UNIVERSITY of BRADFORD

Foundation Year Programme Specification

https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/ug/foundation-year/

Academic Year:	2024/25
Awarding Body:	The University of Bradford
University Faculty:	Faculty of Engineering and Informatics
	Faculty of Health Studies
	Faculty of Life Sciences
	Faculty of Management, Law and Social Sciences
Target Award:	Foundation Certificate (FDC) [Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) Level3]
Admissions:	September
Mode of Study:	**(UCAS code Y006)** 1 academic year, full-time

Please note: This programme specification has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them. Upon commencement of the programme, students will receive further detail about their course and any minor changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.

Minor Modification Schedule

1. June 2017: Update to: Core and Option Modules; Progression programmes
2. June 2018: Added optional modules and updated text
3. April 2019: Amendments made to clarify course details regarding study and progression requirements.
4. April 2021: Specification reformatted, made accessible. Updated admissions, progression scheme, qualification frameworks.
5. June 2021: Annual changes for 2021 academic year
6. May 2022: Annual changes for 2022 academic year
7. July 2024: Annual changes for 2024/25 academic year: updates to optional modules.

This is the general Foundation Year programme for UK students, supporting entry to a range of programmes each year across the University as detailed in the What You Will Study section of the course webpage.

International student? Visit the International College website for our International Foundation programmes: https://www.brad.ac.uk/international/international-college/

We offer different foundation year options depending on your needs, interests and circumstances to help you feel prepared for Undergraduate study at Bradford. See the website https://www.bradford.ac.uk/undergraduate/foundation/ to decide which one is right for you.

Foundation Year Programme Introduction

This Foundation Year is a pre-degree access programme that will provide students with a solid basis for future degree study. It is designed for students who do not currently meet the required entry criteria for their chosen degree programme or who are not yet ready for an undergraduate programme. The programme will help students prepare to meet the demands of learning before embarking on their degree programme.

The degree programmes that students may progress to following their Foundation Year are listed on the Foundation Year course page along with the associated UCAS/GCSE/English proficiency entry requirements, any study requirements and any progression requirements: https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/ug/foundation-year/

The Foundation Year provides students with an introductory grounding in their chosen discipline whilst at the same time equipping them with study and interpersonal skills which are necessary for successful undergraduate study. These skills are focussed on in one core module on the programme – The Effective Learner in Semester 1.

Beyond this core module, students study a module diet from the remaining optional modules which reflects their own academic interests and intended progression route. There will be opportunities to discuss module choices and progression intentions with members of academic staff.

Programme Aims

The programme is intended to:

A1.   provide students with a supportive route into higher education which will enable them to demonstrate that they are able achieve a university honours degree.

A2.   enable students to acquire the underpinning knowledge understanding and skills needed to tackle the demands of undergraduate study.

A3.   enable students to analyse their own strengths and weaknesses as a learner and develop strategies to maximise their learning.

Programme Learning Outcomes
To be eligible for the RQF Level 3 Foundation Certificate award, students will be able to:

1.   Demonstrate a basic knowledge of key concepts, approaches, texts in a selection of academic disciplines.

2.   Explain how people learn and the strategies that can be employed to support effective learning.

3.   Identify, assess and undertake preliminary evaluation of information from a range of sources.

4.   Construct clear, cogent and coherent arguments in written and spoken form.

5. Demonstrate the ability to use and apply a range of theories and concepts.

6. Demonstrate the value, nature and validity of information sources and how they can support an argument.

7. Identify, access and communicate information in written and oral form.

8. Present information in a variety of formats appropriate to the audience.

9. Engage in team working skills and demonstrate the ability to work effectively with others and solve problems.

10. Demonstrate skills in self- awareness and time management.

11. Reflect on performance.

Curriculum

This Foundation Year course of study is one year long (full time) and constitutes the first stage of an undergraduate degree programme. We split this time up into 1200 hours, where each 200 hours represents one 'module' of the programme. In the UK, one academic 'credit' is attached to 10 hours of study. So, each module on the Foundation Year programme has 20 credits. The award for successfully completing the Foundation Year is worth 120 credits according to the UK's Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) Level 3.

