

Gateway to Learning: Improving your learning and performance

Introduction

This course is aimed at giving you the opportunity to think about what your aims and goals are and to set out a route to achieve them – by undertaking courses at Fircroft or elsewhere. During the course you will undertake an assessment of your literacy and numeracy levels as well as work with your tutor on looking at what support you need to help you achieve on courses. Having agreed your aims and goals you will be able to identify the right set of courses to get you where you want to be.

What will you learn?

By the end of the course you should be able to:

- Research and plan a personal learning goal
- Identify positive personal and course factors which will motivate you to succeed
- Be aware of negative factors that may hinder your learning success
- Have the opportunity to assess your literacy and numeracy skills

Who is this course aimed at?

These courses will benefit adults who wish to reflect and plan their learning to maximise their success. The course will give you time to identify what makes learning enjoyable to you and match your personal preferences to appropriate course either offered by Fircroft College or at another college.

What are the entry requirements? (If applicable)

There are no formal entry requirements for this course.

How is it taught?

During the course you will participate in activities such as: completing quizzes, summarising small group discussions, developing a visual personal learning action plan using arts and craft materials (you do not need to be an artist) and sharing part of your learning action plan with others. Photographs of your action plan will be included in an organised folder of work. Your course tutor marks the folder which is then subject to internal and external moderation by the Open College Network.

How will you be assessed?

During the course you will participate in activities such as: completing worksheets, summarising small group discussions and completing a short learning diary. Certain set pieces of work are then used for assessment and are organised into a folder of work. Your course tutor marks the folder which is then subject to internal and external moderation by the Open College Network.

What will you achieve?

If you complete the course successfully you will achieve Open College Network (OCN) Credits at either Entry 3, Level 1 or Level 2. The OCN Credits you achieve are part of a national system for recognising and accrediting the learning you have undertaken on this course. Once you complete this course you can build the number of credits you have achieved by undertaking further short courses as detailed overleaf.

What can you do after this?

Continue with your studies at Fircroft and achieve an NOCN Progression Certificate at or at another college. At any time in the future you can book a one to one Information and Guidance tutorial with Helene Pursey to explore review options.

Who are the tutors?

The course is run by one of the following three experienced tutors: Sam Lerner or Sharon Griffiths and supported by Helene Pursey, the college's Information Advice and Guidance tutor. These tutors specialise in teaching adult returners. Their teaching readily encourages learners to reflect and share their existing experiences and skills to identify achievable learning goals in a supportive atmosphere.

When does it run?

This is a three day course which includes two nights residency at the College. Courses start at 5.30pm on the first day and finish between 3pm and 4pm on the third day. Please check our website or short course guide for course dates. Alternatively you can contact our Short Course office.

Is there a cost?

This course is free if you are claiming certain types of benefits. Otherwise it is £40. All accommodation, food, teaching & course materials costs are included.

How can you apply?

For more information please contact the short course office on 0121 472 0116 or email shortcourses@fircroft.ac.uk. You can apply online at www.fircroft.ac.uk, by post or in person.

