



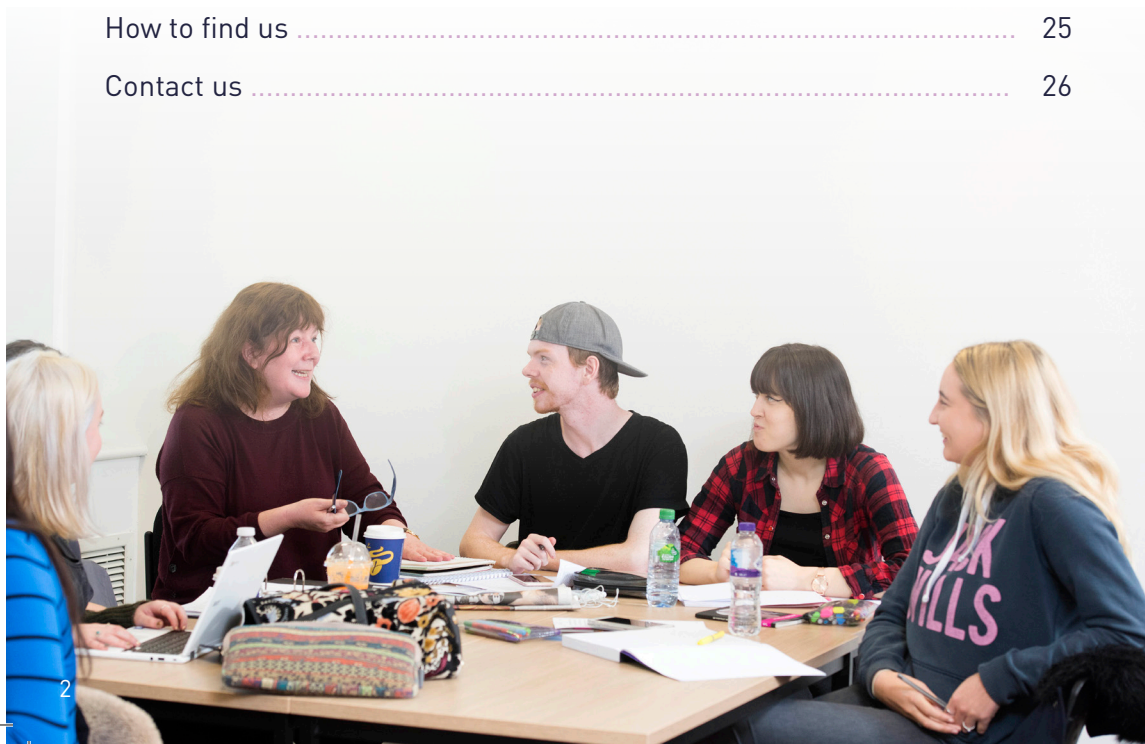
LIVERPOOL
HOPE
UNIVERSITY

Guide for Mature Learners

What to expect when returning to education

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Welcome



Whether you are considering a career change, returning to education after a break or looking to complete studies that you've always considered, you'll find a home here at Liverpool Hope.

We have a diverse mix of students studying on all of our programmes, and we value the contribution that prior experience both academically and personally brings to the classroom. It's Liverpool Hope University's policy to admit those students who demonstrate they have the academic ability and personal motivation to succeed in their chosen programme of study.

We actively encourage applications from students who are looking to be intellectually stretched, stimulated and challenged in their studies, and we welcome those who will add energy and bring breadth of experience and vitality to the University community.

This guide is designed to provide tailored information for those thinking of returning to education, including information on how to overcome common issues facing mature learners.

Cutting through the Jargon

Applying for university may sometimes feel complicated, and higher education (HE) jargon may seem overwhelming. To help you navigate your way through university terminology, we've put together some keyword explanations.

Level 3 qualifications and UCAS points

Level 3 qualifications are what provide UCAS points, which mean you can apply for university. Universities will accept a range of qualifications, but the most common are:

A/AS-Levels and BTECs

A Levels are normally studied for two years (one for an AS Level). Students will normally study three A-Levels.

BTEC stands for the Business and Technology Education Council. BTECs are specialist work-related qualifications and are designed for those interested in a particular sector or industry, but who are not yet sure what job they'd like to do. There are different types of BTEC, including one and two-year courses, but they will provide UCAS points.

