FAQs – Access to University

	Question	Short Answer	Detailed Answer / Further Information (if applicable)
Finance Qs	1.Will I have to pay for the Access to HE course?	The course is free for 18 – 23 year olds who DO NOT have a full level 3 course (e.g. 2 A Levels, level 3 BTEC etc.). If you are 18 – 23 yrs WITH a full level 3, or anyone 24 years and over, you can apply for an Advanced Learner loan which will cover the tuition fees.	The Access to HE course costs ranges from £3022 to £3384 (based on which course you choose to study). However, depending on your individual circumstances, it is (a) either free i.e. for 18-23year olds where it is your first full level 3 course, or (b) if 24 and over or you are 18 – 23 and it is NOT your first level 3 course you can apply for an 'Advanced Learner Loan' which will cover the tuition fees for the Access course. Note: pass both the Access course and your university degree and this particular loan is written off by the government. If you require further information, please contact the Student Finance Team via Tel: -01623 627191 ext 8256/8179 or email: studentfinancialsupport@wnc.ac.uk or visit the webpage: https://www.wnc.ac.uk/Support-and-
Cost &	2.Will I get help with the cost of the Access course?	In terms of the cost of the course, yes you will get help (see above)	services/Financial-support.aspx See above
Course	3.Is there any financial support to help with living costs?	Some of you may be eligible for a bursary to help with e.g. travel costs. If you require further information, please contact the Student Finance Team via Tel: -01623 627191 ext 8256/8179 or email: studentfinancialsupport@wnc.ac .uk or visit the webpage: https://www.wnc.ac.uk/Supportand-services/Financial-support.aspx	At present, the government is offering support for the cost of the course, but not support with living costs. However, you may be entitled to some financial support based on your personal circumstances e.g. household income. To see if you are entitled you can contact the student finance team, where you can find out more and discuss this further. If you require further information, please contact the Student Finance Team via Tel: -01623 627191 ext 8256/8179 or email: studentfinancialsupport@wnc.ac.uk or visit the webpage: https://www.wnc.ac.uk/Support-and-services/Financial-support.aspx

	4.Is there any financial help with childcare costs?	Depending on your personal circumstances, you may be entitled to help with childcare costs. If you require further information, please contact the Student Finance Team via Tel: - 01623 627191 ext 8256/8179 or email:	A bursary fund is available to help with childcare. To be eligible you must be in receipt of the Advanced Learner Loan Bursary. Restrictions may apply, for example, it must be Ofsted registered, age and number of children the bursary covers, etc. If you require further information, please contact the Student Finance Team via Tel:
	5.How do I apply	studentfinancialsupport@wnc.ac .uk or visit the webpage: https://www.wnc.ac.uk/Support- and-services/Financial- support.aspx The best thing to do is talk	- 01623 627191 ext 8256/8179 or email: studentfinancialsupport@wnc.ac.uk or visit the webpage: https://www.wnc.ac.uk/Support-and- services/Financial-support.aspx Contact the Student Finance Team directly
	for financial help in college?	directly to the Student Finance Team – these are experts, can discuss your individual circumstances with you, and identify what you may be entitled to and explain how to apply for it.	via Tel: - 01623 627191 ext 8256/8179 or email: studentfinancialsupport@wnc.ac.uk or visit the webpage: https://www.wnc.ac.uk/Support-and- services/Financial-support.aspx
	Question	Short Answer	Detailed Answer / Further
Entry Requirements Entry Requirements	1. What are the entry requirements?	You will need GCSE Maths and GCSE English as grade 'c' ('4') or higher as a minimum. For some university degrees you may also need additional qualifications or higher GCSE grades, for example, for Teacher Training you will require GCSE Science or equivalent. It is important you check. A small number of universities also request higher GCSE grades and / or additional GCSEs, for example 'B' in GCSE Maths and GCSE Science for some midwifery and psychology degrees, etc. It is important you check all the	Information (if applicable) You will need GCSE Maths and GCSE English as grade 'c' ('4') or higher as the very minimum. For some university degrees you may also need additional qualifications or higher GCSE grades, for example, for Teacher Training you will require GCSE Science or equivalent. Some universities also request higher GCSE grades and / or additional GCSEs, for example 'B' in GCSE Maths for some midwifery and psychology degrees etc. It is important you check before joining the Access course. We also strongly advice you undertake work experience if you are aiming to apply for a vocational degree at university, for example, nursing, midwifery, counselling, social work, ODP and paramedic. Some
Ē		universities you wish to apply to	universities will not consider you without

