference.

## 15. WHAT SHOULD I STUDY BETWEEN NOW AND THE START OF THE COURSE?

- There is no formal requirement to undertake introductory work before the start of the course, as this is not possible for all members of the group.
- If you are able to the following is recommended:
  - Use BBC Bitesize to review and revise GCSE level maths/English
  - Get a CGP revision guide for the subjects that you are doing
  - See our recommended preparation leaflet.

## CONTACT DETAILS

For all queries about completing your application - [admissions@yorkcollege.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@yorkcollege.ac.uk)

For specific course related information - (Ian Martin, Head of Department) [imartin@yorkcollege.ac.uk](mailto:imartin@yorkcollege.ac.uk)

For queries about student loans, fees, etc - [finance@yorkcollege.ac.uk](mailto:finance@yorkcollege.ac.uk)