Access to HE

Access to HE courses are designed for mature students without traditional qualifications to enable them to gain enough UCAS points for university. Unlike A-Levels and Extended two-year BTEC's, they are only an academic year in length, and there is an Advanced Learner Loan available to pay for the course if it is taken in a college as opposed to online. Costs for the Advanced Learner Loan are written off and you don't have to repay them if you go on to complete a higher education course.

UCAS

UCAS is a charity that processes applications to study full-time courses at universities, colleges, and conservatoires in the UK. However, it's not just about processing applications – UCAS' aim is to help students make informed choices that are right for them, by guiding them through the entire higher education application process and beyond. To support this, UCAS provides a wide range of valuable information and services for applicants and tutors. More information can be found at www.ucas.com



Degree with Foundation Year

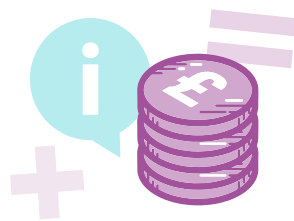
A Degree with Foundation Year is aimed at students who have the ability and enthusiasm to study for a degree, but do not yet have the qualifications required to enter directly onto our degree programmes. Successful completion of your first year of a Degree with Foundation Year will enable you to progress into first year of your chosen honours degree.

Undergraduate

The first level of study at university. The students who study at this level are also referred to as undergraduates.

Postgraduate

An extra level of study taken after graduating from an undergraduate degree.



Student Finance (SF)

Student Finance provides the finance to pay for degree courses, and this is paid directly to the university itself. Student Finance England (SFE) deals with all student finance for England. Student finance also provides maintenance loans for students to use for bills and living while on their course.

Tuition fees

The cost a university will charge for a course. It is normally broken down into fees per year. All new undergraduates should be eligible for a loan to cover these fees (subject to conditions and personal circumstances).

What are the **benefits** of **having a degree**?

Many people choose to attend university because they want to earn a bachelors degree in a subject they are passionate about. However, there are many other reasons why attending university as a mature learner is a good idea. These include: -

- ✓ Preparing you for a change of career
- ✓ Upskilling you for career progression
- ✓ The opportunity to meet new people
- ✓ The chance to study a new subject in more depth
- ✓ To boost your earning potential - on average, graduates earn more than those without degrees



Student Story



Fiona Hough Masters by Research in Sport & Exercise Science

"I was always told
by my teachers
that I wasn't clever

enough to go to university. Hope
encouraged me otherwise."

Having worked in a variety of jobs,
including 15 years as a Nurse, Fiona
made the decision to go into higher
education.

"I've been a sporty person my whole
life," she explained. "I used to cycle
all the time and I try to sail on the
Mersey weekly.

"In the past, a job has always been
just a job and I knew it was time to
do something for myself - something
that I had a passion for and knew
would challenge me."

Having settled in Liverpool in her
early teens, Liverpool Hope was a
natural choice for Fiona.

"One of the main things that attracted
me to Hope was the personal
element to the teaching. It's more
one-on-one and you feel like your
tutors take more of an active interest
in how your studies are going.

"Smaller classes also mean that
there's less competition for the labs

- so I pretty much got to spend as
much time in there as I wanted."

It was with this in mind, that Fiona
was encouraged to pursue an MRes
in Sport & Exercise Science.

"The sophistication and amount of
time you got to spend in the labs was
definitely a factor in deciding to do my
masters.

"I also liked the idea of independent
study. You're more in control of your
work and it's on you to develop your
skills.

"My dissertation was on
biomechanics and physiology, and my
research explored the effect of squats
on your leg muscles.

"The tutors were really supportive
and happy to help. And if ever I felt
like things were getting tough, they
were more than willing to talk me
through any issues I was facing.

"They're just a font of knowledge, and
more than happy to let me do my own
thing, but provide guidance whenever
I needed it.

"Hope gave me the support needed
to tackle the hard work required for
university and, honestly, nothing
beats the feeling when you've got that
certificate in your hand - that's when
you realise your achievement."

Application Process

We welcome applications from around the world and we try to make the process of applying as smooth as possible. Our step-by-step guide outlines what happens at each stage of the application process.

