Oldham College

Upskill Retrain

Realise your potential

Adult Mini Guide
2027/28

FULL AND PART-TIME
SHORT COURSES
ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION
APPRENTICESHIPS



Your digital prospectus is tailored to you, including your chosen courses and information relevant to your learning journey.

Scan to create your personalised digital prospectus

prospectus.oldham.ac.uk

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Welcome to Oldham College

I'm delighted that you're considering joining Oldham College as you take the next step in your career journey.

Whether you're upskilling in your current role or retraining for something new, you can be sure that we will help you to achieve your goals. Oldham College is a place where learners of all ages can nurture passions, expand their horizons and achieve their best in all that they do. We are here to support your development, allowing you to gain new skills and experiences.

This mini guide is full of valuable information about how we can support your next move, whether that's on a full-time, part-time or short course, apprenticeship or through Access to Higher Education.

Our course offer covers a broad range of industries, supported by strong partnerships with employers, cutting-edge facilities and expert tutors. Whatever your ambition, we're here to help you find the right path.

Simon Jordan, Principal & Chief Executive

Why Oldham College?

Oldham College offers a range of qualifications for adults in the heart of Oldham.

Convenient **town centre location**

Be taught by **supportive, industry-expert tutors**

Elevate your career **through employer links**

Learn in our **state-of-the-art facilities**

Receive tailored support from our dedicated teams

Access flexible learning options with full, part-time and short courses

Qualifications explained

We run a range of programmes for adults, with levels and study modes to help you succeed - whatever your ambitions are.

Vocational Courses

Ideal for those looking to take the next step upwards in their existing job, or step into a new career. These courses are offered from Levels 1-4 and will help you to fulfil your career ambitions.



Access to Higher Education

Do you aspire to study at university level, but don't yet have the qualifications required? Access to Higher Education courses build on your existing skills and experiences to prepare you for future study.

Apprenticeships

Suitable for all ages, apprenticeships offer a fantastic opportunity to earn while you learn. You will typically spend four days a week developing your practical skills on the job and one day a week at Oldham College.

GCSEs/Functional Skills

Including GCSEs, Foundation Maths and English, and Essential Digital Skills for Everyday Life. These courses are for those who need to improve basic skills or gain a recognised qualification to advance further.

Higher Education

University Campus Oldham is Oldham College's higher education institution, offering degrees and higher qualifications accredited by world-class institutions.



Fees and funding

There are a range of funding options available to adults, depending on certain criteria. This includes the Advanced Learner Loan, the Lifelong Learning Entitlement and the Oldham College Bursary.

Advanced Learner Loan

Adult learners can apply to Student Finance England for the Advanced Learner Loan to help with the costs of a college course.

For more information, visit **www.gov.uk/advanced-learner-loan**

Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE)

Adult learners will be able to apply for LLE funding for Level 4-6 courses starting from January 2027 onwards.

Find out more at **gov.uk/government/publications/lifelong-learning-entitlement-lle-overview**

Oldham College Bursary

If you need help with the costs of coming to college, the Oldham College Bursary can help with travel, childcare and more. You can receive the Bursary if you're:

- Age 19+ with a household income under £40,000
- Studying an eligible course
- The recipient of an approved Advanced Learner Loan application (if needed)
- Allowed to study in the UK.

For more information, get in touch by emailing **BursaryTeam@oldham.ac.uk**

Student support

We understand that life is busy, and returning to education is a big step. That's why we offer support that enables you to pursue your ambitions and stay on track.

Additional Learning Support

Our ALS team can help with adjustments to improve your learning experience, including help with assistive technology.

Careers support

Thinking about where your course could lead? You'll be able to book an appointment with our Careers team, who offer expert support and guidance - whatever your plans may be.

Childcare

Our on-site childcare facility, Butterflies Nursery, is open in term time (daytime only). You can also receive help with the costs of childcare through the Oldham College Bursary. You do not have to use Butterflies Nursery to access this.

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

If you need somebody to talk to, our Safeguarding and Wellbeing team are here to support you during your time as a learner with us.



Our courses



Community Interpreting

Studying a community interpreting course will enable you to support people accessing public services such as healthcare, housing, education and immigration – while making a difference to people's lives within the community.

You will learn about the role and responsibilities of an interpreter, the key skills and personal qualities needed and the different public service settings where interpreters work.



Construction

We deliver specialist construction courses in carpentry and joinery, DIY skills, electrical and plumbing.

Our construction courses will prepare you for a career in the industry. You will build knowledge and skills in classrooms and workshops led by tutors who have had successful careers in the sector.



Counselling

Our counselling courses provide a deeper understanding of the counselling skills used in everyday life and work, along with the approaches that underpin them.

You'll explore topics including ethical practice, diversity, personal development and effective communication; making them ideal for anyone looking to support others or progress towards a career in counselling.



Education, Children and Young People

If you want to make a difference to the lives of others, you can find reward and fulfilment by embarking on a career in this sector.

With experienced tutors and hands-on placements, you'll achieve the skills and confidence to work in education, family support, or youth services.



English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

Build your confidence and achieve your goals with our ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) courses. Designed to support learners at all levels, these courses help you develop essential language skills for everyday life, further study and the workplace.

