



University of  
**CUMBRIA**

# SHAPE THE FUTURE OF YOUTH WORK

YOUTH WORK  
DEGREE  
APPRENTICESHIP

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# APPRENTICESHIP

The University of Cumbria has a tradition of training youth work professionals and has designed this programme with a range of professional stakeholders, including the National Youth Agency.

The programme is endorsed by the National Youth Agency to provide JNC professional status upon successful completion.

The role of the youth worker has diversified and become a credible asset in the range of roles that act in support of young people. The unique contribution of the contemporary youth worker has encouraged growth in communities due to the valuable initial training offered to level 3. The degree apprenticeship offer from the University of Cumbria aims to compliment further growth in the sector and a responsiveness to young people in our communities.

## COURSE OVERVIEW

The unique contribution of youth work broadly aims to create opportunities to enable young people to develop holistically. Working alongside young people to facilitate their personal, social, and educational development, youth work strives to promote young people's voice, influence and agency, and take a place in society to reach their potential.

The programme will support learners to identify their key strengths as a youth work practitioner and the programme team will work with both the employer and learner to encourage growth and development throughout the programme. The process enables a practice related journey to establish broader depth and understanding of the professional role to develop both scope and effectiveness in young people's lives.

The University of Cumbria team have extensive experience in youth work and aspire to enable generations of youth workers to act with versatility, professionalism and with a core understanding of youth work to enhance young people's lives and experiences.

# PROGRAMME DESIGN

	MODULE TITLE	AIMS OF MODULE
Academic Level 4	Developing Academic Writing and Reflective Practice	Develop study skills that will enhance ability to develop as a reflective life-long learner.
	The Relational Youth Worker	Provide the opportunity to examine learners' own individual values, the values of young people and wider societal values, and to consider these in relation to youth and community work.
	Informal Educational Principles	Introduce the discipline of psychology, with particular emphasis on social, developmental and community psychology. The module will introduce a range of dimensions of development (e.g. physiological, cognitive, social) and encourage students to consider how these dimensions interact with the social context of the individual.
	Values and Principles in Youth Work	Provide an opportunity to consolidate previous learning and apply this to a youth and / or community work setting. The module aims to provide a managed induction into work with young people, and to understand the underpinning values associated with youth and community work.
	Social and Political Influences on Policy and Practice	Identify and consider the influences legislative, social, political and policy can have on the lives of individuals, families, and communities. In studying for this module, you will identify the ways in which these factors have been seen to influence practice and consider how to develop the skills and knowledge required to work within these challenges.
Academic Level 5	Contemporary Issues: Targeted and Universal Curricula in Youth Work	Provide the opportunity to research a contemporary issue related to youth work chosen by the learner. Over the course of the module, you will be introduced to a range of issues which will support you to select a research topic which enables you to respond to all four learning outcomes. Through guided research you will analyse your chosen issue and explore related legislation and policy alongside practice-based interventions. This will support logical recommendations that have the potential to improve practice in the field.
	Impact and Outcomes in Youth Work	Develop an understanding of the diverse nature of adolescent development and change and explores the factors impacting on young people in this life stage. It will give students an understanding of the causes and complexities of adolescent development and how psychological issues need to be understood within a social, cultural and developmental context.
	Equality, Diversity and Equity in Practice	To encourage to consider your own values and ethics and reflect upon their impact on the behaviour and attitudes of yourself and others. The module will explore and analyse various presentations of oppressive and discriminatory practice and consider responses which challenge these.
	Collective Action and Group Work	To identify, develop and critically assess a range of theoretical approaches utilised within community work practice, and to develop their understanding of how to apply these in a diverse range of community work settings.
	Negotiated Learning	To extend your knowledge and understanding in an area of study that complements previous experience and learning, within an alternative placement setting
Academic Level 6	Youth Work as a Collaborative Practice	To explore the importance of collaborative working in partnership with young people and stake holders.
	Leadership and Change	To provide the opportunity to examine issues of quality management and leadership for change within your area of practice
	Funding Youth Work: Value and Values	To explore the complexity of funding for youth work and the relationship between funding and the values of the profession. To understand funding in the context of project, operational, organisational development and strategy. To understand the nuances of funding in different organisations; third, voluntary, statutory, charitable, and the range of staff they engage (i.e. volunteers and paid staff).
	Managing Self and Others	To support the development of leadership and management skills to enable you to manage effectively in youth work settings.
	Professional Development	To help you reflect and consolidate your professional knowledge and skills and shape your professional knowledge as you prepare for End Point Assessment.
End Point Assessment	<p>The End Point Assessment consists of three assessment methods:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1: Observation of practice with questions</li> <li>2: Professional discussion underpinned by a portfolio of evidence</li> <li>3: Presentation and questioning</li> </ol>	



## Approach to delivery

The programme will commence with a week-long campus-based module of learning in Lancaster, thereafter delivery will be online.

Learners will receive a training plan to reflect the agreed programme of work, which will reflect their individual start point and any adjustments we might make. We will provide a deliver plan to prospective employers and learners so they can plan their learning and consider exposure to professional practice.