September – December

- ➔ Start to explore your choices and options for course and universities.
- ➔ Visit Open Days
- ➔ Ensure you have all the information for your UCAS statement, including your reference and personal statement.



January

- ➔ **29th January** is the deadline for 'on-time' UCAS applications. After this date, universities do not have to consider your application.
- ➔ Student Finance opens for applications.



February – June

- ➔ You should start receiving offers or invitations for interviews or auditions depending on your choice of course.
- ➔ **26th February** - UCAS Extra opens for students who have used all five choices but are not holding any offers.
- ➔ The final deadline to make your firm and insurance decisions is generally in May.



July

- ➔ **4th July** - Last date for applicants to add an Extra choice.
- ➔ **5th July** - Clearing opens for students without offers, or students who have rejected all of their current offerings.



August

- ➔ Places at university start to be confirmed.
- ➔ **14th August** - A level results day.



➔ **START YOUR COURSE!** ⬅



Course and Entry Requirements



Entry requirements

Access to Higher Education courses are a popular route for mature learners and carry UCAS tariff points that are accepted for entry to undergraduate courses. The required UCAS tariff points are 120-104. In order to convert your qualification into UCAS tariff points, you can use the UCAS tariff calculator. **We also consider work experience as part of your application.**

Additionally, applicants may require further subject-specific entry requirements depending on the course specification. For a full list of acceptable qualifications and offer

levels, please refer to our subject entry profiles, which are available from the UCAS website: www.ucas.com

For A Level/AS Level and BTECs -

The standard offer level is between BBB-BCC from A levels or DDM-DMM from BTEC, or 120-104 UCAS tariff points.

If you have any questions about your qualifications, please do not hesitate to contact the Student Recruitment Team:

T: 0151 291 3111

E: courses@hope.ac.uk

Funding and Finance

Finance can be a concern for all students, but for mature students it can be a bigger stressor.

For first time undergraduates, it's important to remember that you don't need to pay tuition fees up front.

The majority of first-time undergraduates will be eligible for the Tuition Fees Loan from the Government, and you don't start repaying the loan until you're employed and earning over £25,000. You apply for the Tuition Fees Loan and Maintenance Loans through Student Finance.

For more information on student finance, how to apply and what you may be entitled to, visit: **www.gov.uk/student-finance**

Other useful links

Disabled Students Allowance (DSA)

www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsa

Adult Dependents Grant

www.gov.uk/adult-dependants-grant

Parents Learning Allowance www.gov.uk/parents-learning-allowance

Childcare Grant www.gov.uk/childcare-grant

If you are under 25 and support yourself

www.standalone.org.uk/guides/

Turn 2 Us www.turn2us.org.uk

Educational Trusts' Forum educational-grants.org

Princes Trust www.princes-trust.org.uk/help-for-young-people/who-else/employment/grants-funding

Martin Lewis

www.moneysavingexpert.com/students

Liverpool Hope's fees and funding -

www.hope.ac.uk/undergraduate/feesandfunding

Already have a **degree?**



For mature learners who already hold an undergraduate degree, a postgraduate course is a popular option.

Postgraduate courses are normally studied over a single year and are a great avenue for mature learners who want to change their career.

Postgraduate Certificate

A teaching qualification, such as a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) or a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE), is a popular choice for those already holding an undergraduate degree.

These courses enable graduates to either teach in a Primary or Secondary school (PGCE), or in post-14 learner settings such as colleges, sixth forms, secondary schools, prisons, and voluntary and community organisations (PGDE).

These courses are full time only, but enable graduates to become qualified teachers. Unlike Masters conversion courses, you will normally be required to have a degree in the PGCE/PGDE subject that you wish to teach.

Masters routes

Masters courses can generally be studied full or part time, which means they are more flexible and can fit around your lifestyle. Types of Masters courses are:

Masters Taught - Similar to undergraduate programmes, the course is broken up into lectures, seminars and tutorials. You are led through the course by your academic advisors, however you are expected to undertake individual study within your own time.

Masters Research - This is essentially an advanced research-based degree, where you will conduct the majority of finding and research, with aid from academics.

Integrated Masters - Combines undergraduate and postgraduate study into one degree, giving you the opportunity to combine two subjects at a Masters level. You will study in a supportive learning environment and be encouraged to develop your own research profile.