		module is based on 'work experience' and you will not be able to pass the Access course without it, so please try and secure this BEFORE you join the programme.
2. I do not have both my GCSEs, can I still join the Access course and study one GCSE alongside?	Sadly not. But, do not worry, you will be studying your missing GCSEs with other like-minded adults who also aim to join the Access course in September 2022. More importantly, we even have a 'Pre Access' course to help you prepare for it, that you can study whilst studying for your GCSE Maths and/or English.	Sadly not. However, whilst you are resitting your missing GCSEs you can also carry out additional work experience to help your university application look even better when you do apply, so it is time well spent. You will also have the opportunity to study a Pre Access course (this is a level 2 course) alongside your GCSEs. The Pre Access course will provide you with really useful skills to help you secure higher grades when you join us in September 2021.
		To apply for your GCSEs and the Pre Access course, simply complete an online application form, stating which of the three courses you are interested in (or even all 3!)
3. Will my 'Covid' predicted GCSE grade be accepted?	Your Covid grade will be perfectly acceptable, provided you supply the appropriate paperwork.	
4. I have lost my certificate. What should I do? I studied my GCSEs over 10 years ago but do not have the certificates. What do I do?	Start tracking them down now . You may need to request the exam board details from your old school/college. That school/college may no longer exist, in which case you if you do not know which exam board it was, it is time to catch up with those old school friends.	To guarantee your place on our course, you will need official evidence (like your certificates) of your grades. Contacting the GCSE exam board(s) and requesting a replacement certificate or confirmation slip is your next step. However, please be aware that this is not free. If you cannot recall the exam board, if you are in contact with some of your school friends, see if they still have their certificates and they will be able to tell you which exam board you studied your GCSE Maths and /or English with.
		Please be aware, some universities may not accept GCSEs that are older than 5 years. It is rare, but please check with all your preferred universities before starting the Access course.
5. I am 18 years of age, does that mean I cannot do the course?	Ideally, we like our students to be 19+. The reason for this is we find that the life experience gained is really beneficially for Access students. So, if you are 18, we would strongly	A very good question. Yes you can but please be aware that some universities might prefer you to study a different course, such as A levels or BTEC (more relevant to your age). The Access course is designed for 19+ learners. This is partly

What age do you have to be to do an Access course?	recommend you took a year out to get some work experience/paid work in the area you want to study in e.g. help out in a school, if you want teaching, volunteer in a care home if you want nursing etc. This view is also held by a small number of universities too so please check with your chosen universities to ensure you give yourself the best chance of being offered a university place.	because some universities perceive the Access course as a 'mature learner' course. Indeed some universities have stated in the past that they will not offer a place to applicants who have studied at A Level the previous year, not done as well as they would have liked, and gone straight on to study an Access course. These universities are wanting these students to take at least one year out to get some more work experience before returning to do an Access course. However, if you feel this really is the right course for you please check with your chosen universities to ensure you give yourself the best chance of being accepted into university.
6. I have got GCSE English Language, but not maths. However, I have got functional skills maths at level 2. Can I still join the Access programme? Can I study GCSE alongside my Access course?	Unfortunately we do require both your GCSE Maths and GCSE English. But we do offer adult GCSEs at this college.	Having functional skills is really good and you will find it will help you whilst studying at WNC. However, for our course you will need to have secured GCSE Maths too (at grade C/4). The level 3 course is very demanding we have found that students struggle to achieve high grades in both their level 3 and GCSE when studying it at the same time. Therefore, we do need you to study and pass your GCSE before you join our Access course. However, we do offer an adult GCSE and here at the college and you will find lots of people in a similar situation to you, and better still, you will all go on to the level 3 course together the following year (subject to passing the GCSE).
7. Are my functional skills English and Mathematics acceptable, instead of GCSE?	Functional skills are very useful qualifications to have, but unfortunately, for our course, they are not considered to be equal to GCSE. You might want to consider our Pre-Access course to sort this.	Sadly not, but having your functional skills will greatly increase your chances of a higher grade in your GCSEs, which is really useful. Furthermore, whilst you are resitting your missing GCSEs you can also carry out additional work experience to help your university application look even better when you do apply, so it is time well spent. You will also have the opportunity to study a Pre Access course (this is a level 2 course) alongside your GCSEs. The Pre Access course will provide you with really useful skills to help you secure higher grades when you join us in September 2021. To apply for your GCSEs and the Pre Access course, simply complete an online