Learners will be required to evidence 1,000 learning hours in practice, of which 800 must be signed off by a JNC qualified practitioner, of which 160 must be in a different setting. The opportunity to practice in a different setting will be discussed with employers before applications are invited.

## Assessment

Each academic module has up to two forms of assessment, these are formally marked and moderated to meet quality assurance standards and will contribute to the academic grade. These grades will form the basis for the BSc Youth Work degree awards. In addition, learners will undertake an End Point Assessment which is worth 30 credits and includes a professional discussion based upon the portfolio of evidence.

Learners will develop their professional portfolio of evidence developed during the taught period of learning. Learners will be coached and supported to develop their portfolio of evidence.

## End Point Assessment

The University of Cumbria will be the End Point Assessor for this integrated degree apprenticeship. End Point Assessment consists of three assessment methods:

**Observation of practice with questions**

**Professional discussion underpinned by a portfolio of evidence.**

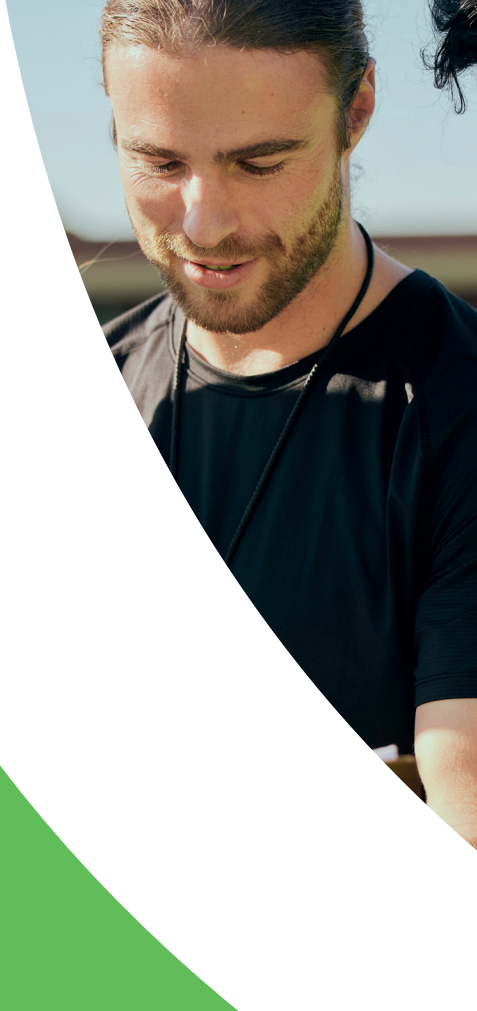
**Presentation and questioning**

Learners will develop their professional portfolio of evidence developed during the taught period of learning. Learners will be coached and supported to develop this portfolio.

## Entry Criteria

Apprentices on this programme will typically have 96 UCAS points, English and Maths at GCSE C/4 or above. All applicants will need a DBS clearance. Other relevant qualification or prior industry experience can be considered if these criteria are not met. Applicants must be in a suitable professional role aligned to those set out in the Professional Youth Worker Apprenticeship Standards and be based contractually in England.

Applications are subject to individual funding eligibility checks. For any learner with qualifications acquired outside of the UK, the University will use standard guidance from the ESFA (Education and Skills Funding Agency) to determine whether these are acceptable. With revised funding rules we will also need evidence of a job description and evidence the learner is enrolled on your PAYE system.



## Expectation of Employers

For the degree apprenticeship to be successful, learners will need a JNC professionally qualified line manager or direct supervisor to help provide the right level of professional supervision and mentoring (whether directly or as part of a wider team of professionals). In addition, the employer must ensure that the learner can develop their skills in the settings consistent with the skills on the Professional Youth Work Degree Apprenticeship. Any employers who feel they might struggle to expose their learner to a range of settings are encouraged to contact the University, as the Youth Work Team work closely with the National Youth Agency and are supportive of providing guidance on placements or projects to support smaller organisations who may not have all the work-based opportunities needed for learners to complete the programme.

In the periods between taught delivery, apprentices should be supported to develop their skills, shape evidence for their portfolio, read academically, research, and write assignments.

Learner must submit every month an off-the-job-hours log showing their learning, which can include academic research, assignment/assessment writing/supervised learning in the workplace, personal development (professional networking, industry events etc), structured learning placements in different parts of the business.

Employers will be asked to sign a Training Plan, which includes ensuring full attendance of the learner, providing the opportunity to develop the off-the-job-hours and ensuring line managers actively contribute to the reviews every 12 weeks. We will run a workshop for line managers to help them understand their role and expectations.





## Why the University of Cumbria?

The University is one of the leading providers of degree apprenticeships, with over 2,200 learners sponsored by 340 employers throughout England. Our expert academic teams are supported by a dedicated professional support team and the latest software to manage your learning and apprenticeship management.

## Find out more.

To discuss your training needs and how to sponsor learners on the apprenticeship, request a call from our business team

Email: [apprenticeships@cumbria.ac.uk](mailto:apprenticeships@cumbria.ac.uk)

Visit: [cumbria.ac.uk/apprenticeships](http://cumbria.ac.uk/apprenticeships)

Call: 01228 888726



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