

HIGHER EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL PROSPECTUS 25-26

REAL LEARNING



BANGOR | DOWNPATRICK | LISBURN | NEWTOWNARDS



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We strive to ensure the description of courses in this prospectus and on our website is accurate. However, for various reasons there may be occasions when the college may need to change arrangements, or be unable to deliver classes due to circumstances such as reduced funding. If there are insufficient numbers applying for a course, it may not be viable to deliver the class.

WELCOME

Welcome to SERC's Higher Education prospectus where you will find a valuable range of learning and development opportunities. We are delighted that you are considering Higher Education at SERC. SERC's Higher Education courses have the same standard and the same academic rigour as universities.

In 2023-24, the achievement rate for our full-time HE students was more than 95%, rounding off a year of success for SERC students and staff. We are immensely proud of our learners and their achievements and celebrate their success every year at our graduation ceremony.

We are committed to delivering real learning for real life, working with partners in industry, education, business and government to create an experience which prepares our graduates for employment and for the challenges of the wider world. Browse our prospectus, explore our website and come and talk to us at an open evening to find out more about the real advantages of studying HE at SERC.

Tommy Martin

Principal and Chief Executive



HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY

WHAT WE OFFER

We offer degrees, foundation degrees, Higher National Diplomas (HNDs), Higher National Certificates (HNCs) and Higher Level Apprenticeships (HLAs).

SERC also provides postgraduate-level qualifications and professional development qualifications which are accredited by professional industry bodies. Achievement of these qualifications demonstrates a student's depth of knowledge and understanding of a subject as well as a commitment to succeed within the industry.

In addition, we deliver Level 7 qualifications with the Chartered Management Institute (CMI) and through City and Guilds.



“

I am a Pakistani living all my life in Saudi Arabia. I chose to continue my higher education at SERC. The first time when I heard about SERC, I was inspired by the college's education process. But when I came to SERC, I was overwhelmed and satisfied with my decision. Especially, I would say that I'm happy with how my studies are going so far.

Taimor Butt (Pakistan)

HND Computing and Systems Development

”

OUR HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERS

- Liverpool John Moores University
- The Open University
- Queen's University Belfast
- Ulster University
- Pearson
- Accounting Technicians Ireland (ATI)
- Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI)
- Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD)
- Chartered Management Institute (CMI)
- Counselling and Psychotherapy Central Awarding Body (CPCAB)
- Open College Network Northern Ireland (OCNNI)
- Northern Council for Further Education (NCFE)
- Vocational Training Charitable Trust (VTCT)
- Chartered Institute of Export & International Trade



OPEN UNIVERSITY

SERC is proud to have been approved by the Open University as an appropriate organisation to offer higher education programmes leading to Open University validated awards.

Students can follow an OU-validated Foundation Degree course in Cloud Computing Technologies, in Cyber Security and Digital Forensics, or in Culinary Arts at SERC campuses in Bangor, Downpatrick and Lisburn.

Pending approval, these Open University-validated courses will begin an additional January enrolment from 2023 as well as the September 2023 entry point.

OU-validated top-up degree courses are also available in Cloud Computing Technologies and in Cyber Security and Digital Forensics providing a progression route for those currently studying a level 5 qualification in a related area. These are full-time courses with an option to study part-time.

HIGHER EDUCATION AT SERC

WHAT IS HIGHER EDUCATION?

We offer degrees, foundation degrees, Higher National Diplomas (HNDs) and Higher National Certificates (HNCs). SERC also provides postgraduate-level qualifications and professional development qualifications which are accredited by professional industry bodies.

We celebrate our Higher Education students' achievements at an annual graduation ceremony at the Waterfront Hall in Belfast. The SERC pathway to a Higher Education qualification in many cases allows you to move between part-time and full-time study at the end of a year, enabling you to succeed whilst meeting other commitments.

- ANIMAL CARE
- ART & DESIGN
- BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT
- COMPUTING/SOFTWARE ENGINEERING/NETWORKING
- CONSTRUCTION STUDIES
- EARLY YEARS
- HOSPITALITY & CATERING
- MANUFACTURING & GENERAL ENGINEERING
- MOTOR SPORT
- MUSIC
- PERFORMING ARTS
- SPORT & RECREATION



“

One of the best experiences I've had while living in Northern Ireland was studying at SERC. Excellent facilities, great staff and high-level education system are what you can find in SERC. It's also very Convenient and handy to travel to.

