

**APPLY
TODAY**

Free Courses and Residential Stays for Adult Education

(Subject to eligibility criteria)

Starting September – December 2026

A few non-residential courses are also available

- Access to Higher Education Diplomas
- Pre-Access: Adult Skills Certificate
- ESOL
- Fircroft (Foundations) – for New Communities
- English, Maths and Digital
- Personal and Social Development
- Green Skills
- Skills and Subjects for Academic Study
- Working and Volunteering

Our courses are funded by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) and are for people living in areas of the West Midlands County. However, people living in other areas of England may apply – see inside for details.



Our Class Times

Most of our courses are residential, 3 days and 2 nights, and students stay overnight from day 1 to day 3.

Our normal course start days are Monday, Wednesday or Friday. These are the times for most of our courses:

Day 1

Students arrive at 1.15pm
Lessons start at 2.00pm – 5.00pm

Day 2

Lessons start at 9.00am – 12.00pm
& 1.00pm – 5.00pm

Day 3

Lessons start at 9.00am – 12.00pm

For more information about our courses, please go to www.fircroft.ac.uk.

Boost Your Life Skills with our FREE Maths, English and Digital Skills Courses

Take a look at the range of life skills courses we have this term, and why not apply? We can offer you a knowledge check to see where you are at the moment with these skills and can offer you information, advice and guidance to help you get where you want to be with your maths, English and digital skills. We have short, longer, residential and day courses, at different levels. Take a look at this brochure and go to www.fircroft.ac.uk to find out more!

Having a good English, maths and IT qualification can improve your:

Job prospects

Employers look for employees who have good maths, English and IT skills as these are skills used daily in many job roles.

Everyday life

The need to have maths, English and IT skills is essential in today's world. These skills are used every day for activities such as planning

your next mini-break, looking and applying for jobs, communicating with friends, managing household finances, ordering things online, paying the rent or mortgage and keeping up with the news.

Confidence

Being able to more easily and quickly use maths, English and IT skills is a real confidence booster. Why spend more time than you need to struggling to work out sums, read or do something on a computer?

Opportunities for further study

Many courses at colleges, training providers and universities require potential students to have higher level maths, English and IT skills so that they can keep up with the course work. Most courses require students to already have these skills as maths, English and IT feature heavily throughout the course.

Have a look at our courses and apply today!

About Fircroft College of Adult Education

We are the only residential adult Further Education college in The Midlands, based in an old manor house that once belonged to George Cadbury Jnr., who founded the college, situated on the Bristol Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham. It is easy to get to us by bus, bicycle, train and car and we have free parking and bicycle stands. We also have 6 acres of grounds which we use for some of our courses and are a perfect place to relax and refresh.

At Fircroft, we believe everyone deserves a second chance, especially people who have encountered many barriers in their lives that have prevented them from finding their true

potential. Our courses are designed to help you to progress and grow, supported by our unique residential experience that gives you the opportunity to escape your everyday life and focus on yourself, your course and your ambitions for the future.

We also have courses for professionals and volunteers who want short (3 days, 2 nights), or longer courses to enhance their knowledge and skills when working with their service users and colleagues.

Come and see for yourself what a great place we are to stay and learn!

Careers and Progression

At Fircroft, we offer Careers and Progression support which is inclusive, accessible, and tailored to your individual needs, interests, and goals.

If you would like careers support, we may begin by exploring your health and wellbeing and identifying any barriers that could affect your progression. We can work with you to build confidence and develop practical life and work skills, including communication, goal setting, critical thinking, digital literacy and your literacy & numeracy skills. You will also have opportunities to learn about green skills and climate justice, helping you prepare for jobs now and into the future.

We work closely with employers, universities, colleges, and training providers to create real progression pathways. This gives you opportunities to explore a range of sectors, including health and social care, digital,

leadership & management, business and administration, and many others.

As a learner, you will be invited to group workshops covering topics such as CV writing, job searching, and interview skills. You can also access one-to-one careers advice and guidance on courses including, entry requirements, career pathways, job applications, CV development, and cover letter writing.

