

2020/21

NORTHERN
Regional College



**Further Education &
Work-Based Learning
Course Guide**



Welcome

Congratulations on taking the next step towards building on your education and developing your future career. You are joining the College at an exciting period of transformation as we progress through our campus development plans.

We have carefully selected each of the courses listed in this guide as programmes that offer real value to our students and are relevant to the needs of employers or to progression within education. Whether you are a recent school leaver, or you are returning to study after time away, this guide summarises the excellent opportunities available across our six campuses.

Whilst at the College you will most closely interact with our professional teaching staff. All of our lecturers have specialist expertise in their subject areas and many continue to work as professionals in industry. This connection with industry is important to us and as a College we work closely with businesses to ensure our provision is relevant and reflects the needs of employers. No matter what subject or qualification you choose, your course will be geared towards helping you to enhance your career prospects.

If you already know what subject you are interested in you will find more detailed information on our website, so please make sure you visit www.nrc.ac.uk to find out more.

If you are still trying to decide on what to do next please make use of the careers service we offer across our campuses. Why not come in and talk to one of our careers advisors who can discuss the options available to you? We would be delighted to see you.

I hope you find this guide useful and informative – and I look forward to welcoming you as student of Northern Regional College in September 2020.

Professor Terri Scott
Principal & Chief Executive

Contents

3	Welcome
4	Contents
6	Campus Development
9	Study at Northern Regional College
12	Open Days
14	Our Campuses
17	Facilities
18	Entrepreneurship Club
21	Students' Union
22	Supporting Students
24	How You Will Learn
27	Digital Learning
29	Fees and Funding
32	Guide to Qualifications
40	Apprenticeships
43	Advice on How to Secure an Employer for an Apprenticeship
44	How to Apply
47	What Our Students Say
53	Courses





Coleraine



Ballymena

Campus Development

The College is embarking on an £84 million capital investment, delivering state of the art campuses on the current sites in Union Street, Coleraine and Farm Lodge, Ballymena. The projects are funded by the Department for the Economy.

Coleraine

There will be a new, purpose-built campus on the existing (but extended) site at Union Street Coleraine, due to open in 2022. The innovation zone will be a flexible area that can be adapted for a wide range of activities including cross curriculum project based learning and conferences. The training restaurant and hair and beauty salon will, at set times, be open to the public to provide our students with the opportunity to train in a realistic environment.

The College plans also include the sympathetic refurbishments of the former St Patrick's Church Parish Centre as a stand alone performing arts centre for the new campus.

From September 2020, during the 2 year rebuild period, a small number of courses will be delivered at the Ballymoney Campus with the remaining at Beresford Avenue, Coleraine, each location playing an important role in maintaining the College curriculum offering.

Ballymena

Our plans are for one campus for Ballymena with a new build on the existing Farm Lodge site, with the closure of Trostan Avenue and Lamont Building. The new campus is scheduled to open in September 2024.

Find out more at www.nrc.ac.uk



Study at Northern Regional College

At Northern Regional College you can shape the direction of your education and career. Our range of qualifications and wide selection of subject areas gives you choice in your learning. Whether you want to work towards a trade or progress to university you will find a course for your needs.

We offer Traineeships/ Apprenticeships/GCSE equivalent courses (Level 2 BTEC Diploma), A Level equivalent courses (Level 3 BTEC Extended Diploma) and Access to University courses.

Excellent quality of teaching and learning

Many of our lecturers continue to work as industry professionals and offer extensive knowledge and experience of their specialist area.

Practical work-based structure

All courses are designed to provide you with the skills required to meet the needs of employers.

Financial Support

Depending on your course of study you may be eligible for a travel pass or other financial support such as EMA (Education Maintenance Allowance), Access to Learning Fund, hardship payments, childcare assistance. Student Finance staff are available to advise you on other types of financial support you could access while at the College.

See website for details.

Modern equipment and facilities

All subject areas are delivered with the latest equipment and facilities to meet industry standards.

Progression

Our courses offer excellent progression routes. Qualifications are available from Level 1 through to Level 6 (Higher Education), all within the College. You can move onto more advanced qualifications in the same subject or into new areas.

Excellent industry links

The College has excellent links with local, national and international employers who provide students with valuable placement opportunities, guest lectures and site visits.



Open Days

Open Days are a great opportunity to visit your local campus, speak to our friendly staff and find out more about our courses and facilities.

Ballymena

(Farm Lodge*)

Wednesday 5 February 2020

4pm – 8pm

Ballymoney

Thursday 6 February 2020

4pm – 8pm

Coleraine

Monday 3 February 2020

4pm – 8pm

Magherafelt

Tuesday 4 February 2020

4pm – 8pm

Newtownabbey

Wednesday 5 February 2020

4pm - 8pm

All Campuses*

Saturday 8 February 2020

10am - 1pm

*Advice will be available on all courses on offer at Ballymena on this day/evening at our Farm Lodge campus.