We split the year up into two main parts. Our 'academic year' is split into two Semesters with about 12 weeks in each. Modules on the Foundation Year run in either Semester 1 or Semester 2. Most University of Bradford programmes also run this way or have modules that take place over the 'academic year' or 'full year' as well.

Table a: Foundation Year Core Module and Curriculum Structure (FdCert)

Study Period	Code	Title	Credit	Level
Semester 1	SAC3003-B	The Effective Learner	20	RQF 3
Semester 1	Any	Semester 1 Module Option	20	RQF 3
Semester 1	Any	Semester 1 Module Option	20	RQF 3
Semester 2	Any	Semester 2 Module Option	20	RQF 3
Semester 2	Any	Semester 2 Module Option	20	RQF 3
Semester 2	Any	Semester 2 Module Option	20	RQF 3

All students can choose from a selection of optional modules that will best prepare them for their undergraduate degree. If you are not sure which degree you will study afterwards, the University admissions team, Programme Team tutors and the course webpage https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/ug/foundation-year/ can offer guidance as to which modules will be most useful for you.

Students choose FIVE options from the following list - two options in Semester 1 and three options in Semester 2:

Table b: Foundation Year Optional Modules (FdCert)

Study Period	Code	Title	Credit	Level
Semester 1	SAC3016-B	Foundations of Psychology	20	RQF 3
Semester 1	CHE3002-B	Introduction to Life Sciences	20	RQF 3
Semester 1	SAC3004-B	Introduction to Understanding Organisations	20	RQF 3
Semester 1	SAC3017-B	Maths and Stats for Higher Education	20	RQF 3
Semester 1	SAC3010-B	Principles of Marketing	20	RQF 3
Semester 1	SAC3008-B	Western Philosophy and the History of Ideas	20	RQF 3
Semester 1	AFE3003-B	Fundamentals of Accounting, Finance and Economics	20	RQF 3
Semester 1	SIB3002-B	Foundations of Business and Management	20	RQF 3
Semester 2	FAM3001-B	Creative Industries	20	RQF 3
Semester 2	SAC3006-B	Criminology	20	RQF 3
Semester 2	CHE3001-B	Foundation in Chemistry	20	RQF 3
Semester 2	BIS3001-B	Foundation in Human Biology	20	RQF 3
Semester 2	SIB3001-B	Global Business Environment	20	RQF 3
Semester 2	COS3003-B	Introduction to Computing	20	RQF 3
Semester 2	SAC3015-B	Introduction to Law	20	RQF 3
Semester 2	SAC3009-B	Politics and Me	20	RQF 3
Semester 2	SAC3002-B	The Sociological Imagination	20	RQF 3

Please note: The curriculum may change, subject to availability and the University's programme approval, monitoring and review processes.

At the end of the Foundation Year, students will be eligible for the award of Foundation Certificate if they have successfully completed 120 Regulated Qualification Framework Level 3 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Learning and Teaching Strategy

Studying on the Foundation Year students will gain the knowledge, understanding and personal transferable skills which will improve and enhance their ability to excel at university and beyond.

The programme contains a range of core and optional modules and provides foundation level understanding to support the attainment of the programme learning outcomes. The teaching, learning and assessment strategies will facilitate learning and encourage students to develop as an independent learner. Knowledge understanding and skills are developed through the study of specific modules and skills are evaluated through assessment consisting of essays, examinations and /or presentations.

The Effective Learner core module will provide the framework for students' personal goal setting evaluation and review. The module will form a pivotal role in assessing students'

individual needs, in identifying the various resources available to support study and in reviewing progress. From studying on this module students will be able to explain how people learn and the strategies that can be employed to support effective learning will enhance their skills in written expression, correct sourcing and use and presentation of information. Students will furthermore be able to identify, assess and undertake preliminary evaluation of information from a range of sources.

A significant part of the Effective Learner module includes a focus on how to develop writing skills to succeed at university. Students will study how to reference correctly, (Harvard Referencing Standard) and develop skills to enable them to write in an academic manner and to reflect on the value and usefulness of the information with which they are presented. With appropriate tutorial support, practice and feedback students will also learn to construct clear, cogent and coherent arguments in written and spoken form.

