

**UNIVERSITY CENTRE
TRURO & PENWITH**



**ACCESS TO
HIGHER EDUCATION**

Your stepping stone to university
and a new career



Access to Higher Education Diplomas

Truro and Penwith College has developed a comprehensive Access to Higher Education programme to meet the needs of mature students. Access to HE Diplomas are full Level 3 qualifications recognised by universities throughout the UK. These courses prepare adults for university by providing essential academic skills and subject knowledge.

Duration

Courses normally start in mid-September and finish at the end of May. Taught hours are normally 15 hours per week with an additional 1.5 hours for a tutor session. Courses run over three days giving greater flexibility to work alongside the course (i.e. 9.15am to 4.15pm).

The Credit System and Course Content

The Access to HE Diploma is a 60 credit course made up of units worth 3, 6 and/or 9 credits. Students need to complete 15 ungraded credits at Level 2 or 3 and 45 graded credits at Level 3. Graded units provide the core subject knowledge, while ungraded units develop the essential academic skills needed to complete the diploma and progress to university.

Whatever your level of confidence in IT, we will help you to develop your skills in word processing, presentation software and spreadsheets. Whilst this is not taught as a separate subject, IT skills are embedded into the Access course. We have a large network of computers with internet access, an extensive eLibrary and a diverse range of software available for students to use.

Access students have a weekly tutorial session where they receive support with their university application. Tutors conduct regular one to ones with students to monitor progress and there is a focus on developing employability skills. Students also have access to an extensive enrichment programme.

Assessments

Access to HE Diplomas are usually assessed through a combination of written assignments, essays, projects, exams, presentations, and practical tasks. These varied assessment methods help learners build essential skills such as academic writing, critical thinking, research, time management, and independent study. By engaging with different forms of assessment, students develop both subject knowledge and the academic abilities required for success at university. Access to HE Medicine is the exception where the main mode of assessment is closed book exams.

Progression Routes

The Access to Higher Education Diploma is designed to give students the necessary grounding to progress to Higher Education courses and is an accepted alternative to A Levels and other more traditional routes to university. This course is accepted as a valid route of entry to a wide range of Higher Education courses, including the courses we have on offer at the University Centre Truro & Penwith.



Funding

Funding is dependent on your age and previous qualifications. If you are aged 19-23 years and do not hold a Level 3 qualification, you could be entitled for full funding. Alternatively, you could be eligible for an advanced learner loan that could be written off on completion of the Access to Higher Education Diploma and a Higher Education course. Please contact the University Centre for further information on 01872 305750 or by email on enquiry@truro-penwith.ac.uk.

Adult Bursary

Access to HE Diploma students aged 19+ can apply for the adult bursary. Eligible students may receive a free college meal when timetabled to be in college, a fuel allowance or free bus pass, help towards the cost of equipment and, if applicable, help towards the cost of childcare. The annual household income threshold for the adult bursary is £35,000 (subject to review each academic year).

Entry Requirements

It is preferable to have GCSE English and Maths at a minimum of grade 4/C before you commence the Access to HE Diploma. However, please contact us to discuss your prior qualifications and planned progression route and we would be happy to advise based on your particular set of circumstances. Level 2 functional skill (FS) may be accepted in lieu of GCSEs, but this will be dependent on the planned progression route of the applicant. While some university courses accept Level 2 FS in lieu of GCSEs, others may not. In addition, the university may stipulate they require a wider range of GCSEs and/or a higher grade profile. As such we advise applicants to carefully check the GCSE requirements for their planned progression route. Please note, the Access to HE Medicine Diploma has additional entry requirements which are in line with the expectations of medical schools. For example, If students intend to apply for undergraduate medicine they are expected to complete the required entrance exam (UCAT) prior to commencing the Access to HE Diploma. Applicants must achieve a UCAT score that would be acceptable to medical schools. In addition, all applicants must attend a mandatory three day induction where they will take part in a series of Biology, Chemistry and Physics lessons and complete internal entrance assessment. The scores achieved for internal entrance assessments are also taken into account when considering an application.