If you are enrolled on a medium- or long-term course, you will take part in careers-focused activities within your course to help develop the skills needed for good work and future progression. You will also have opportunities to attend careers events, featuring interactive activities, employer stands, and guest speakers from a variety of industries.



Access to Higher Education (Humanities and Social Science)

- Criminology
- English and History
- Education
- Law With Human Rights
- Creative Writing And English
- Youth And Community Work
- Philosophy

To apply for one of our diplomas please go to our website at www.fircroft.ac.uk for more information and apply. Once we have heard from you, we will be in touch to talk to you more about your application.

Please note: because this course is intensive there will be a rigorous application process between April and September 2026, including interviews with staff and Maths and English knowledge checks.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Open Days

We hold Open Days most Tuesdays at the college.

To book your place on any of our Open Days, go to www.fircroft.ac.uk/open-days. **Please note** – we request you arrive on time as you may not be able to attend if you are late.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Applying for a Course

Please apply for a course as early as possible. We do our best to process courses at least a week before they start but sometimes this is not possible so we appreciate your patience.

We need to speak to you before you start your course so please look out for our telephone calls, texts and emails.

Access to Higher Education Diplomas

If you will be 19 years or older (up to any age by 31st August 2026) and you live in the West Midlands county – Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull or Coventry, our Level 3 Access to Higher Education diplomas are great stepping-stones to entering higher education. For many years our successful diploma students have all been offered places at university. The diplomas are residential with a limited amount of non-residential places available and if you need help with your English and maths skills, we can help you get up to scratch while you are studying your diploma.

The courses are a mixture of classroom, online and independent learning. Below are just some of the subjects our students have gone on to study at university:

Access to Higher Education (Health and Social Care)

- Psychology
- Nursing
- Mental Health Nursing
- Adult Nursing
- Counselling Skills





Fircroft College FAQs

Who are Fircroft College's courses for?

With the West Midlands Combined Authority funding our courses, they are mostly for people living in areas of the West Midlands county, including:

Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell, Dudley, Solihull and Coventry.

People from other areas of England may be eligible to apply but this is not guaranteed – please contact our Admissions team for more information. Each course also has its own eligibility criteria and our Admissions team can give you more information once you have applied online or by email.

You also need to be over the age of 19 by 31 August 2026 to apply for our courses this academic year (September 2026 – July 2027).

How long are your courses?

Most of our courses are residential and last for 3 days, 2 nights. Students usually arrive at the college at 1.15pm and have a lesson that afternoon with a full day of learning the next day and departure by 12.00pm on the last day. Longer courses can last for a number of weeks and students stay for 3 days, 2 nights, each week.

How can I find out more information about your courses?

Please keep looking at our website where all the courses we have available are listed. To apply, please use the online application form on the website and if you need more information about a course or help with applying for a course, contact our Admissions team on **0121 472 0116** or email **admissions@fircroft.ac.uk**.

What are the fees?

If your individual annual income is less than £36,126 our courses could be FREE to you, including accommodation, meals and learning resources.

Our maths, English, ESOL and some IT courses are FREE to everyone.

For more information go to the "Fees and Eligibility" page on our website.

What are the entry requirements for your courses?

All courses have their own entry requirements and these are mentioned on our course website pages.

Are meals and accommodation, included?

Once you are enrolled onto a course, all the accommodation and meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner if relevant), as well as drinks at designated tea/coffee breaks, will be included and you will not need to pay extra for these.

Are all of your courses residential?

Most of our courses are residential but we also run some functional skills and taster day courses.

What are the bedrooms like?

All of our bedrooms are single and the majority of our bedrooms include their own bathroom.

When can I apply?

If the course is on the website you will be able to apply for it online. Please try to apply as early as possible before the course starts so that our Admissions team can process your application thoroughly.

If I apply for a course does that mean I can definitely do the course?

