



North Highland College  
University of the  
Highlands and Islands

# Foundation Apprenticeships

## WHAT IS A FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIP?

A Foundation Apprenticeship is a relatively new apprenticeship that helps you get qualified through work-based learning whilst on placement and theoretical learning at college. You take it as one of your S5/S6 subject choices and work towards a qualification over one or two years. It's the same qualification level as a Higher, but unlike your other subjects, it takes you out of the classroom and gets you working on real projects with a real business. You spend time at college and gain training with an employer from an appropriate industry placement.

A Foundation Apprenticeship gives you the combination of a qualification and valuable work place experience in some of Scotland's most exciting industries, all with projected growth in jobs.

## WHO IS IT FOR?

Foundation Apprenticeships are for pupils making decisions about which subject they'll study in S5 and S6. In general they are suited to pupils who:

- Are capable of working at SCQF Level 6 - the same level as a Higher;
- Want to try an alternative way to learn, not just in the classroom;
- Have an interest in developing greater awareness of a specific industry with an inspiration of pursuing a career in that area.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Whether you want to go to university or college, do an apprenticeship or go straight into work; a Foundation Apprenticeship can help.

- **Going to university or college?** A number of universities across Scotland now recognise the Foundation Apprenticeship as part of their entry criteria at the same level as Scottish Highers. The University of the Highlands & Islands for example are recognising the Foundation Apprenticeship as equivalent to two Scottish Highers. This will vary between institutions, so it is advisable to check with the individual universities on their entry requirements. What's more, industry experience will help your application stand out.
- **Thinking about an Apprenticeship?** A Foundation Apprenticeship is a great stepping stone on to a Modern Apprenticeship or Graduate Level Apprenticeship.
- **Headed straight to work?** A Foundation Apprenticeship gives you the specific skills an employer is looking for in their industry plus more general ones like problem solving, communication and teamwork. You'll also be able to show qualities employers are looking for, like good time keeping and a positive attitude.

## FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIPS OFFERED AT NORTH HIGHLAND COLLEGE UHI

**North Highland College UHI currently offers two Foundation Apprenticeships:**

- Social Services & Healthcare
- Social Services Children & Young People

Both can be delivered over two years or 15-month in duration depending when you commence. This is an opportunity for S5 & S6 pupils to undertake an educational programme combining industry specific qualifications with relevant work experience.

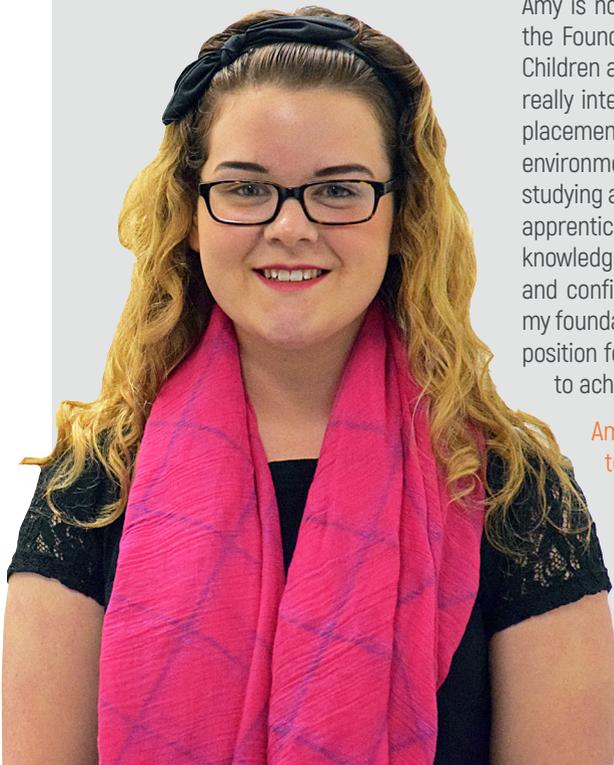
You will study at North Highland College UHI Thurso or Alness campus, all year from timetable change in June on Fridays. Work placement time will be arranged on an individual basis.

The qualifications gained will provide you with the registration requirements for the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC).

### Student Story

## Amy Cameron

Foundation Apprenticeship  
Social Services, Children & Young People



Amy Cameron has always wanted to be a Primary Teacher, so decided to study the National 5 Early Education & Childcare course as it would be a good introduction to her learning and understanding of children and how they develop through the different stages of their childhood.