		application form, stating which of the three courses you are interested in (or even all 3!)
8. I have GCSE Maths and English Literature at grade 'C' (4) but not English Language. Can I still join the Access course?	This is a tricky one. Whilst universities will take English Literature in lieu of English Language, others will definitely not. Therefore we strongly recommend that you carry out research and ask all the universities you are going to apply to. If they require the GCSE English Language you will need to study that first before joining our level 3 course.	
9. I am from Italy. I think my qualifications meet your entry requirements. I have heard about NARIC but not quite sure what this is. Do I need a NARIC? Can I do your Access course?	As long as your qualification meets are entry requirements you will be able to join our course. However, you will need a NARIC which compares your qualification with UK qualifications. You can find out more about NARIC here https://www.naric.org.uk/naric/ and there are staff in the college that can help you with your NARIC. For further information contact the Careers and Employability Team on T: 01623 627191 ex 8173, Email careers@wnc.ac.uk or Website http://iag.wnc.ac.uk	NARIC (National Academic Recognition Centre) is the national (UK) agency responsible for providing information about international qualifications and identifies which UK qualifications they compare to. However, when considering GCSE English Language, international qualifications are often not comparable. Therefore, one option is to study GCSE English in the UK to secure the missing qualification. An alternative option is to undertake the IELTS (International English Language Testing System) exam. Universities will often offer international students a place based on a given IELTS grade. Therefore, if you show evidence of the IELTS grade required at your chosen university AND meeting that grade, we will accept that in lieu of GCSE English Language grade C/4 or higher.
		You can find out more about NARIC here https://www.naric.org.uk/naric/ and there are staff in the college that can help you with your NARIC More information on IELTS can be found here https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/take-ielts/what-ielts For further information contact the Careers and Employability Team on T: 01623

627191 ex 8173, Email careers@wnc.ac.uk or Website http://iaq.wnc.ac.uk

Entry Requirements	10. Can I study GCSE Science alongside my Access course? If so, how do go about it? 11. I have a criminal record and want to go into social work / nursing / teaching. Will it stop me getting into this college and/or university?	If you have the time, then yes you can. The college offers GCSE Biology. It is worth checking with the universities you are interested in applying to and discuss which science subject at GCSE they will accept. For further information please contact: enquiries@wnc.ac.uk The most important thing is to be honest and you have already done that by asking the question here. In terms of college, if you have declared it on your application form a member of staff will contact you to discuss this with you. For most applicants, this will not prove to be a barrier for the Access to HE course. In terms on university, contact them and explain your situation. Many Access students with criminal records are still offered university places — but you do need to talk to them to explain your individual situation.	The cost of the GCSE Biology is £360 for students 19+, however you may be eligible for fee exemption depending on your circumstances. The course is free to 18 year olds. Please be aware acceptance on the course will be conditional upon sitting a short entry assessment. For further information please contact: enquiries@wnc.ac.uk In terms of college, if you have declared it on your application form a member of staff will contact you to discuss this with you. For most applicants, this will not prove to be a barrier for the Access to HE course. In terms on university, if you aim to apply for a vocational degree that leads to a career working with potentially vulnerable people (e.g. nursing, teaching, social work etc.) or a degree that leads to a career governed by a professional body (e.g. legal profession, accounting, surveying etc.) you will need to contact your chosen universities and discuss this with them. For many, it may mean an ethics committee meeting to discuss you case. Do not assume that it will be a 'no', many e.g. nurses, social workers etc. do still get offered university places and a job
	Question	Short Answer	afterwards, but you will need to check. Detailed Answer / Further
	2.Can I pick which	The graded units have been	Information (if applicable)
Course Questions	units are graded and which are ungraded?	carefully selected to give you the best chance of being offered a place when you apply to university. Therefore, the graded and ungraded units are pre-set and you cannot choose which will be graded/ungraded.	
Course	3.I started an Access course a few years ago at a different college. Personal issues prevented me from completing	There are lots of different Access courses across the country, and each is attached to a different awarding body (or exam board). Because of this, units studied on one Access course may be very different to a unit of the same	

