



North Highland College University of the Highlands and Islands

Social Services (Children and Young People) Apprenticeship

NPA, SVQ SCQF level 6

Overview of course

The Foundation Apprenticeship programme will be delivered over 2 years or 15-month in duration depending on when you commence and you will be required to commit to this full programme. This is an opportunity for S5 & S6 pupils to undertake an educational programme that combines industry specific qualifications with relevant work experience to give you a real insight into working within the early years, childcare and playwork sector.

This award will allow pupils 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. The Foundation Apprenticeship is levelled at the equivalent of 2 A band Highers.

For pupils commencing in S5 –

Year 1: you will complete a National Progression Award (NPA) in Social Services and Healthcare plus equivalent of a half-day per week work placement experience. This can take place during the evenings or weekend and will be arranged to suit individual pupils.

Year 2: you will complete a SVQ 2 in Social Services (Children and Young People); half- day per week as year one plus one day 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 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 half-day per week work placement experience.

Entry requirements/criteria

- Three to four passes at national 5 level gained in S4/5 at C pass or above. Ideally there should be a literary subject; eg 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 vulnerable groups.

Additional attributes North Highland College UHI would look for

Some prior knowledge of or an interest in working within the early years, childcare and playwork sector will be advantageous for students undertaking this course.

Students will be expected to -

- Be prepared to work hard all session
- Catch up on work missed if they are absent
- Ask for help if they need it
- Complete weekly homework task
- Complete homework to a high standard and on time
- Revise throughout the session
- Access and use the virtual learning environment
- Conduct themselves appropriately within the early years, childcare and playwork setting
- Maintain a high level of attendance at work placement

Therefore, the following attributes and skills are important for applicants –

- Motivation for learning
- Commitment to take personal responsibility for learning
- Confidence to ask questions
- Dedication to completing work out with class
- A good level of IT skills
- Independent study skills

What can students do after this course?

On completion students will have the opportunity to continue their development by gaining employment within the early years, childcare and playwork sector, or through further studies; SVQ 3 Social Services and Healthcare (Children and Young People), HNC Childhood Practice, BA (Hons) Child and Youth Studies.

Additional information on this course for Guidance Teachers

This Foundation Apprenticeship will be delivered through a combination of theoretical study and work placement opportunities which will be arranged by the college. All pupils must undertake a PVG check prior to undertaking their work placement. 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.

The qualifications gained will provide you with the registration requirements for the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). The Foundation Apprenticeship is levelled through Insight at the equivalent of 2 A band Highers.