Funding

The introduction of postgraduate loans means you can get financial assistance during your studies.

While a loan can aid students, many mature learners chose to continue working to ensure an income. Looking into other sources for extra financial assistance is always advised.

Information on Masters Loans can be found by visiting:
www.gov.uk/masters-loan

PGCE and PGDE funding is different. Like undergraduate degrees, student finance could be available to cover the cost of the course and a maintenance loan could also be available. Depending on the subject, bursaries are also available.

“Student Story



Kyle Amor

**BSc Physical
Education & Sports
Science**

“Life as a rugby
player is great,
but it really is

only a short part of your adulthood.
And there’s really only a handful of
players who’ll end up with a long
career in the game.

“I won the Player of the Year award at
St Helens in 2016 and then I signed
a four-year deal. If there was ever
a time to not worry about life after
rugby, that would have been it.

“But that period of time actually
triggered lots of anxieties and
insecurities, as I started thinking
about the future. In 2017, I had a poor
year. And it was partly down to the
fact I couldn’t relax. I was constantly
thinking about what was coming next.

“I didn’t know what to do. I was
talking to my player welfare officer,
changing my mind all the time, and
it properly fried my head. I know
everyone is different, but for me it
was a case of rolling my sleeves up
and doing something about it.

“I tried to get on a degree course
when I was in Leeds, but it was just
impossible. Up until this programme,
there was nothing out there that
allowed professional players to
combine training and games with
study.

“I’m hoping it can show people in
the professional and amateur games
that you can retrain - and you can
do something worthwhile once your
playing days end.

“It’s really hard. But by me doing
this, it dampens down the anxiety
surrounding what I’m ultimately
going to do after rugby.

“I’m also hoping it will open doors
and show whoever I’m being
interviewed by that I haven’t just
sat on my heels playing rugby and
thinking, ‘How good is this!’, but I’ve
applied myself in a different way, and
shown qualities and attributes that
are worthwhile.

“I like the idea of coaching but
another option that comes to mind
is becoming a Physical Education
teacher. That’s a really appealing
option for me.”

Life on Campus

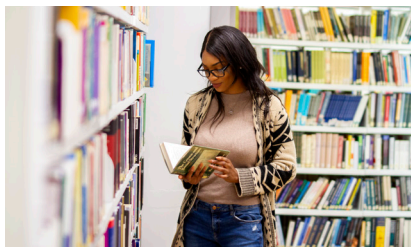
Mature students are welcome to live in our student halls on campus, but we appreciate that this may not always suit everybody's personal circumstances. For mature students who do not live on campus, specific support and events are provided to help you get to know your classmates and get a feel for university life.



Our Non-Residential Arrival days are designed for students not staying in the University's accommodation to familiarise themselves with the campuses and facilities, prior to starting their studies.

They help to make the transition into university life easier, and provide a chance to meet other non-residential students.

Feel at home at Hope Park



Liverpool Hope's largest campus, Hope Park, is a friendly educational village with places to live, work, study, eat and relax. It is situated in a leafy suburb of Liverpool, just four miles from the city centre.

With major investment in recent years, the campus now consists of traditional architecture alongside state-of-the-art, modern, purpose-built buildings. Hope Park offers all our students excellent facilities in beautiful surroundings and a warm welcome.

The campus is home to the School of Education, Science and the majority of Arts and Humanities Departments. It's also home to the Sports and Health Sciences Avenue, which has excellent sports and recreation facilities for all our students to use.

Our Place is the focus for student social activity on the Hope Park campus. It includes an American-style pizza restaurant, smoothie and coffee shop, and plays host to live music and comedy nights.

Fresh Hope is the main restaurant on site, and offers a variety of hot and cold options, including a street food counter, freshly prepared deli sandwiches and wraps, and a salad bar.

There are other cafés scattered around the campus, including Starbucks and Costa Coffee outlets. There is also a shop where you can buy drinks, snacks, newspapers and magazines.

Be inspired by our Creative Campus

Our Creative Campus is close to Liverpool city centre and is home to our School of Creative and Performing Arts. Here, you can learn your craft in the inspirational setting of Grade II-listed buildings and state-of-the-art performance spaces.

