Blue.
Sky.
Thinking.
Your guide to higher education on the Isle of Wight
study Isle of Wight
Higher education in a unique environment
i-aspire

Island life

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Take your education to a higher level on the Isle of Wight

The Isle of Wight is a unique location - ideal to live, work, learn and play! Because it's a great place to live, it's also a great place to study.

The Island is where you can take education to a higher level; whether you've already got a job and want to gain a higher education qualification at the same time; if you want to do a higher level or degree level apprenticeship, or if you want to take a full or part time course.

Expand
your
horizons

The Isle of Wight has a unique and inspiring natural environment and a reputation for combining great lifestyle with work and study. There are many exciting career opportunities on the Island; from world-leading technology and engineering to culture and the creative arts.

We want to make sure that everyone – residents on the Island and those living further afield – understands the opportunities available and has the right information to make decisions about further learning.

There is a wide range of programmes available for higher level study, which can open up real opportunities to prepare young people for their first step on the career ladder and for adults to further develop their skills.

The Isle of Wight is a great choice for taking learning to a higher level. There are lots of full time, part-time and work-based programmes, such as apprenticeships, to choose from. This guide, which is produced by the i-aspire project, through the Southern Universities Network, provides details of all the courses currently available on the Island at Level 4 and above.

Our ambition is to make the Isle of Wight an even more exciting and vibrant place to work and live, and we are determined to give people the aspiration and opportunity to develop the skills they need to fulfil their potential and help our businesses to thrive and grow.

We are working closely with our partners to develop more opportunities in the future. We will ensure that islanders have the skills they need to pursue rewarding careers and fulfilling and active lives, and that people living beyond its shores see the Isle of Wight as a truly inspirational place to live, work and study.

Councillor Paul Brading
Isle of Wight Council

Introduction

The beautiful beaches and countryside of the Isle of Wight have been drawing visitors for hundreds of years.

The Island has a great reputation for innovation and creativity, starting when Victorian celebrities came down to be inspired and refreshed by the glorious countryside and of course, the social life. Charles Darwin, Karl Marx, Julia Margaret Cameron, Tennyson and Lewis Carroll all created some of their most famous works here.

The legendary Isle of Wight Festivals in the 1960s and 70s remain some of the largest and most famous pop and rock music events in history. Festivals and events are still a big part of Island life.

Cowes Week is the largest sailing regatta of its kind in the world, and supports a huge range of businesses and services that have grown up around the yachting and maritime industries.

The Island offers a vast range of sporting and leisure activities with watersports and coastal activities very much at the fore: surfing, sailing, windsurfing, beach soccer, coasteering, swimming, kayaking, and paddleboarding are popular, in addition to onshore activities like cycling, walking, yoga, hang gliding, fishing and many more!

Head. Space.

Much of Island is a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and has recently been awarded the coveted UNESCO Biosphere status, epitomising the Island's passion for environmental conservation and sustainability amidst the potential impact of climatic change.

The numerous beaches and glorious countryside provide the perfect environment to work and study.

The Isle of Wight has long been an example of thriving industry and creativity, and has key sectors of employment, such as engineering, hospitality, tourism, healthcare, construction and many more, which offer great opportunities for career progression. Studying for a higher level qualification, can lead to employment or greater career opportunities in many sectors, on and off the Island.

The Island's history of invention and innovation is world class. The hovercraft was conceived here and current design and manufacturing technology is used in aviation, wind energy, cosmetics, marine and numerous other leading industries.

The Island is also renowned for being the home of many creative industries, such as music, design, literature and art and produces exceptional talent which is highly acclaimed in the national and global arena.

Join the Island community

Studying on the Isle of Wight has loads of obvious benefits:

- Save money with cheaper accommodation or living at home.
- Opportunities to earn and learn at the same time.
- Study in a unique environment to benefit health, lifestyle and career opportunities.
- Be part of the friendly, safe Island community.
- Enjoy the sport, activities, and great music vibe which **is** the Isle of Wight.

Learn and study in the workplace and classroom

There are many options for gaining your higher or degree level qualification.

Qualifications available include full and part time foundation degrees, Higher National Certificates, Higher National Diplomas and full degrees, accredited by higher education institutions who partner with the Isle of Wight. These are available as part-time study, while you are in your job, or as full time study.