Paul Anekwe (Nigeria)
Art & Design

”



ANIMAL CARE

Code: 10994

Pearson BTEC HND in Animal Management

Bangor & Lisburn

Duration: 2 Years

The qualifications aim to widen access to higher education and enhance the career prospects of those who undertake them. This course is designed to prepare students for a career in the animal industry or progression to related degree programmes, normally at second year of entry.

ART & DESIGN

Code: 11163

Pearson BTEC HNC in Graphic Design

Bangor

Duration: 1 Year

This course will allow you to explore a diverse range of graphic design topics and industries available, helping you to find your speciality and area of interest. It gives students with an enquiring creative mind the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to achieve high performance in the graphic design environment.

BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT

Code: 10806

BSc (Hons) Business Management (Validated by Liverpool John Moores University)

Bangor

Duration: 3 Years

As a Business Management student, you will become competent in:

- digital analytical expertise
- managing finance with appropriate tools
- understanding financial markets
- people management development
- marketing of products and services
- planning and project management delivery.

Business simulation tools are used in a number of core modules to replicate real-world work scenarios. Using various applications, students work in small groups and compete to develop the best business strategies for success including business growth, market dominance, ethical business and sustainability goals. Live business projects (with real organisations) allow students to put business theory into practice and help realise genuine business opportunities.





COMPUTING/SOFTWARE ENGINEERING/NETWORKING

Code: 11002

**Foundation Degree in Cloud Computing Technologies
(Validated by The Open University)**

Bangor, Downpatrick & Lisburn

Duration: 2 Years

As the cloud continues to ascend, reshaping the technological landscape, the demand for cloud computing experts is skyrocketing. From infrastructure as a service to software as a service, the cloud offers a world of possibilities, empowering businesses and individuals alike.

This course will serve as your cloud compass, guiding you through the vast expanse of cloud technologies and architectures. Explore the intricacies of virtualisation, scalability, and security, and become a master of the cloud. Cloud computing is a global phenomenon, connecting people and organisations across the digital sphere.

Code: 11004

**BSc (Hons) in Cloud Computing Technologies (Validated
by The Open University)**

Bangor & Lisburn

Duration: 1 Year

This is a 1 year top-up honours degree in cloud computing technologies. Applicants must hold the foundation degree above or a level 5 in a computer related discipline for direct entry.



Code: 11001

**Foundation Degree in Cyber Security and Digital
Forensics (Validated by The Open University)**

Bangor, Downpatrick & Lisburn

Duration: 2 Years

From the mundane to the extraordinary, computer systems permeate every aspect of our lives. The demand for skilled IT professionals is skyrocketing and this course will introduce you to an array of IT topics and industries.

Code: 11003

**BSc (Hons) in Cyber Security and Digital Forensics
(Validated by The Open University)**

Bangor & Lisburn

Duration: 1 Year

This is a 1 year top-up honours degree in cyber security and digital forensics. Applicants must hold the foundation degree above or a level 5 in a computer related discipline for direct entry.



Code: 10622

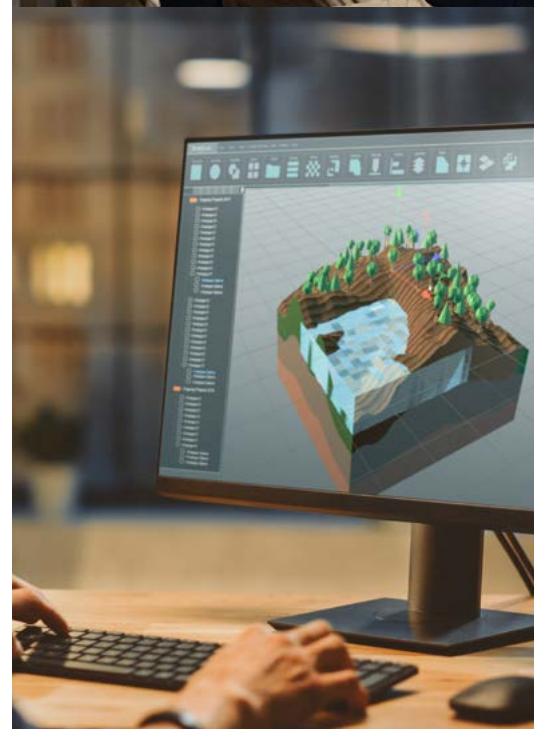
**Pearson BTEC HND in Computing (Software and Games
Development)**

Bangor & Lisburn

Duration: 2 Years

Are you ready to dive into a world of endless possibilities? The IT industry is booming, and the demand for skilled professionals has never been higher. From the latest gadgets to ground breaking innovations, technology is shaping our world in incredible ways.

