

Health and Social Care

I. Course description and aims

Students can choose which course they wish to follow, dependent on their overall programme of study.

The content of this qualification has been designed to ensure it supports progression towards higher study. In addition, employers and professional bodies have been involved in order to confirm that the content is also appropriate for those interested in working in the sector.

Learners taking this qualification will study six mandatory units:

1. Human Lifespan Development
2. Working in Health and Social Care
3. Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs
4. Principles of Safe Practice in Health and Social Care
5. Enquiries into Current Research in Health and Social Care
6. Promoting Public Health

Learners can select two optional units that cover the biological or sociological topics relevant to the different parts of the sector to support their progression to specialised degree programmes in the sector. Topics include:

1. Sociological Perspectives
2. Psychological Perspectives
3. Caring for Individuals with Additional Needs
4. Physiological Disorders and their Care
5. Nutritional Health

The qualification is intended to carry UCAS points and is recognised by higher education institutions as contributing to meeting admission requirements to many relevant courses. There are also opportunities to give learner practice in developing employability skills such as, cognitive and problem solving skills, critical thinking, intrapersonal skills such as communicating and working collaboratively and interpersonal skills such as self-management and development.

II. Curriculum model overview

Assessment:

Assessment is specifically designed to fit the purpose and objective of the qualification. It includes a range of assessment types and styles suited to vocational qualifications in the sector. There are three main forms of assessment that you need to be aware of: external, internal and synoptic.

Externally-assessed units

The styles of external assessment used for qualifications in the Health and Social Care suite are:

- examinations – all learners take the same assessment at the same time, normally with a written outcome
- set tasks – learners take the assessment during a defined window and demonstrate understanding through completion of a vocational task.

Internally-assessed units

Most units in the sector are internally assessed and subject to external standards verification. Learners could be given opportunities to:

- write up the findings of their own research
- use case studies to explore complex or unfamiliar situations
- carry out projects for which they have choice over the direction and outcomes
- demonstrate practical and technical skills using appropriate work-based values and practices.

Synoptic assessment

Synoptic assessment requires learners to demonstrate that they can identify and use effectively, in an integrated way, an appropriate selection of skills, techniques, concepts, theories and knowledge from across the whole sector as relevant to a key task. Synoptic assessment must take place after the teaching and learning of other mandatory units in order for learners to be able to draw from the full range of content. The synoptic assessment gives learners an opportunity to independently select and apply learning from across their programmes in the completion of a vocational task.