



## *Route Progression*

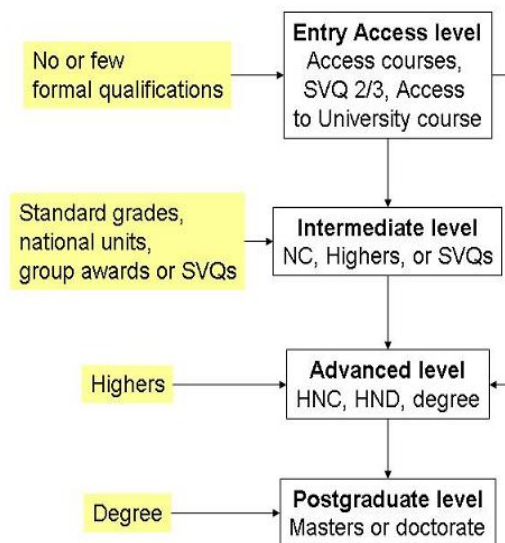
*The first objective in widening participation is for learners to decide to continue in learning. But, if the learning is to lead to progression, we need to make sure that learners gain confidence and a sense that new opportunities exist and really are for them. Where there is no effective progression strategy, the widening participation impact of each project may not create the “knock-on” effect of encouraging new learners to move into other provision... (NIACE – The Alchemy of learning)*

Many adult returners lack confidence and self-esteem and returning to learning can be seen as a daunting experience. However, you are in a very strong position to advise them and influence their future direction, to raise their aspirations and signpost further learning opportunities. You should try to promote opportunities for progression and lifelong learning, providing high quality guidance services to potential students that seek your advice. Furthermore, once they start, many returners will require further support to continue with their learning so that they can achieve their learning objectives, and your role is to identify these needs as early as possible. These notes explain the various progression routes in the North of Scotland that students can follow in their academic career.

### **FLEXIBLE ROUTE PROGRESSION**

There are many progression routes available to students in the North of Scotland into Further and Higher education. For example, it is possible to achieve an HND or a degree starting without any formal qualifications by following a particular path and gaining appropriate qualifications. It is also possible to stop and start again along the way at any convenient point depending on particular circumstances.

- Students may want to start their formal education but have no or few qualifications. In this case, many universities and colleges run a variety of access and introductory courses as a means to prepare students for study at further and higher education level.
- After leaving school, the student may have gained qualifications that will enable them to start on a further (such as an HND) or higher education (such as a degree) course in a college or university.
- The student may have obtained further education qualifications like HNC or HND from a college, and these can also be used to enter higher education. As a result, many colleges have formal arrangements with individual universities to enable students to move from HNC or HND study to undergraduate study (articulation).





Flexible progression routes to formal qualifications offer several benefits:

- Ability to gain exemption from the initial years of a degree (eg years 1 & 2 – HND, Year 1 – HNC)
- Guaranteed places for students of some courses
- Greater choice and control
- Gain Higher National Qualifications en route to a degree
- Close links and articulation with other universities and academic partners
- Entry into postgraduate courses
- Flexibility of entry and exit

#### **TRANSITION BETWEEN COURSES**

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Students in transition between courses and organisations have been identified as being a particularly vulnerable group. They need to be carefully introduced to the new programme to enable them to integrate quickly. Staff must be aware of these students to solve problems early. A targeted induction can help to smooth the transition. Students need:

- To acquire the information already known by the rest of the class, like library resources, computer facilities, careers advice, etc
- An early introduction to services and facilities
- To establish contact with key staff
- Assistance to integrate quickly
- Information on type of lectures, learning material available, assessments, etc
- To understand the procedures and rules of the new organisation

#### **COURSE YOU CAN WEBSITE**

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You can find exact courses available and appropriate progression routes for each subject available in the North of Scotland on the [Course You Can - Route planner](#) website. The route planner was designed to help students to plan a study route towards their desired qualification and you can help them achieve their goal. The website is also supported by the North Forum.

##### **How does it work?**

Before you start, you need information about the student's preferred location to study and one or more keywords describing the job or qualification they would like to achieve. This will allow the planner to obtain relevant qualifications for the student to choose from, with your assistance. It will then show access points and pathways to their chosen end qualification. The results of the search are shown in a table, with courses highlighted in yellow available in the chosen location. Also, the student can find providers and possible routes to achieve a particular qualification.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

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- Local information
- North Forum members
- [Diverse Routes](#)
- [National Recognition Information Centre](#)
- [Scottish Qualifications Authority](#)
- [Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework](#)
- [HERO](#)
- [Course you can](#)
- [UCAS](#)
- [PlanIt Plus](#)