

Foundation Degree in Cultural Services for museums, libraries and archives



Fact file for Learners

Course title: Foundation Degree in Cultural Services for museums, libraries and archives

Provider: Anglia Ruskin University

Structure: Three-year, part-time course based at the Cambridge campus of Anglia Ruskin University

Available from: September 2008

Cost: anticipated fees are Year 1 - £1020, Year 2 - £1205, Year 3 - £1020 (Foundation degree students are eligible for the same financial support as honours degree students. For further information go to:

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance/> Anglia Ruskin's Student Support Services also has a team of Student Money Advisers that can assist with funding enquiries.)

What is a Foundation Degree?

A Foundation Degree is:

- a higher education qualification developed in partnership with sector employers and awarded by Universities
- equivalent in standard to the second year of an honours degree
- a blend of academic and work-based learning
- aimed at those working on a paid or voluntary basis
- based on relevant work experience and the desire and ability to succeed rather than any traditional academic qualifications
- designed to equip learners with contemporary, higher-level understanding and skills in order to develop employability, volunteering capabilities and to progress personal development goals.

Why study a Foundation Degree in Cultural Services?

The Foundation Degree in Cultural Services has been specifically designed in consultation with museums, libraries and archives in the East of England to meet the needs of the sector. It provides an opportunity for you to:

- Study for a qualification while working or volunteering
- Develop new transferable and specialist skills to support you in your current role and in your future career
- Work alongside others from museums, libraries and archives across the region
- Benefit from a range of learning opportunities including group seminars, work-based projects and individual support.

What are the key components of the course?

There are two main areas of **skills development**:

- 1) Transferable skills relevant to all museums, libraries and archives eg. communications, marketing, project management and ICT
- 2) Specialist skills, covering management and leadership, collections and learning & audience development.

The programme is equally relevant to museums, libraries and archives and will support an understanding of the sector as a whole.

It includes a **work placement project** where you will be encouraged to work within a different organisation. This is one of the features, which makes this foundation degree programme unique in the UK. You will also attend **lectures and seminars** and have opportunities to develop understanding and practical skills through **individual learning activities both online and in the workplace**.

How is the course structured?

There are two **12-week semesters** each year: late September to mid December and February to mid May. You will undertake one / two **individually assessed modules** each semester from the following:

- Development of your own learning and research skills for work and Higher Education study
- Understanding the cultural work sector
- Understanding the relationship with customers
- Developing as a practitioner covering specialist skills in management, leadership, collections management and care and supporting others learning
- Learning projects in your workplace.

How is study time structured?

You will be expected to take responsibility for your own studies and to carry out work in your own time. It is anticipated that the following elements will be included:

- seminars and lectures at the Cambridge Campus of Anglia Ruskin University at the start, middle and end of each semester
- group study in sub-regional employer based Learning Centres
- online learning supported by tutors working in the sector
- projects and job-related assignments in the workplace.

How will I be assessed?

Your verbal, written and practical skills will be assessed in a range of ways including:

- Portfolios
- Visual and oral presentations
- Group work
- Peer assessment
- Reflective journals
- Written essays
- Commentaries and reports
- Case studies based on projects or observations

You will get formal and informal feedback and support to help you understand your progress and improve your work.

What qualifications do I need?

You will be assessed on an individual basis by interview. Most important is that you demonstrate potential to study at Higher Education level. In general you would need the following qualifications:

- Appropriate Level 3 cultural sector qualification and/or prior experience in the cultural sector
- Level 2 English qualification such as GCSE Grade C or above or Level 2 Adult Literacy Award

Plus:

- Access to a working environment in the cultural sector
- Commitment to study and work in the sector - a minimum of 400 hours is normally expected over the duration of the course, although this is flexible depending on the learner's expertise and experience
- ICT competence sufficient for effective word-processing and email
- Access to ICT facilities in your workplace or at home.

All prospective learners will have the opportunity to attend detailed information sessions.

What further opportunities will be available once I have graduated?

As a holder of the Foundation Degree in Cultural Services, you will have demonstrable relevant and up to date knowledge and experience and a proven high level of skills which is valuable to the sector and to you as an existing or potential employee or volunteer. You will be entitled to use the initials FdA after your name.

This degree can provide a pathway to further study and personal development including:

- accredited professional body awards within the museums, libraries and archives sector
- the final year of an Honours Degree at Anglia Ruskin University
- specialist work-based Masters degrees (development planned for future)
- taught doctorates.

For further information please contact:

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The Foundation Degree in Cultural Services is being developed by MLA East of England in partnership with Anglia Ruskin University and in consultation with museums, libraries and archives across the East of England. This development is funded by MOVE (the Lifelong Learning Network for the region) and Foundation Degree Forward.