Alternatively, you can gain your higher education qualification through a higher level or degree level apprenticeship. Apprenticeship opportunities at a higher level are increasing greatly, and they are highly regarded in the workplace. The range on offer is expanding continuously.

Qualification levels

If you are qualified up to level three, you're now ready to continue your education to higher level. On the Isle of Wight, you can study either as a full or part-time student, up to level six as an apprentice, or up to level seven. If you do not have A-Levels you could still study for a higher level qualification via the Access to Higher Education Diploma (see next page).

Level	Qualifications	Further information
1	• GCSEs (grade 1 to 3) • City and Guilds 1 • NVQ 1 • BTEC Introductory Diploma	• Ideal if you do not have the grades for a level 2 course or need to improve your English, maths or IT. • No qualifications or previous experience required.
2	• GCSEs (grade 4 to 9) • City and Guilds 2 • NVQ 2 • BTEC First Diploma	• Most employers use this as their minimum entry requirement. • Some experience may be required in the subject.
3	• City and Guilds 3 • NVQ 3 • BTEC National Diploma	• For people wanting to progress on to university or supervising and training others. • Qualification or experience in the subject.
4	• A Levels • Higher National Certificate (HNC) • NVQ Level 4 • Higher Level Apprenticeship • Certificate of Higher Education	• HNC is the equivalent to the first year of a degree (further study can progress to HND or full degree). • An advanced level qualification or substantial experience in the subject. • Apprenticeship with Level 4 or 5 qualification; a combination of working and study.
5	• Higher National Diploma (HND) • NVQ Level 5 • Higher Level Apprenticeship • Foundation Degree • Diploma of Higher Education	• Equivalent to the first two years of a degree (can be topped up with one more year to gain a full degree with a partner university).
6	• Bachelor's degree (with or without honours) • Graduate diploma • Graduate certificate • Level 6 awards, diplomas and certificates • Level 6 NVQ • Degree level apprenticeship	• Equivalent to a degree or masters. • An advanced level qualification or substantial experience in the subject. • Apprenticeship with a full degree; a combination or working and study.
7	• Master's degree • Integrated master's degree • Postgraduate certificate in education (PGCE) • Postgraduate diplomas and certificates • Level 7 awards, diplomas and certificates • Level 7 NVQ	• Level of education equivalent to a master's degree, and is generally attained in a centre for further education.

Island Futures
County Hall
High Street
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 1UD
01983 823888

National Careers Service
Call 0800 100 900 to speak to an adviser
8am to 10pm
7 days a week

Access to higher education

The Access to Higher Education Diploma is nationally recognised as a university entrance qualification and alternative to A-Levels or other Level 3 qualifications for adults wishing to go to university. The programme is designed for adult learners who come from a broad age range and varied backgrounds. There are various different access to higher education programmes, depending on your preferred degree route or your career path.

www.iwcollege.ac.uk/course-areas/access-to-higher-education/

Advanced learner loans

If you have already achieved a Level 3 qualification, you may be able to apply for an advanced learner loan to fund your access to higher education course. If you then go on to achieve a degree at university, this loan may be written off and therefore not repayable.

www.gov.uk/advanced-learner-loan

Information advice and guidance

Island Futures

The Isle of Wight Council's Island Futures team provides independent information, advice and guidance to support young people, up to age 19, to participate in education, employment and training. To make an appointment to see an advisor phone 01983 823888.

www.iwight.com/IslandFutures

National Careers Service

This is an all-age service providing information, advice and guidance to help with decision-making on learning, training and work. Visit the website to use the webchat option, or phone 0800 100 900.

www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk

Careers support for students

If you are at a school or college, contact your careers leader or co-ordinator for information on how to access careers support. You should be able to make an appointment to speak to a careers adviser and see what career resources there are in school and college.

www.careerpilot.org.uk

Careers support for workers

Discuss options with your employer as they might be able to support you to do an apprenticeship.

www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

www.allaboutcareers.com

Providers

HTP Apprenticeship College

At HTP Apprenticeship College, we've years of experience in helping young people start and progress their careers. With a wide variety of courses and the flexibility to learn at a time and place that suits you, we'll help you find the route that's right for you.