This course will be your digital passport, granting you access to a vast array of IT topics and industries. Explore the cutting edge of technology, discover your passion, and become a key player in the digital revolution.



CONSTRUCTION STUDIES

Code: 11237

Pearson BTEC HND in Construction Management

Bangor

Duration: 2 Years

This programme will provide you with the skills to enable you to meet changing circumstances, whether these arise from a shift in your own sphere of employment, promotion to supervisory or management roles or from general changes in construction practices and the information technology environment.

Industry related projects will help develop skills like teamwork, planning, problem solving and communication, all of which you may need in the work place.

HNC/HND courses are well recognised by employers and they will see that you have the technical skills and knowledge to perform related roles within their business.



EARLY YEARS

Code: 10665

**Foundation Degree Early Childhood Studies
(Validated by Queen's University Belfast)**

Lisburn

Duration: 2 Years

There is a huge demand for workers who are qualified at level 5 in the early years sector. The Early Childhood Studies programme focuses on the key theories, concepts and application of working practices with children in the age range 0 to 8 years. On this course you will develop many transferable practical and analytical skills which are valued highly by employers, including the ability to think and reflect critically about your work and the setting you work in. Our Early Childhood Studies Foundation Degree will give you the knowledge and skills that you need to work in a range of roles in the early years sector, including early years settings, primary schools, family support, social work, charities and healthcare settings and will allow for progression to the BA degree. Join us to become a skilled early years practitioner in this dynamic profession.





HOSPITALITY & CATERING

Code: 11051

Foundation Degree in Culinary Arts (Validated by The Open University)

Bangor

Duration: 2 Years

The culinary sector is a dynamic and diverse field that combines creativity, skill, and passion for food, offering numerous career opportunities ranging from cooking and baking to food management and entrepreneurship. An Open University culinary arts degree from SERC offers chefs a high-quality education, exposure to diverse cuisines, and invaluable hands-on experience.

With a fully accredited programme composed of contemporary and industry specific modules, both practical and theoretical, graduates will be well-prepared for the successful development of their careers in the industry.

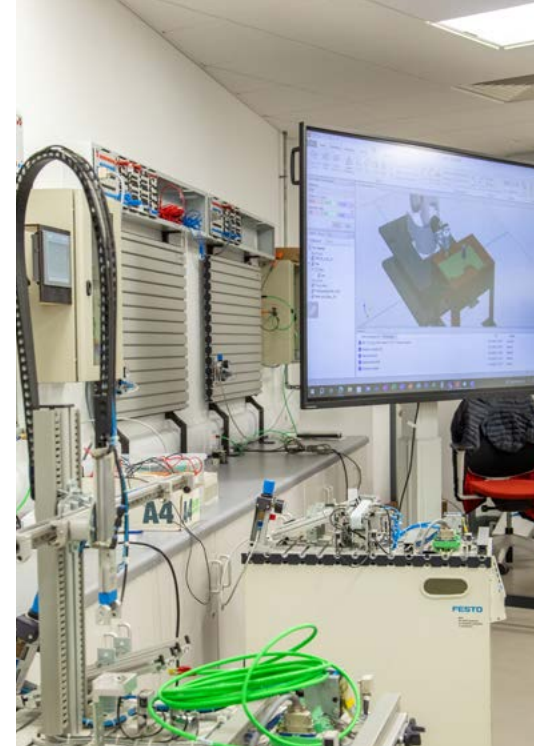
Code: 11206

Foundation Degree in Tourism, Hospitality & Event Management (Validated by Ulster University)

Bangor

Duration: 2 Years

The tourism, hospitality and events industry is a vibrant and evolving international sector which offers a multitude of career choices and global opportunities. This course will provide you with a fundamental understanding of tourism, hospitality and events and enable you to specialise in one or more of these component areas of this dynamic industry. You will be presented with opportunities to acquire and enhance academic, technical and meta-skills which will help you to successfully apply for relevant jobs within the tourism, hospitality & events industry.