Our Admissions team will assess your application and will contact you to discuss

it with you. We always do our best to try and ensure you are on the right course to match your ambitions and skills level so that you get the most from your learning experience at the college before you progress elsewhere.

Do I need to stay overnight?

Yes. We are a residential college and most of our courses are for 3 days and 2 nights. Being a residential student has benefits such as having the ability to get away from the everyday and focus on yourself and your studies and socialising with new people who also want to learn. You also don't need to travel into college every day!

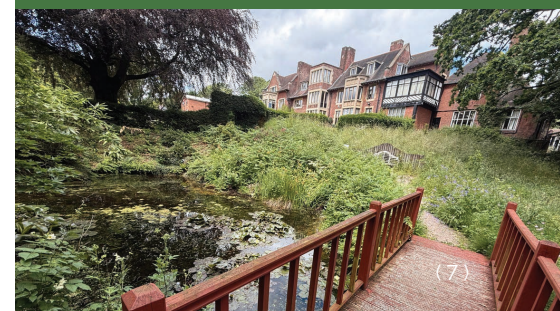
Please note that the college and grounds are drug and alcohol free areas and they are not permitted on our premises.

Please see our rules about alcohol and drugs in our Student Charter on our website.

Our Course Fees

If your annual income is less than £36,126 per year, our courses could be FREE to you.

For more information go to the "Fees and Eligibility" page on our website or contact our Admissions team on telephone number **0121 472 0116** or email **admissions@fircroft.ac.uk**.



Course Guide

Course details including dates and times may be subject to change. For the latest information please look at the website – www.fircroft.ac.uk – or contact the Admissions team on 0121 472 0116 or email Admissions@fircroft.ac.uk

Subject	Course Duration	Level	Course Start Date	Course End Date	Delivery Method	Days
Access to Higher Education Diplomas Our Access to Higher Education Diplomas are a supportive route to university.						
Access to Higher Education (Health and Social Care)	9 months	Level 3	14/09/2026	03/06/2027	Part-time residential at the college or non-residential	Monday – Thursday (4 days and 3 nights) each week
Access to Higher Education (Humanities and Social Science)	9 months	Level 3	14/09/2026	03/06/2027	Part-time residential at the college or non-residential	Monday – Thursday (4 days and 3 nights) each week
Level 2 Pre-Access: Adult Skills Certificate This course includes a number of subject topics and is a good introduction to further study or work as well as being ideal if you wish to apply for one of our Access to Higher Education Diplomas in September 2027.						
Level 2 Pre-Access: Adult Skills Certificate	5 months	Level 2	25/01/2027	09/06/2027	Part-time residential, or non-residential	Monday – Wednesday
Basic Skills – Maths, English & Digital						
Digital Skills Learn everyday IT skills to help you get up to speed in this digital world. Please see our website at www.fircroft.ac.uk , for longer course dates.						
AI for Everyday Life	3 days, 2 nights	Entry-Level 3	11/09/2026	13/09/2026	Residential	Friday – Sunday
Digital Skills for Everyday Life	3 days, 2 nights	Entry-Level 3	23/10/2026	25/10/2026	Residential	Friday – Sunday
English Skills These English courses will steadily build your confidence with English, helping you to improve your English skills for work, volunteering and everyday life.						
Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar	3 days, 2 nights	Entry-Level 3	11/09/2026	13/09/2026	Residential	Friday – Sunday
Write for Meaning	3 days, 2 nights	Entry-Level 3	23/09/2026	25/09/2026	Residential	Wednesday – Friday
Functional Skills English	19 weeks	Level 2	29/09/2026	02/02/2027	Non-residential	Tuesday
Speaking and Listening	3 days, 2 nights	Entry-Level 3	18/11/2026	20/11/2026	Residential	Wednesday – Friday
Read for Meaning	3 days, 2 nights	Entry-Level 3	02/12/2026	04/12/2026	Residential	Wednesday – Friday
Maths Skills These maths courses will steadily build your confidence with maths, helping you to fully understand important maths skills for work, volunteering and everyday life.						
Maths for Beginners	3 days, 2 nights	Entry-Level 3	18/09/2026	20/09/2026	Residential	Friday – Sunday

