

Computing

The Foundation Degree (FdSc) qualification is designed to offer a challenging academic curriculum interwoven with high level, relevant skills training. The programme is a mixture of academic and vocational, and is intended to fill specific skills gaps in the economy at “higher technician” or “associate professional” level.

This course has been developed by Highbury College in partnership with businesses, CISCO and Microsoft to equip students with the skills and knowledge employers need for a range of professional IT careers related to computer networking. It is also designed to promote and develop a broad range of skills, personal qualities and approaches that will provide a platform for further study, successful career advancement and lifelong learning.

The programme is suitable either for people already working in computer networking, who wish to develop their skills and gain a higher-level qualification, or for those wanting to embark upon a career in computer networking. The combination of academic and vocational skills will enable students to make an immediate contribution in employment.

Highbury College is a CISCO Regional Networking Academy, a Microsoft Regional IT Academy and a CompTIA Associated Institution. Academy status allows us to use the latest Microsoft and Cisco Academic Curriculum materials within the programme, enabling us to deliver highly successful commercial training in an academic environment. The very latest Microsoft Operating Systems are used for study, and students will be given their own fully licensed software for use at home during the course.

Foundation Degree in Computer Networking

Validated by the University of Surrey

Duration of study

2 years, full-time
3 years, part-time

Start date

September

Entry requirements

UCAS tariff points equivalent to 120 units of related subjects and successful interview and screening. For mature students significant computer experience and 4 GCSEs at Grade C or above (including English and Maths).

How will I study?

Full attendance is generally expected at lectures, visits and events, four days per week in each 30-week 'year'. (45 weeks part-time). During this time you will study a range of computing modules which cover all of the aspects of computer networking alongside a number of “core” modules which are designed to develop a broad range of skills and personal qualities. There will be opportunities to gain vendor certifications such as ECDL, MOS, A+, Network+, Microsoft MCP and Cisco CCNA, although it is not a requirement of the course to do so.

How am I assessed?

The Foundation Degree is achieved by passing all modules. Assessment is mainly on a continuous basis and can take a variety of forms including: assignments, written reports, presentations, practical exercises and online exams. There are timed exams in some modules.

What can I do after the course?

You can progress into employment within the computing sector or professional courses. The achievement of the Foundation Degree in Computing allows direct entry to an Honours Degree at the University of Portsmouth.

UCAS Course Code: G420

CASE STUDY



Name:
Jeff Martin

Course:
**HND
Networking**

“I used to be a carpenter but fancied a career change and wanted to re-train in something completely different. I studied an Edexcel BTEC National Diploma in System Support at Highbury College in 2003 and really enjoyed it, so decided to continue studying IT with the HND Networking. I've had lots of help and encouragement from the lecturers, which made me think about becoming an IT lecturer myself. So alongside the HND I am getting additional training through the College's CISCO Academy CCNA programme. After I complete both courses I might go on to University to gain a full degree, or go straight into lecturing – my options are varied and flexible and that's why I would recommend Highbury to anyone looking to pursue any kind of career in IT.”