MANUFACTURING & GENERAL ENGINEERING

Code: 10706

Foundation Degree in Mechatronic Engineering (Validated by Ulster University)

Lisburn

Duration: 2 Years

Studying Mechatronics at Level 5 offers a broad and versatile foundation in engineering principles, making it an excellent choice for those looking to enter the engineering field or advance their careers. This program provides a comprehensive understanding of various engineering disciplines, with a slant towards manufacturing automation. It equips students with practical skills and theoretical knowledge that are highly valued by employers and opening up diverse career opportunities. Additionally, it serves as a stepping stone for further education, such as progressing to a Level 6 Bachelor's Degree in engineering.

MOTOR SPORT

Code: 11091

Foundation Degree in Motorsport Engineering (Validated by The Open University)

Bangor

Duration: 2 Years

On completion of the course it is envisaged that students will have acquired a high level of motorsport engineering skills and relevant industrial exposure to allow them to gain employment within the motorsport sector. The course allows you to develop an understanding of the relationship between key areas of motorsport technologies including engine technologies, chassis design, emerging technologies and sustainability issues. You will also develop skills to effectively plan, present and manage motorsport projects.



MUSIC

Code: 10625

Pearson BTEC HND in Music

Bangor

Duration: 2 Years

This course will provide you with a stimulating and challenging programme of study that will be both engaging and memorable, delivering the essential subject knowledge that you will need to progress successfully into further study or the world of work. You will undertake a substantial core of learning in the Higher National Certificate in year one, and can build on this in the Higher National Diploma, in year two with optional units linked to your specialist area of study. Content is continually refreshed so that it is closely aligned with professional body, employer and higher education needs. We provide a varied approach to assessment that supports progression and different learning styles. We deliver a qualification designed to meet the needs and expectations of students aspiring to work in an international music environment.



PERFORMING ARTS

Code: 10626

Pearson BTEC HND in Performing Arts

Bangor

Duration: 2 Years

This course will provide you with a stimulating and challenging programme of study that will be both engaging and memorable, delivering the essential subject knowledge that you will need to progress successfully into further study or the world of work. You will undertake a substantial core of learning in the Higher National Certificate in year one, and can build on this in the Higher National Diploma in year two with optional units linked to your specialist area of study. Content is continually refreshed so that it is closely aligned with professional body, employer and higher education needs. We provide a varied approach to assessment that supports progression, accommodating and enhancing different learning styles. We deliver a qualification designed to meet the needs and expectations of students aspiring to work in an international performing arts environment.



SPORT & RECREATION

Code: 10708

**Foundation Degree in Sport, Coaching and Fitness
(Validated by Ulster University)**

Bangor & Lisburn

Duration: 2 Years

The Foundation Degree in Sport, Coaching and Fitness provides learners with an opportunity to develop a diverse range of related skills through a breadth of core sporting modules. The course is a balance of theoretical and practical aspects allowing for the underpinning of established knowledge in an environment that promotes understanding in application.

WHAT YOU NEED

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Entry requirements for SERC courses vary depending on the course you are applying for. SERC accept a variety of qualifications and use the UCAS Tariff.

Generally you will need to have A level equivalent qualification from your home country in order to secure you admission in HND, University Foundation Degree and Undergraduate programmes. Please contact the international office for specific qualifications needed for a course.



ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

In addition to satisfying the general academic criteria, you will also need to demonstrate your English language proficiency.

English language requirements

Please note: SERC reserves the right to change the evidence it will accept for English Language proficiency.

Accepted Secure English Language Tests (SELTs)

SELT ENGLISH TEST

Grade required
(Minimum standards courses may vary)

IELTS ACADEMIC FOR UKVI

6.0 Overall with 5.5 in each component

TRINITY INTEGRATED SKILLS IN ENGLISH II (ISEII) B2 LEVEL

Pass in all Skills

TRINITY INTEGRATED SKILLS IN ENGLISH III (ISEIII) C1 LEVEL

Pass in all Skills

LANGUAGECERT SELT

(IELTS 6.0 equivalent) B2 Pass - no component below 33/50 or (IELTS 6.5 equivalent) B2 Pass - no component below 33/50

PEARSON PTE ACADEMIC UKVI

61 (Minimum of 59 in each component)

FEES AND FINANCE

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The applicant must have completed a minimum of High School Leaving Certificate/12 years of study or equivalent with minimum 70% marks or equivalent grades from their home country

Candidate should meet the entry requirements of the respective programme of study

