Northern College

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YOUR COURSE GUIDE

2026/27

01226 216 123

info@barnsley.ac.uk

Wentworth Castle, Barnsley, S75 3ET

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REASONS TO STUDY AT NORTHERN COLLEGE

Learn with like-minded adults

Study at the only adult residential College in the North of England.

Residential study opportunities

You may have the choice to focus on learning by staying on campus.

National Trust grounds

Learn in acres of beautiful gardens and parkland at Wentworth Castle.

Specialist adult learning support

Benefit from support from people who understand adult students and their needs.

Excellent achievement rates

Join a College with strong student outcomes and proven success, regardless of entry level.

Good Ofsted rating

Study at a College recognised by Ofsted for quality and support.

Flexible study modes are available

Study your way with a choice of full-time, part-time and online courses.

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SUBJECT AREAS INCLUDE:

- ACCESS AND PRE-ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION
- SPORT AND FITNESS FOR WELLBEING
- COUNSELLING
- OUTDOOR LEARNING
- ENGLISH AND MATHS
- ESOL
- EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS
- HEALTH, SOCIETY AND DEVELOPMENT
- PEER MENTORING
- DIGITAL
- SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

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ACCESS AND PRE-ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

These courses are designed for adults preparing for Higher Education. The Level 3 Access to Higher Education (HE) Diploma is a nationally recognised qualification designed for adults who wish to progress to university.

Our Pre-Access courses help students develop the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to progress to a Level 3 qualification.

Course	Qualification/Level	Course Dates
Access to Higher Education: Health Science Professions Part-time	Level 3 / Certificate	October 2027 to May 2028
Access to Higher Education: Psychology Part-time	Level 3 / Certificate	October 2027 to May 2028
Start Your Journey: Health Science Professions	Level 2 / Diploma	22 February 2027 to 7 July 2027

SCAN THE QR CODE TO EXPLORE COURSES, OR VISIT
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Flexible study options available

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SPORT AND FITNESS FOR WELLBEING

An exciting area of study focusing on staying active, improving wellbeing and building healthy habits. Courses explore fitness, movement, and lifestyle choices, supporting students to improve their own wellbeing and take steps towards sport, fitness and active leisure pathways.

Course	Qualification/Level	Course Dates
Award in Sport, Fitness and Active Leisure	Entry 3	5 May 2027 to 20 May 2027
Feel Good: Live Well	Introduction	15 January 2027 to 16 January 2027 28 May 2027 to 29 May 2027 16 July 2027 to 17 July 2027
Let's Get Moving: Exercise and Everyday Wellness	Introduction	18 November 2026 to 20 November 2026 13 January 2027 to 15 January 2027 23 June 2027 to 25 June 2027
Smart Moves: Managing Fitness and Lifestyle for Success	Introduction	17 March 2027 to 19 March 2027

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COUNSELLING

Counselling courses cover key areas such as counselling concepts, helping skills and personal development. Pathways are ideal for those exploring a career in counselling, supporting roles, or personal growth, with options to progress onto accredited qualifications.

Course	Qualification/Level	Course Dates
Counselling Concepts	Level 2 / Award	25 January 2027 to 3 February 2027 10 June 2027 to 9 July 2027
Counselling Skills	Level 1 / Award	5 May 2027 to 26 May 2027
Counselling Skills	Level 3 / Certificate	4 January 2027 to 24 February 2027
Developing Counselling and Helping Skills	Introduction	15 April 2027 to 23 April 2027
Helping Skills	Level 2 / Award	14 December 2026 to 13 January 2027 12 April 2027 to 28 April 2027

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OUTDOOR LEARNING

Discover learning outside the classroom in the beautiful grounds of Northern College. Courses range from hands-on horticulture and environmental sustainability to navigation and outdoor activities.

Course	Qualification/Level	Course Dates
Foundations of Garden Design and Project Planning	Introduction	24 November 2026 to 26 November 2026 13 April 2027 to 15 April 2027
Introduction to Horticulture and Environmental Sustainability	Introduction	26 January 2027 to 28 January 2027 18 May 2027 to 20 May 2027
Introduction to Land Based and Agricultural Health and Safety	Introduction	11 May 2027 to 13 May 2027
Navigation Skills	Introduction	17 November 2026 to 19 November 2026 9 July 2027 to 11 July 2027
Practical Horticulture	Level 1 / Award	24 April 2027 to 13 June 2027
Practical Horticulture	Level 1 / Certificate	2 February 2027 to 25 March 2027 25 May 2027 to 22 July 2027
Practical Horticulture	Level 2 / Certificate	2 February 2027 to 25 March 2027 25 May 2027 to 25 June 2027

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Course	Qualification/Level	Course Dates
Roots to Rise	Introduction	28 April 2027 to 29 April 2027
Winter Gardens: Design, Care and Seasonal Planning	Introduction	1 December 2026 to 3 December 2026

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ENGLISH AND MATHS

Strengthen essential skills for everyday life, work, and further study. These courses support confidence in reading, writing, speaking and number skills, including Functional Skills qualifications.