Our Campuses

Coleraine

Beresford Avenue
Coleraine
BT52 1HJ

Ballymoney

2 Coleraine Road
Ballymoney
BT53 6BP

Ballymena

Farm Lodge Buildings
Ballymena
BT43 7DF

Ballymena

Trostan Avenue
Building
Ballymena
BT43 7BN

Magherafelt

22 Moneymore Road
Magherafelt
BT45 6AE

Newtownabbey

400 Shore Road
Newtownabbey
BT37 9RS

Ballymoney

2 Coleraine Road
Ballymoney
BT53 6BP





Facilities

Libraries

Each campus has its own library with access to PCs, 35,000 printed books, over 500 e-books and 20,000 electronic journals. Dedicated library staff will support you in using the library and finding the resources you need to succeed on your course.

Teaching Facilities

You will be taught with the equipment and facilities needed to provide you with a high quality learning experience in your subject area. Our campuses are equipped with everything from standard teaching rooms to a wide variety of specialist equipment including engineering, sports and fitness, car maintenance, beauty, graphic design and science laboratories.

Learning Online

Computers and printers are available on all campuses. You will also have access to a wide range of learning resources on and off campus via the College's Canvas VLE. Many subject areas deliver some teaching online giving you more flexibility in when and where you study.

Canteen

Each campus has a canteen offering a selection of affordable snacks, sandwiches and meals. Meal deals, daily specials and healthy options are available throughout the week.

Seating Areas

Comfortable seating areas are available around the campuses for meeting friends and relaxing outside of class.

Free Wi-Fi

Free Wi-Fi is available at each campus. There are also designated Wi-Fi hotspots in each library for personal devices.

Entrepreneurship Club

As a student of the College, you will have the opportunity to join the Entrepreneurship Club. Whether you have a business idea or just thinking about it the College Entrepreneurship Club can provide you with the support you need to get started and grow an enterprise. The club offers you unique access to events, support, courses, product design, and much more to get your business started.

Through the Entrepreneurship Club you can explore and road test your ideas including accessing mentors and excellent facilities to bring those ideas to reality. You have the potential to start your learning journey as a student and complete as a business owner. You can also enhance your future prospects by attaining the Certificate in Entrepreneurship.

**For further details, contact
EntrepreneurshipClub@nrc.ac.uk**





Students' Union

All College students automatically become members of the Students' Union. The Union is responsible for representing the views of all students. You and your fellow students will elect someone in your class to be your representative and to feedback your views to the Students' Union and the College at various times throughout the year. The Union is run by the Student President along with the Student Leadership Team and Class Representatives. Meetings are generally campus based and held once per term.

As a member of the Students' Union, you will be able to:

- ▶ put yourself forward for election as class representative
- ▶ vote in College elections and attend meetings
- ▶ have your opinion heard across College through your class representative (if this isn't you)
- ▶ stand for election for Students' Union Officer posts if you are a class representative
- ▶ sit on College committees as deemed appropriate by the Students' Union/College

My role is to listen and respond to your ideas and thoughts as well as keeping you updated on key issues that are affecting students in NI and across the UK. I look forward to welcoming you as a student at Northern Regional College.



Reece Cochrane
Student President

Supporting Students

Careers Advice and Guidance

Our professional careers advice team will work with you throughout the academic year to help with career planning, job applications, interview skills and university applications such as UCAS and Central Applications Office (CAO).

Education Support

We offer comprehensive education support tailored to your specific needs in order to ensure you have the support to attend College and to succeed on your course. If you are unsure about the support we can offer, we can offer transition visits prior to starting your course which will provide a personal review of your needs.

Counselling Services

Beginning a new course can be a stressful time. There may be occasions where you may need to speak to someone outside of your course about issues affecting you. Our College counselling service is available 24 hours per day, 365 days per year and is staffed by professionally trained counsellors who you can talk to on the phone or in person. Group counselling is also available.



How You Will Learn

Teaching and assessment methods vary but most courses are taught through traditional lectures and practical sessions. You may be taught on campus, by eLearning, or a combination of both (blended learning).

Teaching methods may include:

- ▶ Guest lectures from industry professionals or specialists
- ▶ One-to-one sessions with your tutor
- ▶ Workshops
- ▶ Case studies
- ▶ Directed learning
- ▶ Independent study
- ▶ Visits e.g. to museums and exhibitions or into industry
- ▶ Productions
- ▶ Design studio work
- ▶ Laboratory work

Assessment methods may include:

- ▶ Formal examinations
- ▶ Practical exercises
- ▶ Coursework
- ▶ Online examinations
- ▶ Written assignments
- ▶ Reports
- ▶ Essays
- ▶ Case studies
- ▶ Reports
- ▶ Observation of skills
- ▶ Real-life industry projects
- ▶ Presentations

Industrial Visits

We have excellent industrial links with local, national and international employers who provide you with valuable seminars, visits and placement opportunities.