Candidates must hold an unconditional offer from the academic department of SERC

Candidates from Non-English Speaking countries must have a minimum IELTS 6.5 band or equivalent from one of the UKVI approved SELT Examinations

You must not have more than 1 year of study gap when applying

You must be a Non-UK citizen and applying for a UK student visa on the basis of Certificate of Acceptance for Studies issued by SERC

The Scholarship applies only to the first year of the programme

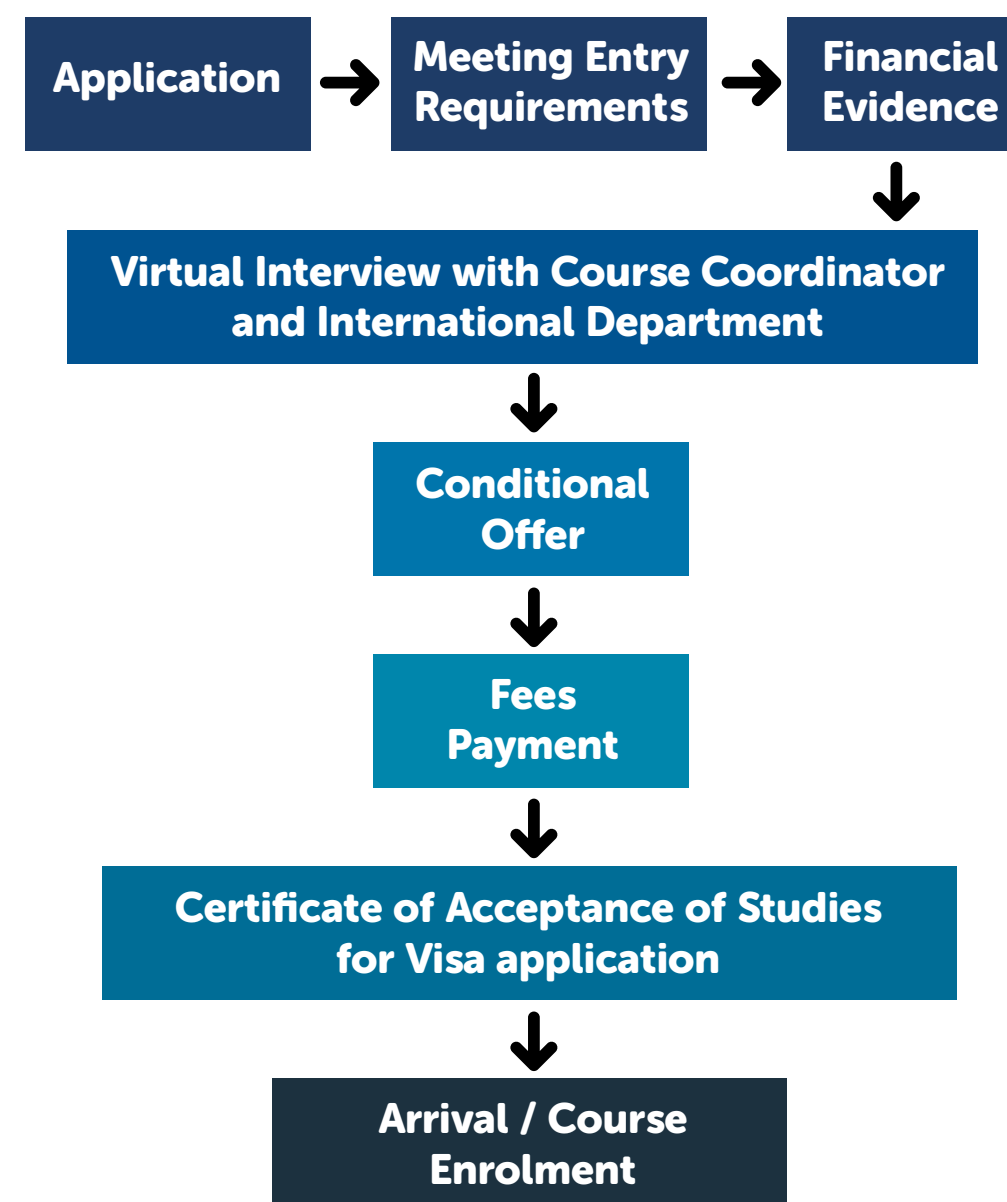
Have no prior experience of higher education in the UK

Not be in receipt of any other scholarship or bursary

SERC reserves the right to review and change scholarship provision

INTERNATIONAL ADMISSION PROCESS

All applications for September entry must be submitted by end of May each year. Once an offer has been made, applicants will have a further 28 days to pay a deposit for the course. Failure to do so, may result in your offer being cancelled.