On the Effective Learner module students will learn how to develop an action plan and to reflect on their strengths and weaknesses, identify areas for development, manage their time and generally develop strategies for improving developing their research, writing and referencing. Having developed an understanding of their own strengths and weaknesses as a learner, students will possess strategies to maximise their learning. In other modules students will study key concepts, approaches and texts in a selection of academic disciplines.

Assessment Strategy

Students will demonstrate the ability to use and apply theories and concepts (LO5) through a range of formative assessment, summative assessment and through involvement in seminar discussion and debates. Students will also, in the course of studies, be able to demonstrate the value, nature and validity of information sources and will develop the skills to enable them to identify, access and communicate information in oral and written form (LO3, LO4, LO5, LO6, and LO7).

A diverse range of teaching and learning strategies, such as active learning sets, teamwork, team presentations, lectures, seminars and collaborative learning will be used in the delivery of the foundation programme with specific and appropriate teaching methods employed to meet the learning outcomes of individual modules and the learning outcomes of the programme itself (LO1- LO11). Students will be particularly encouraged and supported to develop an independent style of learning. Reading, problem solving, project work, tutorials and student led seminars will all be a feature of the programme. In general, concepts, principles and theories will be introduced in lectures and explored in more depth in associated tutorials and seminars. Assessment is a crucial component of their learning which is necessary to monitor progress, motivate learning, provide feedback and grade students. Assessment methods, which include essays, examinations and presentations, will reflect the diversity of provision and directly address the desired learning outcomes.

Assessment Regulations

This Programme conforms to the standard University Undergraduate Assessment Regulations which are available at the link: https://www.brad.ac.uk/regulations/

However, the following exception applies: To progress to Stage 1 of certain degree routes, students will need to achieve higher academic marks and/or complete additional progression activities (for example, to participate in an interview). A full list of degree routes and progression requirements for the Foundation Year is available on the course page: https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/ug/foundation-year/

Applications and Admissions

We take into consideration a number of factors when assessing your application. It's not just about your grades; we take the time to understand your personal circumstances and make decisions based on your potential to thrive at university and beyond.

Academic Admissions Requirements

A typical offer to someone seeking entry through the UCAS scheme would be 72 UCAS points with a GCSE Grade 4 (national Grade C) in English, or an equivalent Key Skills Level 2 Literacy qualification.

English proficiency requirements are expressed as IELTS scores and for most programmes are between 5.0 and 7.0 with no sub-test score lower than .5 below, or equivalent.

Students who do not possess GCSE Mathematics at Grade 4 (national grade C) or above or another recognised Level 2 Numeracy qualification on entry must choose the Mathematics and Statistics for Higher Education module as an option choice if this is required for their follow-on degree programme.

Recognition of Prior Learning

Applications are welcome from candidates with non-standard qualifications or who, lacking academic qualifications, have significant relevant experience in one of the seven areas.

If applicants have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University has procedures to evaluate and recognise this learning in order to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme.

Access and Inclusion

The University of Bradford has always welcomed applications from disabled students, and these will be considered on the same academic grounds as are applied to all applicants. To discuss adjustments or to find out more about support and access, you may wish to contact the Disability Service before you apply at www.bradford.ac.uk/disability/before .

Applications are particularly welcomed from adult learners (those aged 21+ at the start of the programme), armed forces families, carers and care leavers, estranged or orphaned learners, refugees and asylum seekers, and Romani or Traveller families. To find out more about the Progression Scheme visit www.brad.ac.uk/applicants/progression-scheme .

Progression

The Foundation Year provides access to specified degree programmes within the University. However, some of those programmes may have additional entry, requirements, study requirements and/or additional progression requirements. These are listed on the Foundation Year course page: https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/ug/foundation-year/

Students can seek advice and support about the study and progression requirements for their intended degree route from the University Admissions Team prior to arrival and/or the Programme Team once enrolled onto the Foundation programme.

Please note: The information above relates to the contemporary recruitment cycle at time of publication and therefore may now be out of date. The degree programmes that students may progress to following their Foundation Year are listed on the Foundation Year course page along with the associated UCAS/GCSE/English proficiency entry requirements, any study requirements and any progression requirements: https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/ug/foundation-year/