Course	Qualification/Level	Course Dates
Creative Writing for Wellbeing	Introduction	2 November 2026 to 4 November 2026 4 January 2027 to 6 January 2027 22 March 2027 to 24 March 2027
Everyday Maths for Life and Work	Introduction	12 November 2026 to 13 November 2026 7 January 2027 to 8 January 2027 18 March 2027 to 19 March 2027 27 May 2027 to 28 May 2027
Functional Skills English	Functional Skills / Level 2	16 November 2026 to 15 December 2026
Functional Skills Maths	Functional Skills / Level 2	19 November 2026 to 17 December 2026
Maths Reset	Level 1	5 November 2026 to 6 November 2026 5 January 2027 to 6 January 2027 11 March 2027 to 12 March 2027 20 May 2027 to 21 May 2027

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ESOL

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses support students whose first language is not English. Students develop speaking, listening, reading and writing skills to help with daily life, work, further learning and building confidence in the community.

Course	Qualification/Level	Course Dates
ESOL Reading	Entry 2	14 January 2027 to 5 February 2027
ESOL Skills for Life	Introduction	5 November 2026 to 11 December 2026
ESOL Skills for Life - Speaking and Listening	Entry 3	4 March 2027 to 30 April 2027

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EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

Courses are designed to support adults into employment, training or further study. Pathways focus on confidence building, workplace skills, communication and preparing for work, helping students take positive steps towards employment.

Course	Qualification/Level	Course Dates
New Beginnings: Embracing Fresh Starts and Building a Bright Future	Introduction	25 November 2026 to 11 December 2026 27 January 2027 to 12 February 2027 14 April 2027 to 30 April 2027 7 July 2027 to 23 July 2027
Ready to Work	Multiple Levels	16 November 2026 to 2 December 2026 8 March 2027 to 24 March 2027
Stepping into Business: Business Start Up	Introduction	11 November 2026 to 13 November 2026 3 March 2027 to 5 March 2027 9 June 2027 to 11 June 2027

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HEALTH, SOCIETY AND DEVELOPMENT

Explore courses that help you understand people, communities and wellbeing. This subject area includes pathways in health sciences, social prescribing, psychology, mental health, autism and care-related learning, supporting progression into further study or meaningful careers.

Course	Qualification/Level	Course Dates
Alcohol Awareness	Introduction	20 May 2027 to 21 May 2027
Alcohol Awareness	Level 1 / Award	16 November 2026 to 24 November 2026 10 June 2027 to 18 June 2027
Awareness of Substance Misuse	Level 1 / Award	2 November 2026 to 3 November 2026 26 May 2027 to 28 May 2027
Psychology	Level 2 / Certificate	6 May 2027 to 8 July 2027
Child Psychology	Introduction	1 February 2027 to 26 February 2027
Dementia Care Awareness	Introduction	7 June 2027 to 8 June 2027

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Course	Qualification/Level	Course Dates
Empowering Confidence with Essential First Aid Skills	Introduction	14 December 2026 to 16 December 2026 19 April 2027 to 21 April 2027
Forensic Science	Introduction	16 June 2027 to 24 June 2027
Health and Care	Level 1 / Award	1 July 2027 to 16 July 2027 11 January 2027 to 26 January 2027
Management Techniques for Stress and Anxiety	Introduction	2 November 2026 to 10 November 2026 13 July 2027 to 14 July 2027
Mental Health and Wellbeing	Introduction	7 November 2026 to 8 November 2026 20 May 2027 to 21 May 2027
Mental Health Awareness	Level 1 / Award	16 November 2026 to 24 November 2026 1 March 2027 to 9 March 2027
Mental Health Awareness	Level 2 / Certificate	11 January 2027 to 3 March 2027
Pathways to Employment: Empower to Thrive - Mental Health Awareness	Introduction	1 February 2027 to 10 February 2027
Principles of Addiction Recovery	Introduction	7 December 2026 to 16 December 2026

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Course	Qualification/Level	Course Dates
Principles of Dementia Care	Level 2 / Certificate	21 June 2027 to 28 July 2027
Psychology, Crime and Behaviour	Introduction	11 February 2027 to 26 February 2027
Social Prescribing	Level 3 / Certificate	22 February 2027 to 20 April 2027
Stress Awareness	Level 1 / Award	3 December 2026 to 11 December 2026 15 April 2027 to 23 April 2027
Substance Misuse Awareness	Introduction	13 May 2027 to 14 May 2027
Understanding Domestic Abuse	Introduction	14 April 2027 to 14 May 2027

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PEER MENTORING

These courses help students develop communication, empathy and support skills to guide others through challenges. Pathways are suited to those wanting to support individuals or communities, progress into volunteering or support roles, or build confidence for further study and employment.