QUALIFICATIONS EXPLAINED

At SERC we offer a large variety of Higher Education courses which are fully recognised by employers and universities. There are several different pathways and progression routes which allow for further study or employment.

DEGREE

(Level 6)

This is a Higher Education qualification that helps you develop a true understanding of a subject. The qualification is designed to help you develop your analytical and writing skills, while developing technical skills for the world of employment. At SERC we offer both full-time and part-time degree options. We also offer a top-up degree option in specialist subject areas.

CLICK HERE



FOUNDATION DEGREE

(Level 5)

This is a Higher Education qualification that combines academic study with work-based learning. Designed jointly by universities, colleges and employers, foundation degrees are available in a range of subjects. They are designed to equip you for a particular area of work, as well as giving you the skills that are useful in any type of job. Following a foundation degree, you can progress to a relevant SERC top-up degree or university to achieve a degree qualification. Foundation degrees provide a clear progression route to a bachelor's degree programme, or into employment.

HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA, HND

(Level 5)

A Higher National Diploma (HND) is a vocational qualification that provides students with practical skills and theoretical knowledge for a specific career. This is usually studied full-time over two years. You will complete an HND in year one of the course. An HND can lead on to a degree programme or directly into employment.

HIGHER NATIONAL CERTIFICATE, HNC

(Level 4)

A Higher National Certificate (HNC) is a vocational qualification that prepares students for the workforce with practical skills and theoretical knowledge. HNCs are Level 4 qualifications and are usually completed in one year full-time or two years part-time. If you are already in employment, a part-time HNC develops the technical skills which you can put into practice in your current job. Higher National qualifications are highly valued by employers and can also count towards membership of professional bodies and other employer organisations. They focus on learning by doing, and give skills that you can use in a particular job as well as providing opportunities for progression.



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Your chosen course may have specific entry requirements so please check the full details on the website course listing.

If you have disabilities or learning difficulties, you may not need to meet some entry requirements - our Learning Support Team can advise you.

Call 0345 600 7555 for further advice.

ENTRY LEVEL SKILLS FOR LIFE AND WORK.

Entry Requirements
No formal qualifications required.

Where it can take you
Progress to Level 1 study.

LEVEL 1 BTECS, AWARDS, CERTIFICATES, DIPLOMAS, NVQS, SKILLS FOR LIFE AND WORK.

Entry Requirements
No formal qualifications required.

Where it can take you
Progress to Level 2 study or use skills to start work.

LEVEL 2 APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINEESHIPS.

Equivalent
GCSEs.

Entry Requirements
4 GCSEs at grades D-G including English and Maths at grade F or higher or equivalent. Enhanced criteria in Maths and English may also apply, refer to individual course descriptions for details.
Accreditation for Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) may also be considered.

Where it can take you
Progress to Level 3 study or use skills to start work.

LEVEL 3 BTECS, DIPLOMAS, APPRENTICESHIPS AND ACCESS TO EDUCATION.

Equivalent
A Levels.

Entry Requirements
5 GCSEs at Grades C/4 or above including English Language and/or Maths (some courses may require both, please check your individual course). Or successful completion of a Level 2 related qualification and interview.

Where it can take you
Progress to Higher Education at SERC or at university, or use your skills to start work.

LEVEL 4 HIGHER NATIONAL CERTIFICATES (HNCS), HIGHER LEVEL APPRENTICESHIPS

Equivalent
1st year of a Bachelor's Degree

Entry Requirements
5 GCSEs at Grades C/4 or above including English Language and Maths (or equivalent). A Levels or successful completion of related Level 3 qualification or related industry experience. Interview.

Where it can take you
Progress to Higher Education at SERC, university or use your skills to start work

LEVEL 5 HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMAS (HNDS), FOUNDATION DEGREES, HIGHER LEVEL APPRENTICESHIPS

Equivalent
2nd year of a Bachelor's Degree

Entry Requirements
Successful completion of Level 4 related qualification or related industry experience, and an interview.

Where it can take you
Progress to university or use your skills to start work

LEVEL 6 BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Entry Requirements
Successful completion of Level 5 related qualification or related industry experience, and an interview.

