



St. Angela's College, Sligo
Coláiste San Aingeal, Sligeach
A College of NUI Galway

DIPLOMA IN FOUNDATION STUDIES ACCESS COURSE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION



The Diploma in Foundation Studies – Access Course for Higher Education targets those students who have the ability to benefit from and succeed in higher education but who, for a variety of social and economic reasons, are underrepresented at third level. The aim of the course is to enable students to acquire the knowledge, skills and confidence to participate alongside students who enter University through the conventional entry channels.

“The course was very beneficial and I would recommend it to anyone. It gives you a real insight into what university life is like and the tutors were very friendly, approachable and helpful” (course participant 2014).

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NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh

DIPLOMA IN FOUNDATION STUDIES ACCESS COURSE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

COURSE CODE: IET11 (St. Angela's College)
1DFS7 (NUI Galway)
AWARD: Diploma in Foundation Studies
DURATION: 1 year part-time (September - April).
Two/three days per week
10:30am – 6:30pm.

Socio-economic reasons considered are:

- Long-term unemployment
- Low family income
- Little or no family tradition of progression onto higher education
- Limited study facilities at home
- Family reasons (family related stresses, particularly those related to family finance)

This programme is also suitable for students with disabilities, whose background education has been affected by long-term absenteeism due to their illness.

AIMS

- Prepare students with the necessary skills/knowledge required to benefit from, and participate in, a third level undergraduate course;
- Build relationships with academic staff and other students;
- Enhance students' knowledge to the level expected of an undergraduate student;
- Build students' confidence in themselves and in their academic abilities and to get over any fears they may have about attending third level;
- Assist students in identifying and choosing a third level course that best suits their abilities and interests.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Students will study eight modules throughout the Course

• Study Skills

This module aims to equip students with organisational, communication, research and examination skills needed for third level study.

• Applied Writing

This module is designed to help students become more proficient in writing and practice the different styles necessary for third level study. It also helps students with basic grammar, punctuation and how to formulate assignments properly.

• Information Technology (IT)

The IT module gives students the skills required to use MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint, e-mail, internet, Moodle and file management.

• Educational Guidance

This module helps students to research career paths and apply for higher education programmes at NUI Galway and St. Angela's College. Students also reflect on key skills, values and motivators in career decision making.

Taster Modules:

Taster modules are introductory University modules in a number of specific disciplines and will give students an overview of what to expect at undergraduate level. Taster Modules include:

- Sociology
- Economics
- Philosophy
- Education
- Science: Biology, Physics, Chemistry
- Politics
- Maths
- Home Economics
- Nursing

Students will have to complete assignments, examinations, presentations and practical activities in the various modules.

QUALIFICATION

Following completion of the course, successful students will receive a Diploma in Foundation Studies, which can be used to gain entry into undergraduate programmes at St. Angela's College and NUI Galway.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Young Adults (18-22 years).

Leaving Certificate 2 HC3 and 4 OD minimum.

Mature Students (+22 years).

Previous academic or training experience desirable.

APPLICATION PROCESS

In order to apply:

- Complete and return application form, two referee questionnaires and supporting documentation as per the closing date (please see www.stangelas.nuigalway.ie)
- Attend an interview (which will involve writing a short piece on the day of interview).

For further information or an application form contact:

Access Office
St. Angela's College,
Lough Gill,
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T: 071-9195575
E: access@stangelas.nuigalway.ie



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