Amy is now in 6th year and has progressed onto the Foundation Apprenticeship in Social Services: Children and Young People. Amy, said: "this course really interested me as I would be going on work placement which would give me a feel for the environment I may be working in, in the future. By studying a school link course and now a foundation apprenticeship I have gained an understanding and knowledge about children, and gained experience and confidence by going on placement. Passing my foundation apprenticeship will put me in a good position for getting on other courses in the future to achieve my goal."

Amy's advice to anyone thinking of coming to college to study a school link course is: "Don't be afraid to apply for a course. If it's something you want to do, just go for it, you won't regret it. Even if you do not know anyone else taking the course do not worry as you will meet new people. It's a great opportunity."

# Social Services & Healthcare: Foundation Apprenticeship

Studying this award will give you a real insight into working within the health, care and social services sector, allowing you to achieve an industry recognised qualification so that you have the necessary qualifications to gain employment within the social services and health care sector or to enhance your university application by gaining a qualification specifically for those wishing to work within the sector at any level.

## For pupils commencing in S5

- **Year 1:** you will complete a National Progression Award (NPA) in Social Services and Healthcare plus engage with local employers.
- **Year 2:** you will complete a SVQ 2 in Social Services and Healthcare; one day per week work placement plus time at college in SVQ workshops to allow for the completion of the SVQ portfolios.

## For pupils commencing in S6

- **June - August:** induction and work placement in an appropriate social services and health care setting. This can take place during the day, evenings or weekend and will be arranged to suit individual pupils.
- **August - May:** you will complete a National Progression Award (NPA) in Social Services and Healthcare plus equivalent of a minimum of a half-day per week work placement experience.

## Entry requirements:

- Minimum of three passes at National 5 level gained in S4/5 at C pass or above. Ideally there should be a literary subject; e.g. English, geography or psychology within the subjects achieved;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the social services and healthcare sector and have an interest in working in this sector;
- Pupils will be required to undertake a PVG check before being permitted to work with vulnerable groups;
- Demonstration of experience in this sector will be considered and each application will be considered on a case by case basis.
- Have a satisfactory interview.

This is a two year or 15-month commitment during your senior years at school, but on attainment you can progress direct into employment within the social services or healthcare sector or progress onto a HNC or degree level of study with the college.

Please feel free to contact for further information on our **Foundation Apprenticeships** or any of our **Senior Phase Courses, Modern Apprenticeships, Professional Development Awards, Scottish Vocational Qualifications, College Courses, University Degrees** or **Post Graduate Degrees**.

# Social Services (Children & Young People): Foundation Apprenticeship

This award will give you a real insight into working within the early years, childcare and playwork sector, allowing you to achieve an industry recognised qualification so that you have the necessary qualifications to gain employment within the early years, childcare and playwork sector or to enhance your university application by gaining a qualification specifically for those wishing to work within the sector at any level.

## For pupils commencing in S5

- **Year 1:** you will complete a National Progression Award (NPA) in Social Services (Children and Young People) plus engage with local employers.
- **Year 2:** you will complete a SVQ 2 in Social Services (Children and Young People); one day per week work placement plus time at college in SVQ workshops to allow for the completion of the SVQ portfolios.

## For pupils commencing in S6

- **June-August:** induction and work placement in an appropriate early year's, childcare and playwork care setting. This can take place during the evenings or weekend and will be arranged to suit individual pupils.
- **August-May:** you will complete a National Progression Award (NPA) in Social Services (Children and Young People) plus equivalent of a minimum of half-day per week work placement experience.

## Entry requirements:

- Minimum of three passes at National 5 level gained in S4/5 at C pass or above. Ideally there should be a literary subject; e.g. English, geography or psychology within the subjects achieved;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the early years, childcare and playwork sector and have an interest in working in this sector;
- Pupils will be required to undertake a PVG check before being permitted to work with children and young people;
- Demonstration of experience in this sector will be considered and each application will be considered on a case by case basis.
- Have a satisfactory interview.

This is a two year or 15-month commitment during your senior years at school, but on attainment you can progress direct into employment within the early years, childcare and playwork sector or progress onto a HNC or degree level of study with the college.



North Highland College  
University of the  
Highlands and Islands



01847 889000



[nhcinfo@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:nhcinfo@uhi.ac.uk)



[www.northhighland.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.northhighland.uhi.ac.uk)