Course	Qualification/Level	Course Dates
Peer Mentoring	Introduction	6 January 2027 to 14 January 2027 4 May 2027 to 12 May 2027
Peer Mentoring	Level 1 / Award	3 February 2027 to 26 February 2027 9 June 2027 to 27 June 2027
Peer Mentoring	Level 2 / Award	30 November 2026 to 16 December 2026 14 April 2027 to 30 April 2027 6 July 2027 to 22 July 2027

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DIGITAL

Our Digital courses help adults build confidence with technology, whether you're just starting out or developing more advanced skills. Pathways include everyday computer use, digital functional skills, cyber security, computer programming, web design and virtual reality.

Course	Qualification/Level	Course Dates
Computer Programming	Level 2 / Award	9 November 2026 to 1 December 2026 27 May 2027 to 25 June 2027
Cyber Security	Level 1 / Award	12 April 2027 to 11 May 2027
Cyber Security	Level 2 / Award	17 May 2027 to 15 June 2027
Introduction to Computer Programming	Level 1 / Award	29 April 2027 to 21 May 2027
Creating Content for Virtual Reality	Introduction	14 December 2026 to 15 December 2026
Digital Functional Skills	Functional Skills / Entry 3	5 November 2026 to 4 December 2026 22 February 2027 to 16 March 2027
Digital Promotion for Business	Level 2 / Award	2 November 2026 to 24 November 2026
Exploring Robotics	Introduction	26 November 2026 to 17 December 2026

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Course	Qualification/Level	Course Dates
First Steps with Computers	Introduction	7 December 2026 to 15 December 2026 17 May 2027 to 25 May 2027
Further Artificial Intelligence	Introduction	8 July 2027 to 9 July 2027
Further Virtual Reality	Introduction	18 January 2027 to 26 January 2027
Getting Confident with Computers	Introduction	11 January 2027 to 19 January 2027 28 June 2027 to 6 July 2027
Introducing Computer Programming	Introduction	15 April 2027 to 23 April 2027
Introduction to Creating Webpages	Introduction	21 June 2027 to 22 June 2027
Introduction to Digital Photography	Introduction	14 January 2027 to 15 January 2027
Next Steps with Computers	Introduction	25 January 2027 to 2 February 2027 12 July 2027 to 20 July 2027
Responsive Webpages	Introduction	28 June 2027 to 20 July 2027
Robotics with the Micro:Bit	Introduction	19 November 2026 to 20 November 2026
Social Media Content	Introduction	4 March 2027 to 19 March 2027
Virtual Reality and Games	Introduction	8 March 2027 to 16 March 2027

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SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

Courses focus on making a difference locally. Students explore community engagement, social action, wellbeing and support roles, gaining skills to work with and support individuals and communities.

Course	Qualification/Level	Course Dates
Discover Your Impact: Introduction to Volunteering	Introduction	6 January 2027 to 8 January 2027 27 April 2027 to 29 April 2027
Discover Your Impact: Volunteering	Level 1 / Award	13 January 2027 to 15 January 2027 5 April 2027 to 7 April 2027

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APPLY FOR A COURSE

Ready to join us?

There are several ways to apply to study at Northern College:

Find a course and apply
Browse our courses and submit your application online through the Northern College website, or apply by telephone with support from our team.

Apply online:
Find your chosen course and complete the online application form.

Apply by phone:
Call 01226 216 123 and a member of the team will guide you through the application process. Once your application has been submitted, you will receive confirmation by email.

Visit an Open Day
Come along to an Open Day and speak to our friendly staff about courses, support and progression opportunities.

Need help choosing a course?
Our Information Team can help you explore your options, understand course levels and plan your next steps.

Fees and funding support
We can provide advice on course fees, funding support and Advanced Learner Loan where available.

What happens next?
After submitting your application, you will receive confirmation by email. Some courses may require an assessment, interview or selection activity, and we'll contact you with any information you need. If your chosen course is not the right fit, we'll help you identify an alternative progression route.

Contact us

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Every care has been taken to ensure the information within this prospectus is accurate at the time of print, however we cannot be held responsible for changes that occur. Any changes will be listed at **www.northern.ac.uk**

This course guide is available in alternative formats including audio, braille and large print on request.