Subject	Course Duration	Level	Course Start Date	Course End Date	Delivery Method	Days
Functional Skills Maths	9 weeks	Level 2	30/09/2026	25/11/2026	Non-residential	Wednesday
Numbers for Everyday Life	3 days, 2 nights	Entry-Level 3	09/10/2026	11/10/2026	Residential	Friday – Sunday
Measure Up! Maths for Everyday Life	3 days, 2 nights	Entry-Level 3	23/10/2026	25/10/2026	Residential	Friday – Sunday
Breaking the Fear of Maths: Fractions, Decimals and Percentages	3 days, 2 nights	Entry-Level 3	25/11/2026	27/11/2026	Residential	Wednesday – Friday
ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) These courses will help you to improve your English language skills.						
ESOL: Reading	10 weeks	Entry-Level 3	09/09/2026	25/11/2026	Non-residential	Wednesday – Friday
Fircroft Foundations for New Communities This course is for you if you are from a new community and have lived experience of modern slavery and trafficking, helping you to learn new skills that will help you to progress.						
Fircroft Foundations for New Communities	4 weeks	Entry-Level 3	30/09/2026	23/10/2026	Residential: 3 days, 2 nights each week at the college. See website for dates.	Wednesday
Green Skills Practical, hands-on courses using our 6 acres of grounds.						
Mother Garden Bootcamp	13 weeks	Level 2	11/09/2026	06/12/2026	Residential: 3 days, 2 nights one weekend per month, at the college. See website for dates.	Friday – Sunday
Cross Pollinator: Part 1	3 weeks	Level 2	18/09/2026	29/11/2026	Residential: 3 days, 2 nights each week at the college. See website for dates.	Friday – Sunday
Green Skills: Sustainable Communities	2 weeks	Level 2	02/10/2026	11/10/2026	Residential: 3 days, 2 nights each week at the college. See website for dates.	Friday – Sunday
Personal and Social Development These courses can help you to develop, focus on yourself and identify your next steps to achieve your life goals.						
Confidence Boosting						
Becoming Your Best Self	3 days, 2 nights	Level 1	02/09/2026	04/09/2026	Residential	Wednesday – Friday
Understanding People and Building Relationships	3 days, 2 nights	Level 1	14/09/2026	16/09/2026	Residential	Monday – Wednesday