Digital Learning

On many of our courses teaching is delivered partly online and can be completed at home or on campus. We have invested heavily in online teaching facilities and computer equipment to provide our students with a high quality learning experience.

We are continually refining, expanding and enhancing our online course delivery, offering the flexibility of studying parts of your course online.

This means you can:

- ▶ Access course material online 24/7
- ▶ Experience interactive and engaging online programmes
- ▶ Enhance and develop your digital skills
- ▶ Balance study, work and family commitments

In addition to course materials provided by our lecturers, all students at Northern Regional College have access to online resources in topics such as employability, IT and study skills developed by industry experts.



Fees and Funding

The College has a dedicated Student Finance team who can provide you with support and assistance with applying for funding to support your studies and in accessing any additional College funds.

Where courses have additional mandatory expenses we make every effort to highlight them in the online prospectus. These may include uniforms, kits, IrishFA registration, residential visits, field trips, materials, security checks, computer equipment.

For further information contact Student Finance on 028 9085 5048 or 028 2563 6230.

EMA

Traineeship/Further Education students aged between 16 and 19 may be entitled to receive a weekly EMA (Education Maintenance Allowance) payment of £30. This award is means-tested on household income.

Travel Pass

Students aged 19 or younger on 1 July and on a full-time Further Education/Traineeship course may apply for a Travel Pass or travel allowance. Other criteria and age restrictions may apply and you should contact the Education Authority for further information.



Further Education Award

Students enrolled on a Further Education course must be 19 or older on 1 July. This is a means tested award for full-time students and usually has a closing date. Early application is recommended. Other criteria and age restrictions may apply and you should contact the Education Authority for further information.

Access to Learning Fund

Students must be 18 or older at the start of the academic year. Assistance is means tested and students must have applied to all other sources of finance that are available to them in the first instance. This fund is administered by the College. Application criteria are available upon request.

Care to Learn Scheme

If you have care of a child then you may be able to get help with childcare and travel costs. You must be aged between 16 and 19 at the start of the course. This fund is administered by the College.

Childcare Assistance

Help with childcare costs may be available to both further and higher education students through Student Finance NI.

Other Sources of Help

There may be other sources of support available to you, such as free school meals, or the Disabled Student Allowance. Please refer to our website for further details.



Guide to Qualifications

There are different ways to achieve your career goals. You can work towards a range of qualifications at Northern Regional College, each with varied pathways and progression routes, which will allow for further study or employment.

Selecting which qualification is right for you can be complicated. We have provided a guide to give you an overview of the qualifications available to you at Northern Regional College.



Level	Course Type	Level	Course Type	Level	Course Type	Level	Course Type	Level	Course Type
1	Diploma (Vocational Qualification - NVQ)	2	BTEC Diploma	2	Diploma (Vocational Qualification - NVQ)	2	Traineeship**	2	Apprenticeship**
Entry Requirements*		Entry Requirements*		Entry Requirements*		Entry Requirements*		Entry Requirements*	
Check website for details		4 GCSEs Grade D-G or above or equivalent		Check website for details		4 GCSEs (D-G) including Maths and English grades D-F or equivalent.		You must be aged between 16 and 24 years of age and in paid employment (at least 21 hours per week including College release). There may be additional entry requirements please check website for details	
Study Time		Study Time		Study Time		Study Time		Study Time	
1 Year, full-time		1 Year, full-time		1 Year, full-time		Typically 2 years, full-time		2 Years, full-time	
Description		Description		Description		Description		Description	
Diplomas (NVQs) are work-related qualifications that apply practical skills and knowledge gained at College directly into the workplace. These can be studied on a full-time basis, or part-time while in a job, work placement or on an apprenticeship. Level 1 Diploma (NVQ) is typically equivalent to GCSE (D-G).		BTEC Diplomas are vocational qualifications and combine practical, career-orientated skills with academic study. Level 2 BTEC Diploma is typically equivalent to 4 GCSEs (A*-C).		Diplomas (NVQs) are work-related qualifications that apply practical skills and knowledge gained at College directly into the workplace. These can be studied on a full-time basis, or part-time while in a job, work placement or on an apprenticeship. Level 2 Diploma (NVQ) is typically equivalent to GCSE (A-C).		The Traineeship provides a high-quality vocational education and training programme at Level 2 aimed at school leavers who aspire to work within a specific sector. The new Traineeship programme will allow you to achieve a full Level 2 qualification comprising of a vocational qualification (equivalent to at least 3 GCSEs in the chosen occupational area); vocational skills development; developing wider work ready skills and digital skills; work placement; literacy and numeracy qualifications at Level 2 (may include GCSE qualifications in English and Mathematics); and additional qualifications deemed necessary for work within a sector eg. Health and Safety, CSR, manual handling. This course is typically equivalent to 5 GCSEs (A*-C) including English and Mathematics at level 2.		Apprentices are employed as full-time members of staff and typically work for an employer three or four days a week. One or two days a week are spent at college, studying for nationally-recognised qualifications (such as a NVQ) in the same profession as the apprenticeship. Employers pay apprentices for the day(s) they are in College, meaning they earn a full-time wage. Level 2 is the level that most apprentices will start on.	
Progression		Progression		Progression		Progression		Progression	
Employment Further Training Level 2 Qualification		Employment Further Training Level 3 Qualification		Employment Further Training Level 3 Qualification		Employment Further Training Level 3 Qualification		Employment Further Training Level 3 Qualification	

