



HNC Social Services Distance Learning - Frequently Asked Questions

1. How long is the course?

The course runs from August until May each academic year.

2. How often do I need to attend?

Students attend one full day on campus every six weeks (on a Friday at Falkirk Campus), where they are introduced to the units they will be studying and the associated assessments.

For students who live further afield, these sessions will also be broadcast live on Microsoft Teams and recorded for later viewing. Information on how to join these sessions will be provided once enrolment has been completed.

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

The full-time course involves two days in college each week (with both on-campus and online delivery) and two days on placement.

The distance learning course is designed for those who are already employed in a health or social care setting. Due to their work experience, students are able to manage the course more independently, and therefore less time is required in classes.

4. What support is offered?

Lecturer support is available to all students every Friday by appointment between on-campus sessions. These sessions are delivered online.

In addition, the College offers support from Learning Development Workers, who provide a range of assistance to help you with 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
- Three 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. Are 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 agree 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

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 7 months 1 payment of £150.00 6 payments of 125.00	
Using Part time fee grant	£1285	£77	£180 - Direct debit over 4 months (£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 additional questions you may have can be answered through the information we send out before the interviews, and of course during the informal interviews that you will be invited to attend.

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

Please complete the application form [online](#). Once we receive your application, we will send you further information and invite you to an informal telephone interview with staff who teach on the programme. This will give you the opportunity to ask questions and have a one-to-one informal discussion about the course and your application. Completing the application form does not place you under any obligation.