Where it can take you
Continue to Master's or use your skills to start work

WHY SERC?

THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

SERC offers courses validated by Liverpool John Moores University, Open University, Queen's University Belfast, Ulster University and awarding bodies such as Pearson and VTCT

We work in small classes or in workshops – no sitting in a lecture theatre!

Learning is rooted in meeting practical challenges and working on projects to develop teamwork and self-management skills

Our courses lead to recognised, respected qualifications and offer progression to employment or to the next stage of education



Courses include work placements, and in many cases offer work experience abroad

We have industry-experienced, qualified tutors and state-of-the-art facilities

Higher Education at SERC is a different route to your destination.

International study fees are significantly lower than those of UK universities. Contact the international team for more information on fees and charges.

JOIN A WINNING TEAM

SERC consistently scores highly

above the UK benchmark

in the National Student Survey.

In **2023-24** the achievement rate for full-time HE students at SERC was

more than 95%

In **2023-24** most of our full-time HE students

achieved higher grades

on their qualifications, including merits, commendations, distinctions, 2:1 and first-class honours degrees.



THE STUDENT VOICE

STUDENTS' UNION

SERC Students' Union (SU) advocates for SERC students and also delivers a programme of events and activities to enrich and enhance college life for the SERC community. All students are automatically members of the SU and can stand for office such as class representative, or welfare officer. If you can't find a club or society at SERC which reflects your interests, the SU will support you in starting one! **Click here to find out more.**

GO GREENER!

SERC was awarded the prestigious Green Gown Award for our commitment to promoting sustainability. Students and staff are invited to get involved in progressing this commitment through eco communities and involvement in projects. **Click here to find out more.**

STUDENT BUSINESSES

SERC provides a range of activities through which you can develop enterprise skills. All full-time students spend the first two weeks of the academic year developing enterprise ideas. There are also dedicated workspaces for students to develop their ideas, and a team supporting students to establish their own business. **Click here to find out more.**



STUDENT SUPPORT

SERC is committed to supporting all students to meet challenges and achieve their aims. The college has an extensive network of support services and also works with a range of agencies to make sure help is there whenever it is needed.

PASTORAL CARE

We work with organisations such as Ascertain, Aware, Inspire and the HSC to help you to overcome challenges and achieve your goals.

LEARNING SUPPORT

If you have additional needs, we have the facilities and staff to work with you to help you succeed.

STUDENT FINANCE

It can be difficult to juggle your finances when you're a student. SERC publishes a range of guides and has a team of advisors to support you.

CAREERS

Our award-winning careers advisors can help you plan your path to achieving your ambitions.

STUDENT CARERS

If you have caring responsibilities at home, we understand that this can have an impact on your learning. We have a dedicated support service to offer help and advice.

LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRES

If you need a place to study or help in finding resources to support your learning, we have Learning Resource Centres on each main campus with printed books and e-books and quiet study areas.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Click titles for more information



REAL SKILLS FOR REAL LIFE

At SERC we know it is important to educate the whole person, which means we don't just deliver paper qualifications, we develop rounded individuals with the personal and interpersonal skills needed to navigate life. We know, too, that these skills are valued by employers.

Transversal skills (T-skills) and Meta-skills (M-skills) are behaviours and competencies which underpin the learning of other skills and knowledge. They include critical thinking, team work, creativity, problem-solving, time management and learning skills. SERC puts these at the centre of the educational experience to build confidence and prepare our students for the challenges of modern life and work.



“

I had an excellent 5 years journey with SERC. I have achieved BTEC Diploma in Business and BA in Business. Being an international student it was like a home for me. All the tutors, staff and class friends are supportive. They are always available when you need support. I strongly recommend people to study at SERC

”

Shajia Nowshin (Bangladesh)
LJMU BA (Hons) Business Studies

NEXT STEPS

Ready to join us? Make sure to apply for your course online via our public website www.serc.ac.uk to begin your admissions process. If you have any questions or need support with your application, please don't hesitate to contact our International Team by emailing international@serc.ac.uk we're here to help!

Step 1

View Courses on public website

Step 2

Submit Online Application

Step 3

Upload Qualification Documents and Proof of ID

Step 4

Meeting Entry Requirements

Step 5

Financial Evidence



REAL LEARNING AT SERC

Apply Now for Courses Starting in 2025/26



Click to visit our social media sites