Level	Course Type	Level	Course Type	Level	Course Type
3	Diploma (Vocational Qualification - NVQ)	3	Access to University	3	Apprenticeship**
Entry Requirements*		Entry Requirements*		Entry Requirements*	
Check website for details		You must normally be 19 years of age or over at the date of entry to the course and provide evidence of basic competence in written, oral communication and numeracy skills. You will be requested to undertake a short, written assessment.		4 GCSEs at Grade C or above	
Study Time		Study Time		Study Time	
1 Year, full-time		1 Year, full-time 2 Years, part-time		Level 2 You must have a Level 2 Apprenticeship and be aged between 16 and 24 years of age in paid employment (at least 21 hours per week including College release). There may be additional entry requirements please check website for details.	
Description		Description		Description	
Diplomas (NVQs) are work-related qualifications that apply practical skills and knowledge gained at college directly into the workplace. These can be studied on a full-time basis, or part-time while in a job, work placement or on an apprenticeship.		Access to university courses are designed to encourage and facilitate students who have been away from formal education but who wish to return, many with a view to progressing to higher education. Courses are modularised and set at A-Level standard.		Apprentices are employed as full-time members of staff and typically work for an employer three or four days a week. One or two days a week are spent at college, studying for nationally-recognised qualifications (such as a NVQ) in the same profession as the apprenticeship. Employers	
Progression		Progression		Progression	
Employment Further Training Higher Education - Level 4-5 Qualification		Employment Further Training Higher Education - Level 4-5 Qualification (including University Degrees and Foundation Degrees)		Employment Further Training Higher Education - Level 4-5 Qualification	

Level	Course Type	Level	Course Type	Level	Course Type
3	BTEC Extended Diploma	3	BTEC 90 Credit Diploma/BTEC National Foundation Diploma	3	BTEC Subsidiary Diploma
Entry Requirements*		Entry Requirements*		Entry Requirements*	
4 GCSEs at Grade C or above		4 GCSEs at Grade C or above		4 GCSEs at Grade C or above	
Study Time		Study Time		Study Time	
2 Year, full-time		1 Year, full-time		1 Year, full-time	
Description		Description		Description	
These qualifications combine practical, career-orientated skills with academic study. You will typically study a Subsidiary or 90 Credit/National Foundation Diploma in one year and then continue to the extended diploma in the second year.		These qualifications combine practical, career-orientated skills with academic study. You will typically study a Subsidiary or 90 Credit/National Foundation Diploma in one year and then continue to the extended diploma in the second year.		These qualifications combine practical, career-orientated skills with academic study. You will typically study a Subsidiary or 90 Credit/National Foundation Diploma in one year and then continue to the extended diploma in the second year.	
Equivalencies are: Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma - 1 A-Level Level 3 90 Credit Diploma/National Foundation Diploma - 1.5 A-Levels Level 3 Extended Diploma - 3 A-Levels		Equivalencies are: Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma - 1 A-Level Level 3 90 Credit Diploma/National Foundation Diploma - 1.5 A-Levels Level 3 Extended Diploma - 3 A-Levels		Equivalencies are: Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma - 1 A-Level Level 3 90 Credit Diploma/National Foundation Diploma - 1.5 A-Levels Level 3 Extended Diploma - 3 A-Levels	
Progression		Progression		Progression	
Successful students automatically progress to the second year of the Level 3 BTEC Extended Diploma Employment Further Training Higher Education - Level 4-5 Qualification (including University Degrees and Foundation Degrees)		Successful students automatically progress to the second year of the Level 3 BTEC Extended Diploma Employment Further Training Higher Education - Level 4-5 Qualification (including University Degrees and Foundation Degrees)		Successful students automatically progress to the second year of the Level 3 BTEC Extended Diploma Employment Further Training Higher Education - Level 4-5 Qualification (including University Degrees and Foundation Degrees)	



Level Course Type

Level 4 and 5 are Higher Education level courses.

See our [Higher Education course guide](#) or [view courses online](#) for further details.

* Entry requirements may vary for some courses. Check our website for the specific entry requirement for each course.

**Also referred to as Work-based learning. This 'umbrella' term is used to refer to courses that provide you with real-life work experiences whilst applying academic and technical skills to enhance your employment opportunities.

Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning

Where mature students wish to have prior education and/or experience taken into account, in lieu of meeting the full course entry requirements, they should contact the relevant Course Director by 10 August, as an application deadline will apply. Applicants must also refer to further details available online.

Apprenticeships

What is an Apprenticeship?

Apprentices are employed as full-time members of staff and typically work three days a week. Up to two days a week are spent at College, studying for nationally-recognised qualifications in the same profession as the apprenticeship.

- ▶ You must find your own employer
- ▶ Some employers may require GCSEs
- ▶ It might be possible to do an apprenticeship with a current employer
- ▶ You work all year round, but your College classes run from September to July
- ▶ Employers pay you for the days you are in College, meaning you will receive a full-time wage in accordance with the national minimum wage

Around 600 apprentices train with us every year and we are expanding to include a broader range of professions. Apprenticeships are a popular way to learn skills, get qualifications and kick start a career.

ApprenticeshipsNI

Course Details

Apprenticeships offer training to people aged 16 and over who are employed for a minimum of 21 hours per week. Restrictions apply for those over 25.

Training

Your training support officer will meet with you and your employer to discuss your training needs and develop a training programme for you.

Timetable

Usually you are with your employer three days a week and at College up to two days a week.

Apprenticeships are offered from Level 2 to Level 3 with Higher Level Apprenticeships from Level 5 upwards. Level 2 is the level that most new apprentices will start on. Depending on your ability and qualifications you may be able to start at Level 3. Once you complete Level 3 you may be able to progress to a Higher Level Apprenticeship.

What is a Higher Level Apprenticeship?

A Higher Level Apprenticeship (HLA) is a nationally accredited workbased programme similar to traditional apprenticeships but at a higher level (Level 5). It is designed to meet the needs of employers for higher skill levels and leads to qualifications equivalent to university level.

Current Higher Level Apprenticeships available at the College include:

- ▶ **Accountancy**
- ▶ **Computing**
- ▶ **Construction**
- ▶ **Engineering**

Full course details can be viewed online.





Advice on how to secure an employer for an apprenticeship

Before starting your apprenticeship you must secure full-time employment. Below are some guidelines to assist you:

- ▶ Consider working with a suitable employer over the summer months to give you a better insight into the industry in which you are thinking of a career
- ▶ Remember to check that you are adequately covered by the employer's insurance, and that you have also received suitable Health & Safety training
- ▶ Phone, email or arrange to meet with as many local companies/employers as you can and remember to have an updated curriculum vitae (CV) ready to hand over, post, or email to employers
- ▶ Contact your local Careers Service, school careers teacher or a member of our College careers team to get useful information on your chosen career as well as help in preparing your CV
- ▶ You can contact a Department for the Economy (DfE) careers advisor by phone, Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm Tel: 0300 200 7820
- ▶ Scan your local press job section and online job sites for companies advertising apprenticeship opportunities, especially during summer months

How to Apply

You can apply online NOW for September 2020 entry.

Applications are made through our website

www.nrc.ac.uk

follow these steps:





What Our Students Say

Earlier this year, Jack was runner up in the animation category at the Inter-Colleges media competition with his 'Zombie News Report' and was the highest-achieving student in his class at the College's awards ceremony. Following on from this success, Jack completed a Level 3 in Interactive Media with triple distinction grade and was awarded a JP McManus scholarship worth over 22K towards his undergraduate degree in Animation at Ulster University. As a recipient of the JP McManus scholarship he will receive £5,550 per year toward his fees and other expenses during the four-year course.



Jack Bradshaw
Level 3 in Interactive Media

Calum, an apprentice with Braid Electrical Services, won Apprentice of the Year at the Northern Ireland Electrical Awards.

"I've always tried, both in College and on-site, to achieve the very highest standards, in everything I do," said Calum. "It's great to have all that hard work and effort recognised with an award like this one."



Calum McAuley
Level 3 in Electrical Installation

Samuel, carpentry and joinery apprentice won a top European award crowning him Best Apprentice. Winning this award is the latest achievement for Samuel who won the Northern Ireland Young Apprentice of the Year in 2018 and a gold medallist at the UK National Finals of WorldSkills UK Live 2018.

"I never expected to even be nominated for this award. I was shocked and completely speechless. I have learned an incredible amount from both my tutor Ian Forsythe at the College and my employer Mark Pollock.



Samuel Gilmore
Level 3 in Carpentry & Joinery

Having completed his AS Levels at Coleraine Grammar, Sam decided that being back at school wasn't for him so he enrolled on the Level 3 in Business course at the College. He is enjoying the freedom of studying at the College as it allows him to balance his study with working part-time. He explains,

"Studying the Level 3 Diploma is a really good stepping stone to going on to university. The lecturers are there to give support if needed but independent learning is good as it will prepare me for university. The structure of the course and the way you have to do coursework instead of exams is another plus."

Some friends who were a year ahead of Sam had completed the course and recommended it.

