

Access to Medical & Life Sciences (SWAP) (SCQF Level 6)

Full-time

Where can I study?

Location	Duration	Course code
Aberdeen City Campus	1 Year	QCOAM

Introduction to the course

This is an intensive programme, which - in the space of one year - can take you from having no formal science qualifications to being able to commence HNC/D or degree level study. The Scottish Wider Access Programme (SWAP) is a partnership of colleges and universities in Scotland. SWAP access programmes are specifically aimed at adults who have been out of full time education for some time and who have not studied at university before.

Entry requirements

To be eligible for this course you must meet one of the following criteria:

- You don't have any qualifications above SCQF Level 5 (Standard Grade/Intermediate 2, GCSE, National 5) and you have been out of full-time education for 3 years or more. OR
- You have qualifications at SCQF level 6 or above (Highers, A Levels, HN) and you have been out of full-time education for 5 years or more.

There are no further formal entry requirements for the course, however, you must be able to demonstrate a high level of commitment and motivation. All applicants will have a personal interview and be advised of the most appropriate pathway. You may be required to take a Maths/English skills test to gain entry onto the course.

If direct entry to the SWAP programme is not appropriate then it is possible to undertake the NC in Applied Sciences Level 5 in preparation for the SWAP programme the following session.

What subjects will I be studying?

This programme will include:

- **Core skills units** in communications and IT.
- **Academic units** in as biology, human biology, microbiology, chemistry, maths and statistics, or biotechnology.
- **Preparation for Higher Education.** Alongside academic units, you will work through a variety of personal development and study skills materials aimed at helping you develop the skills and confidence you will need to succeed at university level study.

Assessment methods

This course is assessed on a continuous basis, with coursework taking the form of short tests, reports, and practical work. The

assessment of student work is undertaken by College staff, and all candidates will be given regular updates on their progress. This course does not include an end-of-course examination.

At the end of the programme each student is awarded a SWAP profile grading ranging from AAA-DDD. These grades are a reflection of your performance in each of the main science subjects (Maths, Biology and Chemistry) throughout the year.

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

You will require a scientific calculator. You will also be required to bring a laptop to classes. However if you are eligible for a full bursary for the course then this will be paid for from the bursary fund.

Course progression

From this course you may progress to HNC/D Applied Science at North East Scotland College, or to degree programmes in universities across the East of Scotland.

University progression

Progression is possible to a huge range of degree programmes at East of Scotland Universities. Full details of current opportunities may be found at www.scottishwideraccess.org/east-home.

Employment

Employment opportunities at Apprentice Laboratory Technician level may be possible.

Useful contacts

Head of Faculty:

Cameron Walker

Head of Faculty, Computing Technologies and Science, Aberdeen City Campus
Email: c.walker@nescol.ac.uk

Curriculum Manager:

Doug Fraser

Curriculum Manager
Email: douglas.fraser@nescol.ac.uk

Academic Tutor

Once you come to College you will be allocated an academic tutor, who will be your initial point of contact. You will meet your tutor at least once a term during tutor hour — they are also the person to go to for the following:

- **Induction:** You will be invited to come in the week before your course starts for your induction. Your tutor will cover key aspects of life at the College to make sure you are well prepared for your NESCol experience.
- **Initial support:** Your tutor is the first point of contact for academic, personal and social support.
- **Attendance:** Your attendance and progress while you are at college, will be monitored by your tutor.
- **Additional support needs:** If you have indicated that you have additional learning or support needs, speak to your tutor who will refer you to the Student Advice and Support team for needs assessment as soon as practically possible.
- **Transitions:** your tutor will keep you informed of the many activities and events organised by the College to support you with career choices, employability, enterprise and articulation guidance and advice.

Student Advice Centre

The Student Advice Centre is your one stop shop for all information and support during your time at NESCol. Staff based within the centre provide impartial and confidential information and advice on a range of issues including:

- Applications and course advice
- Funding and money management
- Careers, employability and enterprise
- Transitions to college and university
- Key Skills and Study Skills support
- Additional Support for Learning
- Assistive technologies
- Mental health and wellbeing advice
- Care Experienced and Corporate Parenting
- Tier 4 and international admissions

Learning Resources

My NESCol

My NESCol is the College's student web portal that will provide you with on-demand access to all of the links, news and services that you will use once you have enrolled. It's accessible via any computer, and as an Android or Apple app. It's easy to use, and you can even receive important alerts on your device!

Blackboard

Blackboard is the Virtual Learning Environment system used in the College, where you can find a host of useful information and access your courses online. It will be the main platform that your lecturers will use to make resources available to you including interactive materials, videos, assessments and feedback.

IT HelpZone

The IT HelpZones are run by students, for students, and there are helpdesks located in main social areas at the Aberdeen and Fraserburgh Campuses, and a dedicated helpline at our Altens Campus. You can drop in, email or telephone for assistance.

Library+

Each Library offers thousands of resources for study, including books, journals, e-books, e-journals and magazines — all relevant to the courses on offer at the campus in which they are situated. They also offer quiet, silent, individual, and group study facilities.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

NESCol believes that your learning and teaching experience at College can be enhanced significantly by use of a mobile device, such as a tablet or a laptop. For this reason, many students are required to bring a device with them to College. This initiative is known as Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) and its aim is to provide learners with a more bespoke and student-centred learning experience.

Digital Skills Space

Located within each Library Plus facility you will find a dedicated Digital Skills Space, featuring Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) workspaces and dedicated desktop PC work areas. These spaces are also used to deliver core IT teaching, drop-in IT support and scheduled digital skills workshops. You can also use these spaces for flexible access to PCs during Library+ opening hours.

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.