



# **HNC Social Services Distance Learning**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. How long is the course**

The course runs from February 2026 until February 2027 (date to be confirmed).

### **2. How often do I need to attend course delivery**

Students have 1 full day on Campus every 6 weeks (on a Wednesday in our Alloa Campus), where they are introduced to the Units they will be working on and the assessments. For those students who live further afield, these sessions will also be broadcast live and will also be recorded, this is done live on Microsoft teams (information on how to join this will be made available once enrolment has been completed).

### **3. What is the difference between the full-time HNC and the distance learning model**

The full time programme involves 2 days in college (on campus and online delivery) and 2 days on placement. The distance learning model is designed for those already employed in a health or social care setting and due to their work experience can manage the course more independently and therefore less time is required in classes.

### **4. What support is offered**

There is Lecturer Support available to all students every Wednesday by appointment each week, in between the on campus sessions.

In addition to this, the College offers support from Learning Development Workers, who offer various types of support for your studies.

## 5. What subjects are covered as part of this course?

- Care Practice
- Lifespan development
- Care in Contemporary Society
- Health, Wellbeing and Safeguarding
- Leadership Starts with me
- Understanding and Supporting Behaviour and Mental Health
- Grief and Loss
- Mental Health
- Graded unit
- 3 of the Mandatory SVQ units

## 6. How will I be assessed?

Continuous assessment through written and skills assessments appropriate to the unit. These are submitted electronically and assessed by our college academic team and subject to SQA verification.

## 7. Is there any formal entry requirements

- You must be employed within a Health or Social Care setting
- Your employer must agree to you being released for on Campus sessions
- Employers must be in agreement for Lecturers to visit your placement as part of the SVQ element of the course. (If you already have your SVQ level 3 in Social Services and Healthcare then you will not need to undertake the SVQ component of the course, we will check that the unit codes match the unit codes within the HNC Social Services program)

## 8. Fees (may be subject to change)

All students must make an initial payment of **30%** unless your Employer are paying fees. If wish to pay by instalments you should complete a direct debit mandate and where your employer have agreed to fund your course, an Employers Agreement form should be completed.

Students using **part time fee grant** can apply and access the full eligibility criteria via the part-time funding section of the **SAAS** website at: [www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk)

All information required is in the table below. If successful, a letter of award will be issued which will include how much funding you have been awarded. Please note that SAAS do not fund the full tuition fees for part-time courses. Please ensure you apply for the correct session.

Course	Full Course Fee	Initial Payment	Balance	Part time fee Grant
Self-funding students	£1285	£385	£900 -Direct debit over <b>7 months</b> <b>1</b> payment of £150.00 <b>6</b> payments of 125.00	
Using Part time fee grant	£1285	£77	£180 - Direct debit over <b>4 months</b> (£45.00 per month)	YES (96 scqf credit points £1028)
Employer paying	£1285	To be paid in full upon receipt of invoice	NA	

## 9. What should I do if I have any more questions?

Any other questions you may have can be answered via the information we send out in advance of the interviews and of course during the informal interviews that you will be invited to.

## 10. How do I get invited (for Interview) to one of the information sessions?

Please complete the application form online (Please see link below). This will initiate further information being sent out to you, you will then be invited to an informal interview with staff (by telephone) who teach on the programme. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and have a 1-1 informal chat about the course and your application form. You are under no obligation by completing the application form.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/courses/care/hnc-social-services-distance-learning-january-start>