

## HNC Applied Sciences (Chemistry/Biology Route) (SCQF Level 7)

Full-time\*

\* Also available on a part-time basis. For more information visit [www.nescol.ac.uk/courses](http://www.nescol.ac.uk/courses) or pick up a Part-time Course Guide.

### Where will I study?

Course code	Location	Duration
ACCAP	Aberdeen City Campus	1 Year

### Welcome from Director of Curriculum

As the current Director of Curriculum, I would like to welcome you to the School of Engineering, Science and Technology at North East Scotland College. The School provides courses in Engineering, Science, Construction and Automotive Engineering, all of which offer outstanding opportunities for students to attain industry relevant qualifications which enable progression into or within the workplace or onto further study.

We are very fortunate to have state-of-the-art teaching facilities, which means that each and every one of our students will experience industry-focused, high quality and inspirational learning. Our main focus is ensuring that on completion of your course, you are capable and confident when it comes to entering the workplace or progressing towards further study at College or University. We pride ourselves in offering vocationally relevant opportunities for all, whether you are studying at introductory level or joining one of our advanced courses. We would be delighted to help you achieve your employment aspirations.

**Susan Grant, Director of Curriculum for Engineering, Science and Technology**

### Introduction to the course

There are two separate 'routes' for the HNC Applied Sciences course, meaning you can specialise in two of the major branches of science – either in chemistry/physics or chemistry/biology. Both options are intended for those wishing to find employment in the science industries or progress to further study, and the courses include a large amount of training in essential practical skills/modern instrumentation (which is of direct relevance to local and national employers).

The Chemistry/Biology route covers chemical and life sciences, and includes a significant amount of advanced level practical work. The course will allow you to develop essential laboratory skills and acts as excellent preparation for progression towards further study or employment. Successful completion of this course will allow you to progress to year 2 of HND Applied Sciences at NESCol.

### Entry requirements

Applicants should have Higher qualifications in Chemistry and Biology/Human Biology, or a Higher in one of these subjects and a National 5, Intermediate 2 (at a minimum of grade B) or Standard Grade Credit level qualification in the other. Alternatively, applicants should have completed the NC Applied Sciences SCQF Level 6 course at grade B

or above. Please note that applicants will be required to have a laptop.

## What subjects will I be studying?

On the Chemistry/Biology route you will study:

- Laboratory Skills for the Science Industries
- Mathematics for Science 1
- Cell Biology: Theory and Laboratory Skills
- Inorganic Chemistry: Theory and Laboratory Skills
- Physical Chemistry: Theory and Laboratory Skills
- Spectroscopic and Analytical Techniques
- Biochemistry: Theory and Laboratory Skills
- DNA and Genetics
- Graded Unit 1 - Investigation
- Introductory Unit in Chemistry **or** Biology **or** Physics **or** Biotechnology

Plus two of the following:

- Plant Biology
- Animal Biology
- Organic Stereochemistry: Theory and Laboratory Skills
- Instrumental Techniques 1

## Assessment methods

This course is assessed on a continuous basis, with each unit being assessed separately. For most of the Science units this will involve a single end of unit test, and assessed practical activities. For some units you'll find that essays, presentations, and case studies are also part of the assessment process. Graded Units will be undertaken in College, but are subject to external verification by the SQA. Candidates who pass a Graded Unit will be awarded an A, B or C grade for that unit.

## Dress code

Students should dress appropriately for undertaking practical laboratory work, and will be required to wear lab coats and safety glasses for all practical activities.

## Equipment

Please note that all applicants will be required to have a laptop.

## Course progression

Successful completion of this course may allow for progression to the HND Applied Sciences course.

## University links

North East Scotland College has links with a wide range of universities from across Scotland. Every one of our HND level courses has articulation opportunities where you can progress from your chosen course to a related university degree. This is an excellent option for those who may want to come to College at an introductory level, and then work their way towards degree level study.

[Find out more about our associate universities in the University Links section of the NESCol website.](#)

## University progression

### University of Aberdeen

- BSc Physics year 2 (subject to conditions)

## Useful information

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**Faculty:** Science

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**School:** School of Engineering, Science and Technology

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**Faculty Manager:** Colin Tweedie  
Email: [c.tweedie@nescol.ac.uk](mailto:c.tweedie@nescol.ac.uk)

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**Curriculum & Quality Manager(s):** Douglas Fraser  
Email: [douglas.fraser@nescol.ac.uk](mailto:douglas.fraser@nescol.ac.uk)

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## Guidance and Support

### Guidance

You will be assigned a Guidance Tutor when you are enrolled on the course. They will act as your primary contact should you have any issues, personal or involving your course, whilst at North East Scotland College. They will support you for the duration of your course along with relevant teaching staff. For assignments and assessments you will be provided with detailed feedback where possible, allowing you to pinpoint areas of good performance and areas that may need improvement - essential for your educational development.

[View our Guidance Tutor contact information.](#)

### Support

Our Student Services team are dedicated to helping all students with a range of factors that might affect your time at College. They can help you with funding queries, careers advice, learning support and more!

[Visit the Support section of our website for more information](#)

## Learning Resources

The College has a number of excellent learning resources available to assist and support the delivery of our classes across full-time, part-time and distance learning courses. They aim to enhance the quality of your learning experience.

[Find out more about NESCol learning resources](#)

## Library+

Our Library+ sites – at the Aberdeen City, Aberdeen Altens and Fraserburgh Campuses – provide all students with access to books, journals, newspapers, core skills materials and more! You'll also find laptop friendly areas, private study/research booths and printers, scanners and photocopiers.

[Find out more about what our Library+ services can offer](#)

## College calendar

Have a look at our [College Calendar](#) for further information on key dates throughout the year.

**Disclaimer:** Please note that the information put forward in this course specification document is subject to change at any time, and without prior notice. We have taken every care to ensure that the information provided is as accurate and up-to-date as possible, but we are not liable for the content of or any omissions on this document. This includes any inaccuracies, errors or misstatements in the information/data presented.