"It was the best decision I have made and I am now more focused. I want to study Business at a higher level and plan to go onto to the HNC and then the Degree in Business at the College's Ballymena campus.



Sam Scott
Level 3 in Business





Caitlin completed Level 3 Travel and Tourism with triple Distinction and was awarded Highest Achieving Student at the College's Student Award ceremony. Caitlin admits struggling with the pressure of exams at school.

"I could have stayed on at school to do my A levels but I felt I needed a break from exam stress. Studying Level 3 Travel and Tourism was definitely the right decision for me. For anyone interested in Travel and Tourism but unsure about the area they want to focus on, this course will give a good overview of the different options available, from working on a cruise ship or as cabin crew to working as a holiday rep for a tour operator. You also get the chance to achieve additional qualifications in customer care such as WorldHost. I would definitely recommend it,"

Caitlin was also awarded the prestigious JP McManus Scholarship of £5,500 per year towards her university fees and other expenses for the duration of her undergraduate programme, Degree in Festival and Event Management at Southampton Solent University. Caitlin was "delighted" to have been selected for the JP McManus scholarship and said it was the "icing on the cake" of a fantastic time at the College.



Caitlin Allen
Level 3 in Travel & Tourism

Louis Bell, a recent graduate of the College's Professional Cookery apprenticeship scheme delivered in partnership with Galgorm Spa and Golf Resort, landed a dream job within the Castle Golf Club restaurant at the luxury resort. As an apprentice, Louis spent four days each week in the resort's busy kitchens and one day a week studying at the College's Ballymena campus. Louis decided to leave school after doing his AS-Levels and pursue his career as a chef.

"Looking back, it was definitely the right decision for me. I couldn't have learned everything I have by just being in a classroom. I have been able to work my way up from prep chef to performing restaurant service," he says.

Louis has been able to gain experience in three different kitchens at the Galgorm and has praised the "supportive head chefs" in each of them.

Theory-based learning at the College's Ballymena campus was also part of his apprenticeship and, although he was initially sceptical about how useful this would be, Louis admits:

"I wouldn't change a thing about the course, or my experience."



Louis Bell
Professional Cookery, graduate



Courses

Ballymena (Trostan Avenue)

Subject	Level	Duration
Access Diploma in Social Sciences	Level 3	1 Year
Art, Design and Media Practice	Level 3/4	1 Year
Aspire2Work	Inclusive Learning	1 Year
Barbering	Level 2	1 Year
Beauty Therapy	Level 2	1 Year
Beauty Therapy	Apprenticeship Level 2	2 Years
Beauty Therapy	Level 3	1 Year
Beauty Therapy	Apprenticeship Level 3	2 Years
Business with Digital Technologies	Level 2	1 Year
Business	Level 3	2 Years
Catering and Professional Chefs	Apprenticeship Level 2	2 Years
Children's Care, Learning and Development	Level 2	1 Year
Children's Care, Learning and Development	Level 3	2 Years
Creative Arts and Digital Technologies	Level 2	1 Year
Creative Digital Media Production	Level 2	1 Year
Creative Media Practice	Level 3	2 Years
Early Years and Health Studies	Level 2	1 Year

For full course details and up-to-date information visit www.nrc.ac.uk.

Courses

Ballymena (Trostan Avenue)

Subject	Level	Duration
Food and Beverage Service	Apprenticeship Level 2	2 Years
Hairdressing	Level 2	2 Years
Hairdressing	Apprenticeship Level 2	2 Years
Hairdressing	Level 3	1 Year
Hairdressing	Apprenticeship Level 3	2 Years
Health and Social Care	Level 2	1 Year
Health and Social Care	Level 3	2 Years
Industrial Art and Design (Art and Design Practice)	Level 3	2 Years
Plumbing	Traineeship Level 2	2 Years
Plumbing	Apprenticeship Level 2	2 Years
Plumbing	Apprenticeship Level 3	2 Years
Professional Cookery (Introduction)	Level 1	1 Year
Professional Cookery	Level 2	1 Year
Route2Work	Inclusive Learning	1 Year

For full course details and up-to-date information visit www.nrc.ac.uk.



Courses

Ballymena (Farm Lodge)

Subject	Level	Duration
Applied Science (Medical Science)	Level 3	2 Years
Brickwork	Traineeship Level 2	2 Years
Brickwork	Apprenticeship Level 2	2 Years
Brickwork	Apprenticeship Level 3	2 Years
Carpentry & Joinery	Traineeship Level 2	2 Years
Carpentry & Joinery (Site)	Apprenticeship Level 2	2 Years
Carpentry & Joinery (Bench)	Apprenticeship Level 2	2 Years
Carpentry & Joinery (Site)	Apprenticeship Level 3	2 Years
Carpentry & Joinery (Bench)	Apprenticeship Level 3	2 Years
College Connect	Level 1	1 Year
Construction and the Built Environment	Level 3	2 Years
Electrical Installation	Apprenticeship Level 3	4 Years
Engineering	Traineeship Level 2	2 Years
Engineering	Apprenticeship Level 2	3 Years
Engineering	Level 3	2 Years

For full course details and up-to-date information visit www.nrc.ac.uk.