The University has invested heavily in this campus, unveiling a new Arts Centre, Graphic Design Studio, Fabrication Lab and extensive student spaces during summer 2018.

The transformed spaces include two theatres, two dance studios, two black box performance spaces, a music technology laboratory, a recording studio, and studios for painting, sculpture, wood, ceramics, metal and textiles.

The Cornerstone Building has undergone an extensive renovation, transforming the ground floor into an impressive social space, complete with a food court and breakout areas.



The building is home to fantastic facilities for the development of students' artwork, including studios, kilns, workshops and metalwork studios.

The Capstone Building is home to The Capstone Theatre, Liverpool Hope's dedicated performance venue, which provides an international music and arts programme throughout the year, including the Liverpool International Jazz Festival and the Angel Field Festival.

Liverpool Hope University is one of only six All-Steinway Schools in English higher education. The theatre is an acoustically excellent space housing a Steinway D Grand Piano, often described as the best piano in the world.

Support while at University



Student Support Services

We provide a professional and confidential student counselling service to help with any personal issues that may be affecting studies, self-esteem, relationships, emotional or general feelings of well-being.

Student Counselling provides an opportunity to discuss any difficulties you may be experiencing with a professionally trained person in a confidential environment.

Disability support

The Learning Support Team is the main point of contact within the University for both prospective and current disabled students.

This includes those with specific learning differences, mobility difficulties, long standing health conditions, mental health difficulties, autistic spectrum conditions and sensory difficulties.

The role of the team is to provide students with information, advice and assistance relating to the help and resources available to them, both within the University and from external agencies.

Academic Support

Our academics dedicate two hours a week to office hours. During these two hours, they are available in their office should you wish to drop-in and have either a formal and/or informal chat.

Starting university after being out of education for a while can be a big change in terms of workload and academic expectations. One of the most useful resources to help you adjust to university academic requirements is the library.

The library has a wealth of resources to support you, including online academic resources that can be accessed through the University's OneSearch tool.

Each Faculty also has their own dedicated librarian, who can assist you with research throughout your studies.



Mentoring Service

At Liverpool Hope we are proud to offer a Peer Academic Study Skills mentoring service and a Peer Academic Writing mentoring service.

Both services are run by postgraduate students on a one-to-one and group workshop level. They allow you to access help and advice from those who understand you best – your peers.

Employment and Careers Opportunities



We want you to have the best possible chance to embark on stimulating, rewarding and successful careers.

In addition to strong academic qualifications, one of our key priorities is to develop well-rounded individuals who have more to offer.

Our comprehensive Careers and Employability Service aims to ensure you have the right information, advice and opportunities to make the transition from student to professional, and to give you a great start in your career.

The Employability Hub

Our dedicated Employability Hub is a one-stop shop for all things careers. Run by the Careers and Employability Team, its focus is to make students more attractive to employers through work experience, professional development and one-to-one support.

The Hub provides:

- ➔ An exclusive placement service
- ➔ Professional networking sessions
- ➔ Information on graduate vacancies, internships and schemes
- ➔ Employer-led presentations and workshops
- ➔ Careers fairs and employability events
- ➔ Access to Careers Advisers, CV guidance and interview coaching
- ➔ Part-time paid work through Hope Works
- ➔ Service and Leadership Award guidance

Work experience

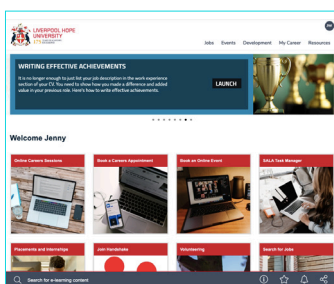
The Careers Team has numerous links with local, national and international employers, who provide varied work experience opportunities.

Our placement service can match you with employers linked to your career choices, providing you with exclusive tailored opportunities.

Whether you complete a few hours a week or a paid internship during the summer break, work experience opportunities are available from the moment you join Liverpool Hope.

Hope Works is an initiative that provides paid part-time on-campus work opportunities for students. Positions range from working within the catering team, to project work with academic departments.

Hope Works offers students the chance to earn a fair wage, develop skills valued by employers, and gain application and interview experience.