Subject	Course Duration	Level	Course Start Date	Course End Date	Delivery Method	Days
Finding Your Place in Society	3 days, 2 nights	Level 1	25/11/2026	27/11/2026	Residential	Wednesday – Friday
Stand Up and Be Counted	3 days, 2 nights	Level 1	09/12/2026	11/12/2026	Residential	Wednesday – Friday
Health & Wellbeing						
How to Juggle Life and Wellbeing	3 days, 2 nights	Level 1	04/09/2026	06/09/2026	Residential	Friday – Sunday
The Power and Psychology of Positivity	3 days, 2 nights	Level 1	07/09/2026	09/09/2026	Residential	Monday – Wednesday
Exploring the Outdoors for Wellbeing	3 days, 2 nights	Level 1	14/09/2026	16/09/2026	Residential	Monday – Wednesday
Physical Health and Nutrition for Happiness	3 days, 2 nights	Level 1	12/10/2026	14/10/2026	Residential	Monday – Wednesday
Get Creative and Feel Good	3 days, 2 nights	Level 1	04/11/2026	06/11/2026	Residential	Wednesday – Friday
Resilience, Coping Strategies and Non-Conventional Therapies	3 days, 2 nights	Level 1	16/11/2026	18/11/2026	Residential	Monday – Wednesday
Emotional Health for Wellbeing	3 days, 2 nights	Level 1	27/11/2026	29/11/2026	Residential	Friday – Sunday
PTSD, Stress & Anxiety						
Coping With Mental Health	3 days, 2 nights	Level 1	04/09/2026	06/09/2026	Residential	Friday – Sunday
Coping With Stress, Anxiety and Depression	3 days, 2 nights	Level 1	21/09/2026	23/09/2026	Residential	Monday – Wednesday
Coping With PTSD and Trauma	3 days, 2 nights	Level 1	05/10/2026	07/10/2026	Residential	Monday – Wednesday
Coping With Mental Health	3 days, 2 nights	Level 1	30/11/2026	02/12/2026	Residential	Monday – Wednesday
Coping With PTSD and Informed Care	3 days, 2 nights	Level 1	07/12/2026	09/12/2026	Residential	Monday – Wednesday
Specialist Personal & Social Development Courses						
Anger Management (Men)	3 days, 2 nights	Level 1	07/09/2026	09/09/2026	Residential	Monday – Wednesday
Anger Management (Women)	3 days, 2 nights	Level 1	09/09/2026	11/09/2026	Residential	Wednesday – Friday
Bereavement, Loss and Grief	3 days, 2 nights	Level 1	16/09/2026	18/09/2026	Residential	Wednesday – Friday
Love Shouldn't Hurt: Understanding Domestic Violence and Abuse	3 days, 2 nights	Level 1	21/09/2026	23/09/2026	Residential	Monday – Wednesday
Addiction: Physical Health and Recovery	3 days, 2 nights	Level 1	28/09/2026	30/09/2026	Residential	Monday – Wednesday

Subject	Course Duration	Level	Course Start Date	Course End Date	Delivery Method	Days
Understanding Addiction	3 days, 2 nights	Level 1	09/10/2026	11/10/2026	Residential	Friday – Sunday
Love Shouldn't Hurt: Understanding Domestic Violence and Abuse	3 days, 2 nights	Level 1	13/11/2026	15/11/2026	Residential	Friday – Sunday
Anger Management (Women)	3 days, 2 nights	Level 1	07/12/2026	09/12/2026	Residential	Monday – Wednesday

Skills & Subjects for Academic Study

These are short, introductory courses and are particularly helpful if you are hoping to study our Access to Higher Education Diplomas or our Pre-Access: Adult Skills Certificate.

Discovering Social Sciences	3 days, 2 nights	Level 2	02/09/2026	04/09/2026	Residential	Wednesday – Friday
Personal Study Management and Study Skills	3 days, 2 nights	Level 2	07/09/2026	09/09/2026	Residential	Monday – Wednesday

Working and Volunteering

These courses are to help you with work and volunteering and can help you to progress in your chosen job or volunteering role.

Introduction to Working in Health and Social Care	3 days, 2 nights	Level 2	02/09/2026	04/09/2026	Residential	Wednesday – Friday
Coaching and Mentoring Skills	3 days, 2 nights	Level 2	28/09/2026	30/09/2026	Residential	Monday – Wednesday
Working With Mental Health Needs and PTSD	3 days, 2 nights	Level 2	05/10/2026	07/10/2026	Residential	Monday – Wednesday
Working With Addiction and Recovery	3 days, 2 nights	Level 2	16/10/2026	18/10/2026	Residential	Friday – Sunday

Longer Courses

Award In Education and Training	3 weeks	Level 3	02/10/2026	06/12/2026	"Residential: 3 days, 2 nights each week at the college See website for dates"	Friday – Sunday
Skills For Aspiring Support Workers	3 weeks	Level 2	04/11/2026	20/11/2026	"Residential: 3 days, 2 nights each week at the college See website for dates"	Wednesday – Friday

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You can apply for a course online through our website (www.fircroft.ac.uk). The Admissions team will contact you to discuss the course and will be able to offer information, advice and guidance about your application. You may be asked to complete a knowledge check to ensure you are on the right course.

If you would like help applying for a course please contact the Admissions team on 0121 472 0116 or email admissions@fircroft.ac.uk.



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Join the conversation online today.

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