the course, however, I did complete three biology units. Can I use these units and will they count towards my overall diploma?	name on another Access course, therefore it is often not possible to use previously studied units for this Access course. However, the study you did will really help you in the units on this course, for example you will already understand some of the terminology.	
4.I really hate to do presentations (exams), I get really nervous and stressed. Can I do an essay instead?	All tutors fully understand how stressful presentations (and exams) can be. However, these assessment methods are part of the course. However, if you do feel really stressed, we do have a Mental Welfare Support Team you can access to help you deal with this anxiety.	All tutors fully understand how stressful presentations (and exams) can be. However, our awarding body and the universities are keen for you to undertake these methods of assessment to ensure you have a broad range of skills before you enter higher education, and it has therefore been built into your programme. However, if you do feel really stressed, we do have a Mental Welfare Support Team you can access to help you deal with this anxiety.
5.If I get a merit for an assignment, but university needs a distinction, can I resubmit it to get a better grade?	Sadly not. Therefore it is important to manage your time to ensure you achieve the grade you are capable of for each assignment	
6. I will need to drop my children off at school in the morning before college. I will therefore not arrive to class until 9:40am. Is this OK?	Due to the demands of the programme it is really important you attend all classes and on time. However, in reality, often when you talk to your friends and / or family, you will be able to put a 'plan' together to help you manage all this. This 'problemsolving' skill is highly desirable at university and one of the key traits they are looking for.	
7. Will I get help with my university application?	Yes, your personal tutor will definitely help you, we also get in guest speakers and we also have the Careers Team in college who can also help you.	
8.You have mentioned UCAS. What is it?	UCAS stands for 'Universities and Colleges Admissions Service'. It's basically the centralised service	

		that all students use to apply to university. You access it online and for a fee, UCAS will process your form for all your university choices. Your tutor will help you complete this.	
m e.c. ir so w d p so V y	D. You have mentioned work experience, I am surrently working in a school, just some voluntary work. Is this OK or do I need to get a school? Which courses do you need to have a work placement for?	Either paid or voluntary work experience is fine. For those studying on the Teacher Training Pathway, it is important you arrange this before starting the Access course (you will not be able to pass the course without it). If you are going to apply for a vocational degree (nursing, midwifery, social work, counselling, physiotherapy, paramedic etc) you are strongly advised to secure work experience before starting the Access course as a number of universities will not consider your university application without it. So please check with each of the universities you wish to apply to.	Your work experience can be either paid or voluntary. The only advice we do give is try and avoid only relying on personal / family based experience. The universities are looking at how well you engage with other professionals as part of a multidisciplinary team and personal / family based experience does not provide the full range of experience. This does not mean that you cannot refer to it in your university application, but it would be good to secure some 'official' work experience too. For those studying on the Teacher Training Pathway, it is important you arrange this before starting the Access course (you will not be able to pass the course without it). If you are going to apply for a vocational degree (nursing, midwifery, social work, counselling, paramedic etc) you are strongly advised to secure work experience before starting the Access course as a number of universities will not consider your university application without it. So please check with each of the universities you wish to apply to.
fu th h e w d V to a	20.1 currently work full time and I am the only one in the nousehold earning. Can I work full time and this course? / Will I still be able to work full-time alongside the course?	Because the Access course is really a two year course delivered in just one year, learners need to carry out a lot of individual study in their own time. The advantage of this is that you get to university quicker, but it does mean a lot of time spent studying outside your lessons. Therefore, we strongly advise you work no more than 16 hours a week to give you a good chance of achieving the higher grades.	
	11. What method of assessment is	We use a variety of assessment methods on the different	

used on the course?	pathways. This allows you to practise for university. They include examinations, presentations, controlled assessments, research projects, posters, work booklets and essays.	
12. What will our weekly timetable look like? / What time do the classes start and end each day? I need to plan my work around it.	Most pathways are expected to be in college, unless Covid dictates otherwise, 3 days a week. Most of the lessons start at 9 a.m. each day and will finish at 4.30pm. However, tutorials may run until 5pm on some days, so it is important to factor this in when organising your childcare/work commitments. Your tutor will tell you when you start, if there are any changes to this.	
13. What do I need to bring with me to college, e.g. what books, equipment etc?	For the first week of lessons, a pen and paper are the most important items to bring with you. During the first week you tutor will advise you of any extra items (please ask them if you are unsure).	For the first week of lessons, a pen and paper are the most important items to bring with you. During the first week you tutor will advise you of any extra items (please ask them if you are unsure). Some of you may want to make written notes, and some of you may want to bring in a tablet or laptop to make digital notes. You can discuss this when you first start the course and see which approach will work best for you
14. What days will I be in college?	Access to HE Science: Monday, Thursday and Friday Access to HE Business and Law: Monday, Thursday and Friday Access to HE Social Science/Work: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday Access to HE Humanities: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. Access to HE Teacher Training: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday Access to HE Nursing and Healthcare: Nursing Group 1 – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; Nursing Group 2 – Tuesday, Thursday and Friday	

