HND Computing: Software Development *(SCQF Level 8)*
Full-time

Where will I study?

Course code	Location	Duration
CMDD	Aberdeen City Campus	2 Years

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

The HND Computing: Software Development course will help you to develop a range of specialist software development skills in programming and systems development, whilst teaching you how to effectively utilise emerging technologies in this fast-paced and changeable industry.

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?

The first year of the programme follows the same programme of study as HNC Computing, meaning you will cover the following subjects:

- Virtualisation
- The Growth of Web 2.0 Technologies
- Increase in Social Media
- Increase in Mobile Technology

- Increased Focus on Software Development

In year 2 of the course you will progress to learn techniques in analysing customer requirements, how to design systems to meet customer specifications, how to implement using a wide variety of development tools, and how to adopt rigorous testing techniques to ensure the product is robust and fully fits the needs of the customer. You will further develop your analysis and programming skills using a variety of tools and approaches. Project work is used to strengthen team working skills and project management skills, and every attempt is made to keep abreast when it comes to software development tools and approaches used in industry and higher education to ensure learners have relevant and contemporary skills/abilities.

Assessment methods

A variety of assessment methods are used on this course, including:

- Short Answer
- Restricted Response
- Extended Response
- Multiple Choice
- Project/Case Study
- Practical Work

Year 1 - The assessment for the Graded Unit 1 is a formal closed-book 3 hour examination.

Year 2 - The assessment for the Graded Unit 2 is an individual project, often developed for a real-life client.

Equipment

This course is part of the **Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)** project, so you will be expected to provide your own laptop.

Course progression

Students successfully completing this course may progress towards a number of related degree programmes at one of our associate universities.

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

Robert Gordon University (RGU)

- BSc/BSc (Hons) Computing (Application Software Development) year 3 (subject to conditions)
- BSc/BSc (Hons) Digital Media – Design, Production & Development year 3 (subject to conditions)

University of Aberdeen

- MA/BSc Computing Science year 3 (subject to conditions)
- MSci Computer Science with Industrial Placement year 3 (subject to conditions)
- MA/BSC Information Systems and Business Management year 3 (subject to conditions)

Abertay University

- BSc (Hons) Computing year 3 (subject to conditions)

University of the Highlands & Islands (UHI)

- BSc (Hons)Computing year 3 (Argyll College UHI, Inverness College UHI, Lews Castle College UHI, Moray College UHI, North Highland College UHI, Orkney College UHI, Perth College UHI, Shetland College UHI)

(subject to conditions)

The Open University

An HND can give up to 240 credits towards the 360 credit BA/BSc Open Degree with Honours or 180 credits towards the 300 credit BA/BSc Open Degree.

A reduced amount of credit transfer can be awarded against other qualifications, such as:

- BSc (Hons) Computing & IT
- BSc (Hons) Computing & IT and a second subject (with business, design, mathematics, applied psychology or statistics)

Employment

Those who successfully complete this course often secure work as a Junior Software Developer, or work in web design and development, information system maintenance or support.

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.