

## **HND Social Sciences** *(SCQF Level 8)*

Full-time

### **Where can I study?**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Course code</b>
Aberdeen City Campus	2 Years	QGDS
Fraserburgh Campus	2 Years	RKDS

### **Introduction to the course**

This advanced course will provide you with knowledge and understanding of the relationship between individuals and society through theoretical, source and research-based perspectives on human behaviour and human society. You will use critical thinking to analyse different issues and debates covering a range of social science disciplines to build valuable evaluative and problem solving skills. You will also develop sound research skills – a vital component in the understanding and study of social sciences.

### **Entry requirements**

Applicants should have three Higher qualifications or have successfully completed the NC Social Sciences SCQF Level 6 course with the required attitude, application and standards required of studying at Higher National level.

A Foundation Apprenticeship in any subject area will be considered equivalent as one unrelated Higher for entry to this course.

### **What subjects will I be studying?**

You will explore a range of important topics, and delve into the various social science disciplines. Main subjects include:

- Sociology
- Psychology
- History
- Politics
- Research Methods and Research Issues
- Criminology
- Graded Units

You will not only learn about social science but be encouraged to be active students of the social sciences, developing higher order skills and your self-confidence to ensure you have the necessary skills and understanding for progression towards further study or employment.

### **Assessment methods**

On this course you will be assessed continually, throughout the year. This will involve both open and closed-book assessments.

At the end of year 1 you will sit a Graded Exam. At the end of year 2 you will complete a Graded Project and a Graded Exam.

## Course progression

Students who successfully complete this course may progress to degree level study 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 could progress from your chosen course to a related university degree, subject to conditions. 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](#)

## University progression

### Robert Gordon University (RGU)

- BA/BA (Hons) Applied Social Sciences year 3. Subject to conditions.

### University of Aberdeen

- MA Sociology year 3. Subject to conditions.

### Abertay University

- BA (Hons) Social Science year 3. Subject to conditions.
- BSc (Hons) Sociology year 3. Subject to conditions.

Agreed pathways to year 2 only:

- BSc (Hons) Psychology year 2. Subject to conditions.
- BA (Hons) Criminology year 2. Subject to conditions.

### University of the Highlands & Islands (UHI)

- BA (Hons) Social Sciences year 3 (Perth College UHI, Inverness College UHI, Moray College UHI). Subject to conditions.

### The Open University

- BA (Honours) Social Sciences. Subject to conditions.

## Employment

Employment opportunities are available in a range of areas including social research, local government, community education, the civil service, education, voluntary sectors and the media.

## Useful contacts

### Head of Faculty:

#### Brian Dunn

Head of Faculty, Social Sciences, Tourism & Hospitality, Aberdeen City Campus  
Email: [b.dunn@nescol.ac.uk](mailto:b.dunn@nescol.ac.uk)

#### Alesia Du Plessis

Head of Faculty, Creative & Service Industries, Fraserburgh Campus  
Email: [a.duplessis@nescol.ac.uk](mailto:a.duplessis@nescol.ac.uk)

**Curriculum Manager:****Jill Duncan**

Curriculum Manager, Aberdeen City Campus

Email: [j.duncan2@nescol.ac.uk](mailto:j.duncan2@nescol.ac.uk)

**Stuart Anderson**

Curriculum Manager, Fraserburgh Campus

Email: [st.anderson@nescol.ac.uk](mailto:st.anderson@nescol.ac.uk)

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## 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.