Courses Ballymena (Farm Lodge)

Subject	Level	Duration
Engineering	Apprenticeship Level 3	3 Years
Information and Creative Technology	Level 2	1 Year
Information Technology/Computing	Level 3	2 Years
Light Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Principles	Level 3	2 Years
Motor Vehicle (Light Vehicle)	Traineeship Level 2	2 Years
Motor Vehicle (Light Vehicle)	Apprenticeship Level 2	3 Years
Motor Vehicle	Apprenticeship Level 3	3 Years
Public Services	Level 3	2 Years
Sport	Level 2	1 Year
Sport (Irish FA specialism option)	Level 3	2 Years
Travel & Tourism with WorldHost and Aviation	Level 3	2 Years

For full course details and up-to-date information visit www.nrc.ac.uk.

Courses Ballymoney

Subject	Level	Duration
Access to Opportunity	Level 2	1 Year
Animal Care	Level 2	1 Year
Animal Management	Level 3	2 Years
Aspire2Work	Inclusive Learning	1 Year
Barbering	Apprenticeship Level 2	2 Years
Barbering	Level 2	1 Year
Beauty Therapy	Level 2	1 Year
Beauty Therapy (Massage)	Level 3	1 Year
Business with Digital Technologies	Level 2	1 Year
Carpentry & Joinery	Traineeship Level 2	2 Years

For full course details and up-to-date information visit www.nrc.ac.uk.





Courses Ballymoney

Subject	Level	Duration
Carpentry & Joinery (Site)	Apprenticeship Level 2	2 Years
Carpentry & Joinery (Bench)	Apprenticeship Level 2	2 Years
Carpentry & Joinery (Site)	Apprenticeship Level 3	2 Years
Carpentry & Joinery (Bench)	Apprenticeship Level 3	2 Years
Children's Care, Learning and Development	Level 2	1 Year
Children's Care, Learning and Development	Level 3	2 Years
Construction and the Built Environment	Level 3	2 Years
Hairdressing	Apprenticeship Level 2	2 Years
Hairdressing	Level 2	2 Years
Motor Vehicle (Light Vehicle)	Traineeship Level 2	2 Years
Professional Cookery (Introduction)	Level 1	1 Year
Professional Cookery	Level 2	1 Year
Professional Cookery (Preparation and Cooking)	Level 3	1 Year
Route2Work	Inclusive Learning	1 Year
Transition2College	Inclusive Learning	2 Years

For full course details and up-to-date information visit www.nrc.ac.uk.

Courses

Coleraine (Beresford Avenue)

Subject	Level	Duration
Access Diploma in Social Sciences	Level 3	1 Year
Animation & Visual Effects (Creative Media Practice)	Level 3	2 Years
Applied Science	Level 3	2 Years
Business	Level 3	2 Years
Creative Digital Media Production	Level 2	1 Year
Digital Games and Virtual Reality Development (Creative Media Practice)	Level 3	2 Years
Engineering	Traineeship Level 2	2 Years
Engineering	Level 3	2 Years
Health and Social Care	Level 2	1 Year
Health and Social Care	Level 3	2 Years
Information and Creative Technology	Level 2	1 Year
Interactive Media (Creative Media Practice)	Level 3	2 Years

For full course details and up-to-date information visit www.nrc.ac.uk.





Courses Coleraine (Beresford Avenue)

Subject	Level	Duration
Information Technology/Computing	Level 3	2 Years
Music Technology (Performing Arts)	Level 3	2 Years
Performing Arts	Level 3	2 Years
Sport	Level 2	1 Year
Sport and Exercise Sciences	Level 3	2 Years
Sport (Irish FA specialism option)	Level 3	2 Years
Travel and Tourism	Level 2	1 Year
Travel and Tourism with WorldHost & Aviation	Level 3	2 Years
TV & Film (Creative Media Practice)	Level 3	2 Years

For full course details and up-to-date information visit www.nrc.ac.uk.

Courses

Magherafelt

Subject	Level	Duration
Access Diploma in Social Sciences	Level 3	1 Year
Aspire2Work	Inclusive Learning	1 Year
Barbering	Level 3	1 Year
Beauty Therapy	Level 2	1 Year
Beauty Therapy (Massage)	Level 3	1 Year
Business	Level 3	2 Years
Carpentry & Joinery	Traineeship Level 2	2 Years
Carpentry & Joinery (Site)	Apprenticeship Level 2	2 Years
Carpentry & Joinery (Bench)	Apprenticeship Level 2	2 Years
Carpentry & Joinery (Site)	Apprenticeship Level 3	2 Years
Carpentry & Joinery (Bench)	Apprenticeship Level 3	2 Years
Children's Care, Learning and Development	Level 2	1 Year

For full course details and up-to-date information visit www.nrc.ac.uk.