The Isle of Wight College

The college is the Island's major provider of vocational training, apprenticeships and higher education. Working in partnership with universities and other awarding organisations, the college offers a range of programmes which enables students to study on the Island for higher level qualifications and apprenticeships that meet employer and student needs.

Platform One

Platform One is a revelation - the facilities they have are beyond all expectation. The students are talented, respectful and thirsty for knowledge. Links with the modern music industry are in abundance, with weekly guests enhancing the curriculum. If you are looking for a career in the creative industries then this is the college for you - be sure to check it out.

UK Sailing Academy

With a global reputation for excellence, UKSA has helped launch the careers of hundreds of students each year. The key to our reputation and success lies in the quality of the training we provide, our understanding of the industry, and the ongoing support provided by our careers service.

Centre of Excellence for Composites, Engineering, Advanced Manufacturing and Marine (CECAMM)

This state of the art, specialist facility, which is part of The Isle of Wight College, brings together industry and education. CECAMM's mission is to develop the workforce of tomorrow to ensure that employees have the skills and knowledge employers want in the fast moving field of engineering and manufacturing.

Open University

Fit study around your life and be your future self sooner with our flexible career-boosting courses. What's stopping you?

COURSES

Business, Management and Finance	Level	
Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) Diploma in Accounting	4	●
Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) Higher Level Apprenticeship	4	● ▲
Diploma in Adult Care	4	●
Facilities Manager Higher Level Apprenticeship	4	● ▲
Lead Practitioner in Adult Care Apprenticeship	4	●
Marketing Executive Apprenticeship	4	●
Project Management Higher Level Apprenticeship	4	● ▲
Retail Manager Higher Level Apprenticeship	4	● ▲
CMI Award in Leadership and Management	5	●
CMI Certificate in Leadership and Management	5	●
Coaching Professional Apprenticeship	5	●
Diploma in Leadership and Management for Adult Care	5	●
Foundation Degree in Business and Management	5	● ■
HND Business	5	● ■
HND Creative Media Production	5	● ■
ILM Diploma for Leaders and Managers	5	●
Leader in Adult Care Apprenticeship	5	● ● ▲
Leadership and Management in Adult Care	5	●
Operations/Departmental Manager Higher Level Apprenticeship	5	● ● ▲
Diploma in Construction Site Management NVQ	6	●

Creative Industries	Level	
BA (Hons) Commercial Music (three year full time)	6	● ■
BA (Hons) Commercial Music (two years fast track)	6	● ■
BA (Hons) Commercial Music (online version)	6	● ■
MA Music Industry Innovation and Enterprise (one year full time)	7	● ■
MA Music Industry Innovation and Enterprise (online version)	7	● ■
MA Creative Industries Innovation and Enterprise (one year full-time)	7	● ■

Digital Industries	Level	
HNC Computing	4	● ■
HND Computing	5	● ■

Provider ● CECAMM ● HTP Apprenticeship College ● The Isle of Wight College

Education and Childcare	Level	
Children, Young People and Families Manager Higher Apprenticeship	4	● ▲
Learning Assessor/Coach Higher Level Apprenticeship	4	● ● ▲
Training, Assessment, Quality Assurance (TAQA)	4	● ●
Children, Young People and Families Practitioner (Residential) Higher Apprenticeship	4	● ▲
Certificate in Education	5	● ■
Children, Young People and Families Practitioner Higher Level Apprenticeship	5	● ▲
Diploma in Education and Training	5	●
Diploma in Leadership for Health and Social Care and Children and Young People	5	●
Foundation Degree in Early Years	5	●
Foundation Degree in Learning Support	5	●
Learning and Development Consultant/Business Partner Higher Level Apprenticeship	5	● ▲
Learning and Skills Teacher Higher Level Apprenticeship	5	● ▲
BA (Hons) Childhood Studies - Top Up	6	● ■
PGCE in Further Education	6	● ■

Engineering	Level	
Engineering Electronic	4	●
Engineering Mechanical/Manufacturing Higher Level Apprenticeship	4	● ▲
HNC Engineering - Electronic	4	● ■
HNC Engineering – Mechanical	4	● ■
HND Engineering	5	● ■