You will need motivation, determination and a desire to apply for a university course and will have our support in doing so. We welcome mature students from a range of different backgrounds.



“I coordinate the Access to Higher Education provision at the Truro Campus; I work with a highly experienced team to provide a range of courses for adults looking to return to education.”

Jolene Hogan | Access to HE Coordinator

Courses across three campuses



Art & Design

Students on the Access to Art and Design Diploma will learn to experiment and explore visual language through practical workshops in order to produce independent and original outcomes. The course will include two and three dimensional activities across drawing, painting, photography, textiles, graphics, sculpture and printmaking. Successful students have progressed to degrees such as Drawing, Fine Art, Illustration, Animation and Fashion.

Creative Arts

This course is designed to develop your creative potential and prepare you for progression to a higher level of study at university or art college. It is aimed at adult learners who would like the opportunity to retrain in art and design. The course will enable you to gain a broad understanding of subjects within the art and design framework. These will include drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, textiles and will equip you with the opportunity to identify the area of specialism most tailored to your aspirations and ability.

There will also be a structured programme of contextual studies, which explore art movements and cultural issues associated with your study of art and design practice.

Creative Media & Photography

Creative Media and Photography students will study photography and moving image production alongside other relevant disciplines such as graphic design. The course aims to develop your portfolio to enable you to progress to higher education and to go on to seek employment in the industry. Successful students have progressed to degrees in Post Production Editing, Business and Digital Marketing, Film, Media and Photography, and Film and TV Production.

- Penwith College
- Truro College
- STEM & Health Skills Centre, Bodmin



“If anyone is considering returning to education this is certainly the path I would recommend, as it is an experience that I know has given me the launchpad for my future career.”

Humanities

Humanities students study English, Psychology and Sociology, which allows you to progress to a wide range of humanities and social science subjects at undergraduate level. As with other Access courses, you will develop your research, academic writing and IT skills, leaving you well prepared for progression to Higher Education. Successful students have progressed to a wide variety of degrees including Teaching, Business Studies, English, Geography, History, Psychology, Sociology, Social Work, Building Surveying and Law.

Humanities, Teaching & Law

You will study units in History, Psychology, Sociology and Law/ Human Rights. An integrated teaching process allows you to develop the confidence and skills to achieve across a range of humanities and social science subjects at undergraduate level. Successful students have progressed to a wide variety of humanities based degrees including Archaeology, Psychology, Teaching, History and Law.

Computing & IT

You will study Software Development, Web Design, Networking, Computer Systems and Maths. This is a course intended to ensure that you gain sufficient experience in order to secure progression to university. Successful students have progressed to a variety of degrees including Computer Security, Computer Technology and Web Development.

For more detailed information about each Diploma, please visit our website





Health & Social Care

This course provides you with a qualification that leads into a chosen career in the health and social care sector. You will study Human Biology, Psychology and Sociology, together with the core subjects. This sector is diverse and holds multiple career pathways. This course is ideal for those wishing to progress to university studying toward careers in Adult Nursing, Children's Nursing, Social Work, Counselling, Care Management, Midwifery, Primary Teaching, Occupational Therapy, Social Science, Youth and Community Work and more. This Diploma meets the requirements of QAA's Subject Descriptor for Nursing and Health Professions and is therefore considered QAA compliant*.

Medicine

You will study Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Epidemiology and Maths, and in addition will plan, implement and write up an independent research project. This will give you the knowledge and skills necessary to progress to medicine and health related degrees. This Diploma is mainly designed for those intending to progress to undergraduate medicine but will allow progression to veterinary science, dentistry and other health related degrees. Unlike other Access to HE Diplomas, the majority of the course is assessed through closed book exams. This is to ensure you are prepared for the rigour of an undergraduate medical degree. If this is not your intended progression route, you may therefore want to consider an alternative Access to HE Diploma like Science, Nursing & Human Science or Health & Social care. The Access to HE Medicine Diploma meets the requirements of QAA's Subject Descriptor for Medicine and is therefore considered QAA compliant*.