Courses Magherafelt

Subject	Level	Duration
Children's Care, Learning and Development	Level 3	2 Years
Civil Engineering	Apprenticeship Level 3	2 Years
Engineering	Traineeship Level 2	2 Years
Engineering	Level 3	2 Years
Hairdressing	Apprenticeship Level 2	2 Years
Hairdressing	Level 2	2 Years
Health and Social Care	Level 2	1 Year
Health and Social Care	Level 3	2 Years
Information and Creative Technology	Level 2	1 Year
Information Technology/Computing	Level 3	2 Years
Motor Vehicle (Light Vehicle)	Traineeship Level 2	2 Years
Route2Work	Inclusive Learning	1 Year
Sport (Irish FA/GAA specialism option)	Level 3	2 Years
Travel and Tourism	Level 2	1 Year
Transition2College	Inclusive Learning	2 Years

For full course details and up-to-date information visit www.nrc.ac.uk.

Courses Newtownabbey

Subject	Level	Duration
Access Diploma in Social Sciences	Level 3	1 Year
Animal Care	Level 2	1 Year
Animal Management	Level 3	2 Years
Animation & Visual Effects (Creative Media Practice)	Level 3	2 Years
Applied Science	Level 2	1 Year
Applied Science (Analytical & Forensic Science)	Level 3	2 Years
Aspire2Work	Inclusive Learning	1 Year
Beauty Therapy	Apprenticeship Level 2	2 Years
Beauty Therapy	Level 2	1 Year
Beauty Therapy (Massage)	Level 3	1 Year
Beauty Therapy	Apprenticeship Level 3	2 Years
Business	Level 3	2 Years
Carpentry & Joinery	Traineeship Level 2	2 Years
Carpentry & Joinery (Site)	Apprenticeship Level 2	2 Years
Carpentry & Joinery (Bench)	Apprenticeship Level 2	2 Years
Carpentry & Joinery (Site)	Apprenticeship Level 3	2 Years
Carpentry & Joinery (Bench)	Apprenticeship Level 3	2 Years
Children's Care, Learning and Development	Level 2	1 Year
Children's Care, Learning and Development	Level 3	2 Years

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Courses Newtownabbey

Subject	Level	Duration
Children's Care, Learning and Development	Level 3	2 Years
College Connect	Level 1	1 Year
Creative Digital Media Production	Level 2	1 Year
Early Years and Health Studies	Level 2	1 Year
Electrical Installation	Apprenticeship Level 3	4 Years
Engineering	Traineeship Level 2	2 Years
Engineering	Apprenticeship Level 2	3 Years
Engineering	Level 3	2 Years
Engineering	Apprenticeship Level 3	3 Years
Games Development (Creative Media Practice)	Level 3	2 Years
Hairdressing	Apprenticeship Level 2	2 Years
Hairdressing	Level 2	2 Years
Hairdressing	Level 3	1 Year
Health and Social Care	Level 2	1 Year
Health and Social Care	Level 3	2 Years

For full course details and up-to-date information visit www.nrc.ac.uk.

Courses Newtownabbey

Subject	Level	Duration
Information and Creative Technology	Level 2	1 Year
Interactive Media (Creative Media Practice)	Level 3	2 Years
Information Technology/Computing	Level 3	2 Years
Motor Vehicle (Light Vehicle)	Traineeship Level 2	2 Years
Motor Vehicle (Light Vehicle)	Apprenticeship Level 2	3 Years
Motor Vehicle	Apprenticeship Level 3	3 Years
Performing Arts	Level 2	1 Year
Performing Arts Practice	Level 3	2 Years
Plumbing	Traineeship Level 2	2 Years
Plumbing	Apprenticeship Level 2	2 Years
Plumbing	Apprenticeship Level 3	2 Years
Route2Work	Inclusive Learning	1 Year
Sport	Level 2	1 Year
Sport (Irish FA specialism option)	Level 3	2 Years
Transition2College	Inclusive Learning	2 Years
Transition2Work	Inclusive Learning	1 Year
Travel and Tourism	Level 2	1 Year
Travel and Tourism with WorldHost & Aviation	Level 3	2 Years

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Contact Us

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Please note that the College's website is the most up-to-date source of information regarding courses and fees and we strongly recommend that you always visit the website before making any commitments.

All courses are subject to minimum enrolment numbers.

Northern Regional College is committed to the promotion of equality of opportunity in all of its activities. We aim to ensure that we provide a supportive, fair, inclusive and welcoming environment for all staff, students and visitors free from any form of discrimination or harassment.

If you require this document in an alternative format please contact equality@nrc.ac.uk.



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TO SUCCEED

APPRENTICESHIPS

SKILLS
TO SUCCEED

The background features a geometric pattern of overlapping triangles in various shades of blue, teal, and orange. The text is centered in the middle of the composition.

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