

Foundation Apprenticeship: Social Services and Health Care

What is a Foundation Apprenticeship?

Foundation Apprenticeships are work-based qualifications for senior phase pupils. They combine the best of academic and vocational learning in one single qualification.

Why Social Services and Health Care?



The care sector has one of the fastest growing workforces in Scotland with over 199,600 social service workers in Scotland today working in a range of settings. One in 13 people employed in Scotland work in social services.

Social services is a challenging and rewarding career providing support and help to people who need it, helping them to live full and valued lives in the community. Social service workers can work with a variety of clients :

- older people
- children or adults with physical /sensory and/or learning disabilities
- children or adults with autistic spectrum disorder/mental health problems

There are many different career opportunities and career pathways across this range of settings. Job roles in adult services include personal assistant, care assistant, support worker, supervisor, senior care worker, team leader, care home manager, centre manager and service manager.

What's involved?

Our Foundation Apprenticeships can be completed over one or two years depending on your qualifications when you begin the course.

Year 1: Starting in S5, you will gain a National Progression Award (NPA) in Social Services and Healthcare whilst making links with a work placement provider.

Year 2: In S6, you will put your industry based knowledge into practice in a work placement, enabling you to continue your learning out of the classroom. During this time you will study a selection of SVQ level 2 Social Services and Healthcare units.

How is it delivered?

All of our Foundation Apprenticeships are delivered as Virtual Classes use online technologies, such as Google Hangouts. They are studied in timetabled sessions alongside your other subject choices and will have a college lecturer in virtual attendance during the class. You will also work closely with a local business for work experience.

What are the entry requirements?

3 passes at National 5 level gained in S4/5 at C pass or above. (Ideally one should be a literary subject such as English, geography or psychology).

You will need to demonstrate an understanding of the social services and healthcare sector and have an interest in working in this sector; demonstration of experience in this sector will be considered and each application will be considered on a case by case basis and have a satisfactory interview.

You will be required to undergo a Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) check prior to placement. The college will assist you with this.



What do I get at the end of it?

You will get a National Progression Award (NPA) (Social Services and Healthcare) SCQF level 6.

4 SVQ level 2 Social Services and Healthcare units.

This will prepare you for employment by covering areas such as:

- Social Services in Scotland
- Safeguarding
- Safe practice and wellbeing
- Communication in care relationships
- Human development and social influences

Course progression – what's next?

On completion of the Foundation Apprenticeship, you will have the opportunity to move into employment in adult social services with an industry specific skill set and good knowledge of local employer's requirements.

Alternatively, you could progress onto HNC or degree levels of study which are offered by West Highland College UHI.

You will also be able to work towards registration with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). There is a wide range of different career opportunities within social work and social care settings, such as care assistant, care worker, team leader, care home, and centre managers.

West Highland College UHI is a Company limited by guarantee (SC153921) with charitable status (SC024193)

How do I apply?

- From November, senior phase pupils choose as part of option choices
- You can apply online at www.whc/uhi.ac.uk/schools and select your chosen subject
- You will need to provide a reference from your guidance teacher.

Who do I contact?

Application is online. Speak to your guidance teacher or go to www.whc.uhi.ac.uk/schools.

You can also email us directly at schools.whc@uhi.ac.uk



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