Nursing & Human Sciences

You will study Human Biology, Psychology and Sociology, together with the core subjects. This course is not only for those interested in a career in nursing, but can also lead to a wide range of Higher Education courses in health related fields including Midwifery, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy. Students have also progressed to degrees in Psychology and Sociology. This Diploma meets the requirements of QAA's Subject Descriptor for Nursing and Health Professions and is therefore considered QAA compliant*.



- Penwith College
- Truro College
- STEM & Health Skills Centre, Bodmin



“I cannot praise the Access to Science course enough; it didn’t just build confidence but also really helped with my degree because everything that it covered was very relevant to what I then did at university.”

● Psychology & Social Work

You will study Psychology, Sociology and Social Work. This is an academic course intended to give students the skills necessary to progress to appropriate courses in Higher Education. The qualification could be suitable for those wishing to become social workers, or to pursue related studies in higher education such as Criminal Psychology, Psychology, Sociology and Social Science.

● ● Science

You will study Biology, Chemistry and Maths and will plan, implement and write up an independent research project. This will give you the knowledge and skills necessary to progress to a science or health related degree. Successful students have progressed to a variety of degrees including Biomedical Science, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Conservation and Ecology, Dietetics, Dental Therapy and Hygiene, Dentistry, Geology, Mining Engineering, Nutrition, Optometry, Paramedic Science, Physiotherapy, Radiography, Veterinary Medicine and Zoology. In addition, you could potentially progress to foundation degree pathways in Physics and Engineering.

For more detailed information about each Diploma, please visit our website



Student Destinations

The majority of students who have followed Access programmes have been successful in gaining places at colleges and universities of their choice, including:

- AECC University College
- Aberystwyth University
- Bangor University
- Bath Spa University
- BIMM University
- Birmingham City University
- Bournemouth University
- Cardiff Metropolitan University
- Cardiff University
- Central Film School London
- Cornwall College
- Coventry University
- Edge Hill University
- Falmouth University
- Keele University
- King's College London
- Kingston University
- Leeds Beckett University
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Oxford Brookes University
- Plymouth Marjon University
- Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh
- Queen Mary University of London
- Sheffield Hallam University
- Staffordshire University
- University Centre Somerset
- University Centre Truro & Penwith
- University for the Creative Arts
- University of Arts London
- University of Brighton
- University of Bristol
- University of Chester
- University of East Anglia (UEA)
- University of Exeter
- University of Gloucestershire
- University of Kent
- University of Nottingham
- University of Plymouth
- University of Portsmouth
- University of Salford
- University of Sheffield
- University of Southampton
- University of Surrey
- University of Sussex
- University of Wales Trinity Saint David
- University of Westminster, London
- University of Winchester
- UWE Bristol



Progression Routes

The University Centre Truro & Penwith has a range of complementary university level qualifications in partnership with the University of Plymouth, University of Greenwich and Pearson that can be studied after an Access course, right here in Cornwall. The subjects studied on an Access to HE Diploma are usually related to the university course you want to complete and provide a foundation on which to build. However, you will also develop the academic skills required for Higher Education. The table below shows some of the more common progression routes from Access to our university courses. However, if you have a change of heart about the subject area you want to study at university, many of our university courses may well still be an option for you.