My Careers Centre

All students have access to the online My Careers Centre portal, which can help you develop your skills, career plan and CV.

It also provides career tips, job search tools and an interview simulator.

Additional resources include a weekly

e-bulletin packed with job opportunities, internships, summer placements and careers events.

“Student Story



**Daniel
Shankland**

**Primary Education
with QTS**

“I always knew I wanted to pursue a career in teaching,

but after leaving college it wasn't the right time for me. I wanted to take some time out and develop myself professionally.

“Over time, I told myself I was too old for university and that door had been closed, until one day someone pointed out to me that I was the only person telling myself that and in fact, the door had always been open.

“I was scared I would be the odd one out for being older than most students and that would mean I would find it difficult to make friends.

“This however was so inaccurate, there is such a variety of people of all ages in university and everyone gets on regardless of age.

“The moment I knew I wanted to attend Liverpool Hope was during my interview day, when the head of the course, stood in front of all the nervous interviewees and said ‘Here at Hope we aren't trying to trip you up, we want to help you succeed’.

“This statement perfectly reflects Hope's ethos, it is such a supportive and encouraging university. All the tutors are there to help in whatever way they can, whether it be academically or with the wider university life.

“I found it strange being back in education after five years, but being part of Hope helped those feelings to quickly disappear. I've had so much support settling back into education.

“One of my big worries was academic writing, as I'd not written an essay in years. There are academic tutors in the library who are there to help for free, they help you get back into the writing styles you need.

“It really has such a fantastic sense of community and you can tell how much they care about their students.”

“The thing I enjoy most about being at Hope is just being at Hope! It really has such a fantastic sense of community and you can tell how much they care about their students.

“I always knew I wanted to go to university, and Hope is exactly the university I'd always hoped I'd be a part of one day.”



Where we are



- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Hope Park | 6. Edge Lane Retail Park | 11. Smithdown Road |
| 2. Creative Campus | 7. Liverpool One | 12. Allerton Road |
| 3. Aigburth Park | 8. Concert Square | 13. Lark Lane |
| 4. Goodison Park | 9. John Lennon Airport | 14. Festival Gardens |
| 5. Anfield | 10. Baltic Triangle | 15. Albert Dock |



Liverpool Hope University **Shuttle bus route** -----

How to find us

Our three campuses - Hope Park, Creative Campus, and Aigburth Park - are connected by the University's Shuttle bus. Students can travel for free between the campuses by showing their University ID card.

Hope Park

Hope Park campus is situated on Taggart Avenue, Childwall, Liverpool, close to Queens Drive (A5058) at the end of the M62.

From the city centre, it is easy to get buses from Queen Square Bus Station, which goes to Childwall Valley Road or Woolton Road/Taggart Avenue. Broad Green Railway Station is situated just over a mile away from the campus.

Address for Satnav – Taggart Avenue, L16 9JD

Hope Park is easily accessible from Liverpool's main railway station, Liverpool Lime Street. The 86c bus is direct to Taggart Avenue and the 79c bus service stops at the Childwall Fiveways and the 75 bus service stops on Woolton Road.

Broadgreen railway station is the nearest (just over one mile) to our Hope Park campus, but there are no direct bus services. Various buses are available from Queens Drive, a short walk away, including the 61, 81 and 81A.

Creative Campus

The Creative Campus is less than a mile away from Liverpool's main railway station, Liverpool Lime Street. Situated at the junction of Islington and Shaw Street, the campus is well within walking distance of the station or a short bus ride from Queen Square Bus Station.

Address for Satnav – Shaw Street, L6 1HP

Contact Us

Hope Park

Liverpool Hope University, Liverpool, L16 9JD

T: 0151 291 3000

Creative Campus

Liverpool Hope University, Shaw Street, Liverpool L6 1HP

T: 0151 291 3939

Course Enquiries and Open Days:

T: 0151 291 3111 **E:** courses@hope.ac.uk

Accommodation:

T: 0151 291 3434 **E:** accommodation@hope.ac.uk

Student Funds:

T: 0151 291 3666 **E:** studentfunds@hope.ac.uk

For the latest information about Liverpool Hope University, visit:
www.hope.ac.uk

The information provided in this guide was correct at the time of going to print.





Make yourself
at Hope

www.hope.ac.uk

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