You'll strengthen your understanding of key concepts, improve problem-solving and communication skills and gain recognised qualifications to support your next steps.



Finance and Accounting

Our finance and accounting courses open the doors to a rewarding career in finance.

Certified by the Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT), this industry recognition makes our students highly sought-after by employers. You will study a broad range of accountancy disciplines including bookkeeping, costing and payroll, credit control, personal tax, accounting systems and controls, and more.



GCSEs and Functional Skills

Build your confidence and achieve your goals by developing essential maths, English and digital skills for everyday life, further study and the workplace.

You'll strengthen your understanding of key concepts, improve problem-solving and communication skills and gain recognised qualifications to support your next steps.



Hair and Beauty

Develop your creativity, technical skills and confidence with our hair, beauty and barbering courses. We are committed to developing students' creativity, technical aptitude and customer-facing skills.

Our purpose-built hair and beauty accommodation is the perfect platform for students to practice their cutting, blow-drying and beauty therapy skills with hands-on learning.

Health and Care Professions

Our health and care courses are designed for those who want to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others through a career in health, wellbeing and social care.

You'll develop the knowledge, practical skills and professional understanding needed to support individuals, families and communities across a range of settings.



Science

If you need to achieve a science qualification to progress in your current role or retrain in a new field, our GCSE physics, biology and chemistry courses will provide you with an opportunity to achieve your ambitions.

Through a combination of hands-on practical work and engaging theory, you'll explore how science shapes the world around us.



Sport and Fitness

Our sport and fitness courses offer the opportunity to turn your passion for coaching, fitness and physical activity into a rewarding career or progress to further study.

Our experienced tutors and industry professionals provide a blend of practical coaching, fitness training and classroom-based learning.



Apprenticeships

Suitable for all ages, apprenticeships offer a fantastic opportunity to earn while you learn.

Typically, you'll spend four days a week developing practical skills in the workplace and one day a week studying at Oldham College. Whether you're starting a new career or looking for a change, we offer a wide range of apprenticeships to help you achieve your ambitions.

Benefits of studying an apprenticeship

- You can do an apprenticeship in most industries
- Gain hands-on experience and earn while you learn
- Improve your career prospects and learn work-ready skills.

Apprenticeship subject areas

- Business and Marketing
- Construction
- Digital and IT
- Education and Early Years
- Health and Social Care
- Horticulture
- Legal and Finance

Find out more about apprenticeships at Oldham College

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Discover University Campus Oldham

University Campus Oldham (UCO) is Oldham College's university-level provision, offering world-class degrees and higher education qualifications right here in Oldham.

Whatever your ambitions, UCO are here to help you find the right path. With smaller class sizes, you'll benefit from personalised support that you won't find at many larger universities.

Delivered across two campuses, UCO provides modern learning environments designed to support your success. Both the Rochdale Road and University Way Campus were fully refurbished in August 2026. These purpose-built higher education facilities were designed with flexible teaching spaces, specialist facilities and modern technology in mind; providing inspiring places to learn, collaborate and develop the skills needed for future professional and technical careers.

Plus, degrees and higher qualifications at UCO are accredited by world-class institutions. Courses are delivered in partnership with the University of Lancashire, Sheffield Hallam University, the University of Huddersfield and Pearson.

UCO delivers in the areas that matter most to students – the latest National Student Survey (NSS) results show that in 2026, UCO ranks higher than the England sector average in five themed categories, including Assessment and Feedback, Academic Support and Teaching on my Course

Scan to view the UCO Digital Prospectus

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Want to know more?

Visit: **oldham.ac.uk/study/university-level/**

University of Huddersfield
Sheffield Hallam University
University of Lancashire
Pearson
CMI HE Partner

Hear from our students

Don't just take it from us: here's what some of our adult learners have to say about their time at Oldham College...



"From really early on, the tutors have been amazing with me and they help build that confidence every week. The evening classes are probably the only way that this would be possible - it's been worth every penny for me."

Josh | Level 2 Plumbing

Watch Josh's story here



"I chose Oldham College because it was local and felt like the right place to start my journey back into education. I was nervous about applying, but after my interview I felt supported and encouraged. My advice is to believe in yourself and take that first step."

Holly | Access to Higher Education - Business

Read more about Holly's story here



"Oldham College was the right choice for me because they offered a wide range of options and helped me choose a career path when I wasn't sure what I wanted to do."

Ben | Level 3 Advanced Sports Turf Technician apprenticeship

Read more about Ben's story here

What's next?

You've decided to apply for an adult course at Oldham College – great news! We can't wait for you to join us.

Once you have completed your application through our online portal, you will receive an email thanking you for your application. We will be in touch if there are any further steps you need to complete, such as assessments or an interview.

If you have any questions about the application process, our team will be happy to help. Call the College on **0161 785 4000** or email **info@oldham.ac.uk** and we'll ensure you're put in touch with the correct department to help you.

Why not visit an Open Event?

Our Open Events are your chance to meet tutors and support staff, see our facilities and learn more about being an adult learner at Oldham College.

Our all-ages Open Events will take place on:

- Saturday 14th November 10.30am - 1pm
- Wednesday 17th March 4.30pm - 6.30pm

Scan to book your place!

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Oldham College

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Contact

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