

HNC Computing *(SCQF Level 7)*

Full-time*

* Also available on a part-time basis. For more information visit www.nescol.ac.uk/courses or pick up a Part-time Course Guide.

Where will I study?

Course code	Location	Duration
CMCC	Aberdeen City Campus	1 Year
CECC	Fraserburgh Campus	1 Year

Welcome from Director of Curriculum

As the current Director of Curriculum, I would like to welcome you to the School of Creative Industries, Computing and Business Enterprise at North East Scotland College. This school encompasses the Creative Arts, Music, Drama, Media, ESOL, Business Enterprise and Computing and IT subjects – all of which offer interesting and exciting opportunities for students to progress and achieve success in their future careers.

Through work with external clients and experienced, knowledgeable teaching teams, our students will benefit from industry-focused, high quality learning. This means that on completion of your course, you are confident and capable when it comes to entering the workplace, or progressing towards further study. We pride ourselves in offering educational opportunities for all, whether you are starting at introductory level or joining one of our advanced courses. On behalf of the entire teaching team, we are delighted to have you join – or consider joining – one of our courses.

Susan Betty, Director of Curriculum for Creative Industries, Computing and Business Enterprise

Introduction to the course

This is a broad-based computing course covering both computer hardware and software. Throughout the course you will gain an understanding of current trends and practices in IT ensuring you are well prepared for employment or further specialist studies. Throughout the course you will develop relevant contemporary vocational skills, ensuring you are well-prepared for progression towards further study or employment.

Entry requirements

Applicants should have two Highers, preferably to include Computer Science. Applicants should also have Numeracy Core Skill at SCQF Level 4.

What subjects will I be studying?

You will study computer systems architecture, fundamentals of networking, developing software, web development

and the ethical and legal responsibilities of being an IT professional. You will also investigate computer security and the techniques for forensic examination of computer systems to identify cyber-crime.

Assessment methods

Students will be issued with an assessment schedule at the start of each unit. Assessment covers a range of practical skills, as well as theoretical skills in planning and evaluating. A large proportion of the units take a 'project' approach, where the product of the previous assessment is used as the foundations for the next. This means that students can get a true reflection of how the topics studied integrate, and how they can relate to industrial practice. A Graded Unit examination is scheduled for the beginning of Block 2, and will cover four of the subjects covered in the first part of the course.

Dress code

Students should dress appropriately for practical, hands-on work, as you will be working in a lab environment.

Course progression

On successful completion of HNC Computing learners can progress to:

- HND Computing: Software Development
- HND Computing: Networking (Technical Support)
- HND Digital Design & Development (Web Development)

Block 2 of the HNC allows learners to specialise in one of the areas in preparation for moving on to Year 2 of the HND. If your intentions are to progress on to year 2 of one of the HND courses, you must achieve 15 credits in your HNC year.

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

On completion of an HNC Computing it is possible to progress to University to study computing at degree level (usual entry route is to year 1).

Useful information

Faculty: Computing

School: School of Creative Industries, Computing and Business Enterprise

Faculty Manager: Cameron Walker
Email: c.walker@nescol.ac.uk

Curriculum & Quality Manager(s): Pamela Cumming
Email: p.cumming@nescol.ac.uk

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.