Art & Design >	HND/C Fine Art FdA Film, Media & Photography
Computing >	FdSc Computer Technologies FdSc Cyber Security FdEng Software Engineering
Creative Media & Photography >	FdA Film, Media & Photography
Health & Social Care >	HND/C Applied Psychology FdA Childhood Education FdA Teaching & Learning FdSc Nursing Associate FdSc Youth, Social & Community Studies
Humanities, Teaching & Law >	HND/C Applied Psychology FdSc Archaeology HNC/FdA Business FdA Childhood Education FdA History, Heritage & Culture FdSc Law with Business FdSc Law with Criminology & Criminal Justice
Nursing & Human Sciences >	BSc Adult Nursing BSc Mental Health Nursing FdSc Nursing Associate BSc Operating Department Practitioner
Psychology & Social Work >	HND/C Applied Psychology FdSc Youth, Social & Community Studies
Science >	BSc Adult Nursing BSc (Hons) Applied Sport & Health BSc Mental Health Nursing FdSc Nursing Associate BSc Operating Department Practitioner FdSc Sports Therapy

Visit our website for up-to-date university level course details.



truro-penwith.ac.uk/uni

Progression routes correct at time of print.

“ Student Stories



Andy | Access to Science

“The Access course has got me back into the mindset of learning, of trying to understand new and difficult concepts and working through problems. It’s reminded me the importance of discipline and self-motivation. Going back into education was challenging after previous experiences, but the College and the staff genuinely want you to do well.”

After years of trying to find a job role that felt like the right fit, Andy decided it was time for a change. Looking for a career that would mean helping people as well as supporting his family, Andy began to look at training to gain a science qualification with the aim of joining the NHS and becoming a Radiographer or Sonographer. Despite having an English degree already, Andy knew in order to pursue this new career, he would need to have a science qualification under his belt, and therefore enrolled on the Access to Science course at Truro College, progressing to a Medical Imaging (Diagnostic Radiography) degree.



Sue | Access to Science

“It is the perfect stepping stone to university and gave me an opportunity to apply for a degree I was passionate about. With the help of my tutors and lectures, I applied for Veterinary medicine/science degrees and managed to get 3 interviews and two offers!”

Phoebe worked in a small animal centre and fun park, where she spent a lot of time working and caring for animals. After a couple of months there she realised a career working with animals was something she really wanted to pursue.

“I started researching possible Higher Education in veterinary and thought university would be the best next step. However, with the A Levels I chose, I wasn’t able to apply. So, with further research I found the Access to Science course, aimed towards mature students wanting to go into higher education.”

“I would encourage anyone thinking about doing the Access course to do it, it opens so many doors to further possibilities in education.”



Becky | Access to Nursing & Human Sciences

“I enjoyed the small class sizes and the fact that there was a real mix of ages and backgrounds. We covered subjects like Psychology, Sociology, Biology and study skills, all relevant for nursing.”

After a long period of time out of education, Becky realised her passion lay in Nursing and found the accessibility of the Access course at the University Centre a key factor in her being able to pursue this, as she did not have the prior qualifications to allow her to study at university level.

Becky said: “Later in life, sometimes you realise what you want to do, and it’s good that these courses exist so you can do that.”



Oliver | Access to Art & Design

“For the first portion of the course, we explored photography, life drawing, and working with lots of different materials. It was nice to explore other materials freely and the briefs were very open.”

Oliver studied Level 2 Bench Joinery at Penwith College. Outside of college, he lived and breathed carpentry in his workshop at home and applied the skills he had learnt at College to create functional household items. Oliver prefers a sustainable approach towards carpentry and would often get creative with spare material and off-cuts to ensure there was minimal waste.

Throughout his Level 2 Joinery studies, Oliver developed an artistic outlook on carpentry and sought inspiration from other artists to inform his work. Oliver was eager to discover more about what the creative world had to offer and decided to enrol on the Access to Art & Design course at the University Centre Truro & Penwith, to provide him with the stepping stone he needed to study a degree at university.

Apply Online



Applicants need to fill in an online application and will then be invited to the College for an interview, where you will have the opportunity to discuss the course in more detail.

Please visit our website for more information:
truro-penwith.ac.uk/access

Get in touch

Call us

Truro College **01872 305000**

Penwith College **01736 809000**

STEM & Health Skills Centre, Bodmin **01208 224455**

Email us

enquiry@truro-penwith.ac.uk



If you require this document in any other format, please contact Truro & Penwith College on 01872 305000.