	15. Will the start and finish times be negotiable?	Pre-Access to HE: Pre-Access Group 1 Tuesday am, Pre-Access Group 2 Wednesday pm. Please assume you will be in from 9am-5.00pm on your timetabled days. If you miss the start or the ends of lessons, you will be making your life more difficult. For logistical reasons the start and finish times are set by the timetable and are not negotiable.	
	16. Will the days be negotiable?	For logistical reasons, the days that you are in are set by the timetable.	
	17. Will the deadlines for assignments be negotiable?	Deadlines are there to make sure you finish the course on time. We do have an extension procedure, if you do need more time, but it is only offered for extenuating circumstances.	Deadlines are there to make sure you finish the course on time. We do have an extension procedure, if you do need more time, but it is only offered for extenuating circumstances. Without an extension any work that arrives after the deadline means your assignment will be capped at a PASS. Therefore good time management is very important and a skill that all universities will be looking for.
	Question	Short Answer	Detailed Answer / Further Information (if applicable)
Questions	Question 1. I think I have dyslexia. Can I get any support?	Short Answer The college has an excellent support team who can help you. In order to access this you need to ensure you identified your possible support needs on your application form. The support team will contact you to discuss your needs.	Detailed Answer / Further Information (if applicable) Website: https://www.wnc.ac.uk/Supportand-services/Additional-learning-support/ Tel: 01623 627191

		Programme Area Leader Angela Rowntree	
	3. I have mental health issues, I	Due to the demands of the course, it is really important	
	suffer with anxiety	students attend all lessons.	
	and sometimes	Therefore it is envisaged that all	
	will struggle to	students are confident that they will be able to attend their	
	come into college. Is this going to be	lessons before they enrol onto	
	an issue?	the course. This will give them	
		the greatest chance of passing	
		the course and progressing on to	
		their chosen university degree. However, tutors are aware that	
		life does not always go as	
		planned. Therefore, if whilst on	
		the course, you feel anxious or	
		worried we can refer you to the	
	5.Will there be any	college Wellbeing Team. The college offers a variety of	Website: https://www.wnc.ac.uk/Support-
	support for me?	support including additional	and-services/Additional-learning-support/
		learning support, support with	
		dyslexia, mental health and well-	Tel: 01623 627191
		being, autism, disability hearing loss and visual impairment.	
		In order to access this you need	
		to ensure you identified your	
		possible support needs on your	
		application form. The support	
		team will contact you to discuss your needs	
	6. I have been out	All tutors are aware that starting	
	of education for	a new course can be stressful.	
	over 10 years and	Tutors work hard to make the	
	am really worried about returning. I	experience as stress free as possible. Because of these we do	
	think I may need	not assume any prior knowledge	
	extra time with	in your level 3 topic areas and try	
	the tutors. Is this	and ease you in gently.	
	possible?		
	Question	Short Answer	Detailed Answer / Further
			Information (if applicable)
Facilities	1. What parking facilities are there at Chesterfield Road?	We do not have parking facilities at Chesterfield Road. However, public transport hubs are in the town centre and there are also car parks in town. Cycling and	Map, with car parks to be supplied at a later date.
		walking is encouraged.	

2.Is there a	Unfortunately not, however, it	A bursary fund is available to help with
nursery at college?	may be possible to secure financial support to help you place your child in a nursery close to you.	childcare. To be eligible you must be in receipt of the Advanced Learner Loan Bursary. Restrictions may apply, for example, it must be Ofsted registered, and number of children the bursary covers, etc.
		If you require further information, plead contact the Student Finance Team via - 01623 627191 ext 8256/8179 or en studentfinancialsupport@wnc.ac.uk or visit the webpage: https://www.wnc.ac.uk/Support-and-services/Financial-support.aspx
3. What catering facilities are there	There are catering facilities onsite where you can get	
at Chesterfield Road?	refreshments including hot food for your lunch. There are also vending machines for drinks and snacks in the college.	
4. I have mobility issues, will we be	Although our classes will be held on the first floor, there is a lift	
on the ground floor or is there a lift?	between floors solely for this purpose.	
6.What ICT facilities are available at Chesterfield?	There will be a small number of computers that you can access whilst in college.	
7.Are there	Chesterfield Road Campus has	
accessibility arrangements in place at Chesterfield Road?	been adapted to make it accessible to students with a variety of needs.	
8. Will I have to go to Derby Road for books etc.?	We have our own extensive Learning Resource Centre (LRC), which is fully equipped for our purposes. However, there may occasionally be some resources	
	you will want to access from the Derby Road LRC. However, you will be able have these delivered to Chesterfield Road Campus if you do not want to travel to	
	Derby Road Campus. Just talk to the LRC staff.	