Hospitality	Level	
Hospitality Manager Higher Apprenticeship	4	● ● ▲
Senior Culinary Chef	4	●

Maritime	Level	
Foundation Degree in Operational Yacht Science	5	● ■

Nursing	Level	
NHS Trust Associate Nurse Higher Level Apprenticeship	5	■ ▲
NHS Trust Registered Nurse Degree Level Apprenticeship	6	■ ▲

Provider ● Platform One ● UK Sailing Academy ■ **Partner university accredited** ▲ **Apprenticeship**

Take their word

Jack Ford

Diploma in Management and Leadership at Bayliss & Booth

"I feel really proud of myself and I have a real sense of achievement. Lots of my friends went down the traditional university route but for me, I just preferred the idea of going into the workplace and actually being able to apply what I was learning directly to my job.

It's been really rewarding, and it's enabled me to help mentor and support other members of the team, too.

It's been great for me as it's allowed me to work, earn money and develop my skills without going down the full degree route."

Joshua Ince

Higher Level Engineering Apprentice at Strainstalls

Joshua completed his full-time engineering level 2 course followed by a level 3 advanced apprenticeship in mechanical manufacturing engineering at Strainstall. He also completed the EAL level 3 Diploma in Engineering Technology. He has made great progress at Strainstall and is now completing the higher level apprenticeship in Engineering Manufacturing alongside level 5 HNC at CECAMM

"I really enjoy working at Strainstall alongside studying hard for the HNC. I have the opportunity to work and earn, while achieving excellent qualifications."

Claydon Connor

BA (Hons) Commercial Music at Platform One

"My years at Platform One were some of the best of my life. Being able to study something I was so passionate about full time on my doorstep was a dream come true. With top spec studios and rehearsal rooms, the facility is the ideal environment to learn, create and play music. Platform One provided me with the tools to make a career in music".

Claydon has released an impressive catalogue of music, plus set up Studio 5a and Strings music venue. A true entrepreneur.

Seat of learning

Southern Universities Network (SUN)

In addition to providing excellent degree and higher level courses, the Isle of Wight is extremely fortunate to be located close to some excellent universities, which form the Southern Universities Network.

Some of these universities provide an extensive range of degree level apprenticeships in addition to their full-time degree courses. SUN members are:

- Arts University Bournemouth
- University of Southampton
- University of Portsmouth
- University of Winchester
- Southampton Solent University
- University of Bournemouth

The Southern Universities Network has funded the i-aspire project which is key to supporting people on the Isle of Wight to access higher education.

Southern Universities Network
37/4079 University of Southampton
Highfield Campus
University Road
Southampton
Hampshire, SO17 1BJ
sun@soton.ac.uk
02380 591 727

UCAS
Universities and Colleges Admissions Service
www.ucas.com

Think you know the Isle of Wight?

- Only three miles from the mainland.
- No passport required (for UK nationals).
- Beautiful environment. And it's not just us saying it - in 2019 the Island was designated UNESCO Biosphere Reserve status.
- Great culture and creative communities.
- Fabulous local food; restaurants, cafés, pubs and picnics!
- Brilliant adventure activities, on land and all at sea.
- Breath-taking dark skies in stunning landscapes.
- Oodles of heritage, archaeology, and dinosaurs!
- The sunniest place in Britain (probably!).
- Peaceful, exciting, innovative and friendly.
- Fantastic for walks and cycling.
- Award-winning beaches.
- Festivals all year round.
- Loved by celebrities!

Contacts for higher education providers

HTP Apprenticeship College
The Old Grammar School Campus
118-119 St James Street
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 5HE
01983 533926
www.htp.ac.uk

The Isle of Wight College
Medina Way
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 5TA
01983 526631
www.iwcollege.ac.uk

Platform One College of Music
48a Dodnor Lane
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 5XD
01983 537550
www.platformone.org

CECAMM
Island Technology Park
Whippingham Road
East Cowes
Isle of Wight
PO32 6NL
01983 526631
www.iwcollege.ac.uk

UK Sailing Academy (UKSA)
Arctic Road
Cowes
Isle of Wight
PO31 7PQ
01983 294941
www.uksa.org

Open University
PO Box 197
Milton Keynes
MK7 6BJ
0300 303 5303
www.open.ac.uk

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