

# 'HE in FE' Insights



# What is this session about?

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It will describe the FE College sector, what 'HE in FE means', as well as highlighting the different types of higher education provision available at locally based (north east) colleges.

The presentation is 4 sections:

- 1. The FE College Sector & What is 'HE in FE'?**
- 2. Similarities & differences between studying HE in colleges compared to university settings**
- 3. Examples of 'HE in FE' provision in the North East**
- 4. Where to find further information ...**

# **1. The FE Sector & What is 'HE in FE'?**

# FE College Sector

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- **Colleges in England (228 in 2022) provide:**
  - traditional academic qualifications; technical and professional education & training (including apprenticeships)
  - for young people, adults and employers
  - circa. 1.8m students enrolled in colleges every year
- **There are several different types of colleges in England:** - “General” Further Education
  - land-based - specialist designate - sixth form college - art, design & performing arts
- Colleges are mainly funded by the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) - other funders include Office for Students (OfS), Local/Combined Authorities, LEPs, & employers
- FE provision - strong focus on supporting learners to **develop valuable workplace skills** through – **all FE provision is inspected by Ofsted**
- **Most** colleges offer **education at a higher level (L4+)** as well as FE

# What is HE in FE? ....

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- Degree and degree-level qualifications ....plus a range of L4/5 higher level provision e.g., HNC/Ds, Foundation Degrees, Higher Level Apprenticeships and Professional Higher-Level qualifications
- A significant proportion of Level 4/5 provision at colleges (approximately 28%) is **full cost work, often directly funded by employers** (in areas such as accountancy engineering & marketing)
- Colleges deliver about **10%** of the total HE offer in England
- Mix of full-time, part-time and flexible online learning is available
- Seven colleges in England have Foundation degree awarding powers (FDAP) & three colleges have taught degree awarding powers (TDAP).

# HE in FE: some facts & figures

**153** colleges provide undergraduate and postgraduate level courses ...of which **86%** include foundation degrees in their HE offer

The proportion of large employers training their staff through colleges is **36%** compared with **33%** at universities

Colleges deliver **83%** of all HNCs, **58%** HNDs and **63%** of all Foundation Degrees in England

Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF)  
**13%** Gold, **42%** Silver **28%** Bronze

The majority of part-time HE learners and apprentices at colleges are over **25 years** of age. In contrast, more than **43%** of full time HE learners at colleges are **under 21**.

Full time learners studying at an FE college are almost twice as likely to come from POLAR 1 & 2 (cold spots) as those studying at an HEI

# How does 'HE in FE' operate?...

## Two types:

- **Prescribed HE** - masters degrees, first degrees and foundation degrees as well as postgraduate diplomas and certificates, and diplomas in higher education validated and awarded by HEIs
- **Non-Prescribed HE** - professional awards by national awarding bodies such as • Edexcel • City and Guilds • The Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) • The Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM) and many more.

Regulated by the  
Office for  
Students (OfS)

Funded primarily  
through student  
loans

Level 6 & 7  
Apprenticeships  
subject to Ofsted  
review

## 'Franchise' with HEI

- Colleges may have single or multiple franchise agreements with different HEIs.
- Fees are determined (up to the maximum) by the HEI and agreement is reached on the amount of funding each institution will receive.
- HEI retains responsibility for the student numbers, the curriculum & quality.

## 'Validation' with HEI

- Similar to franchise but the student is directly enrolled by the college.
- Fees are set by the college (up to the maximum) and agreement is reached with the HEI on the cost for validation.
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## Own Degree Awarding Powers

- In 2007, the Further Education and Training Act made it legally possible for further education colleges to award their own Foundation Degrees.
- More recently, this has been extended to include under-graduate Degree awarding Powers (DAPs) to colleges by application and approval by the OfS.

## **2. Similarities & differences between studying HE in colleges compared to university campus settings: A Student's Perspective**



# A student's perspective ...studying HE in FE

- **Locally accessible** (average 15 miles compared to 54 miles for universities)
- Familiarity with the college
- **Smaller class sizes** with higher teaching contact hours
- On an existing **Level 3 pathway** (often technical/vocational) with direct access (subject to attainment) to progress
- Strong **employer links with meaningful and close relationships with industry and a focus on employability**
- Often **£ lower cost**



- Many colleges have dedicated HE buildings and facilities
- Some colleges have been awarded the ability use the term 'university' in their literature – *'University Centre X College'*
- Majority of students don't live in or move away from home - reducing costs
- HE college providers facilitate HE extra curricula activities ...and host Graduation events

### **3. 'HE in FE' provision in the North East**

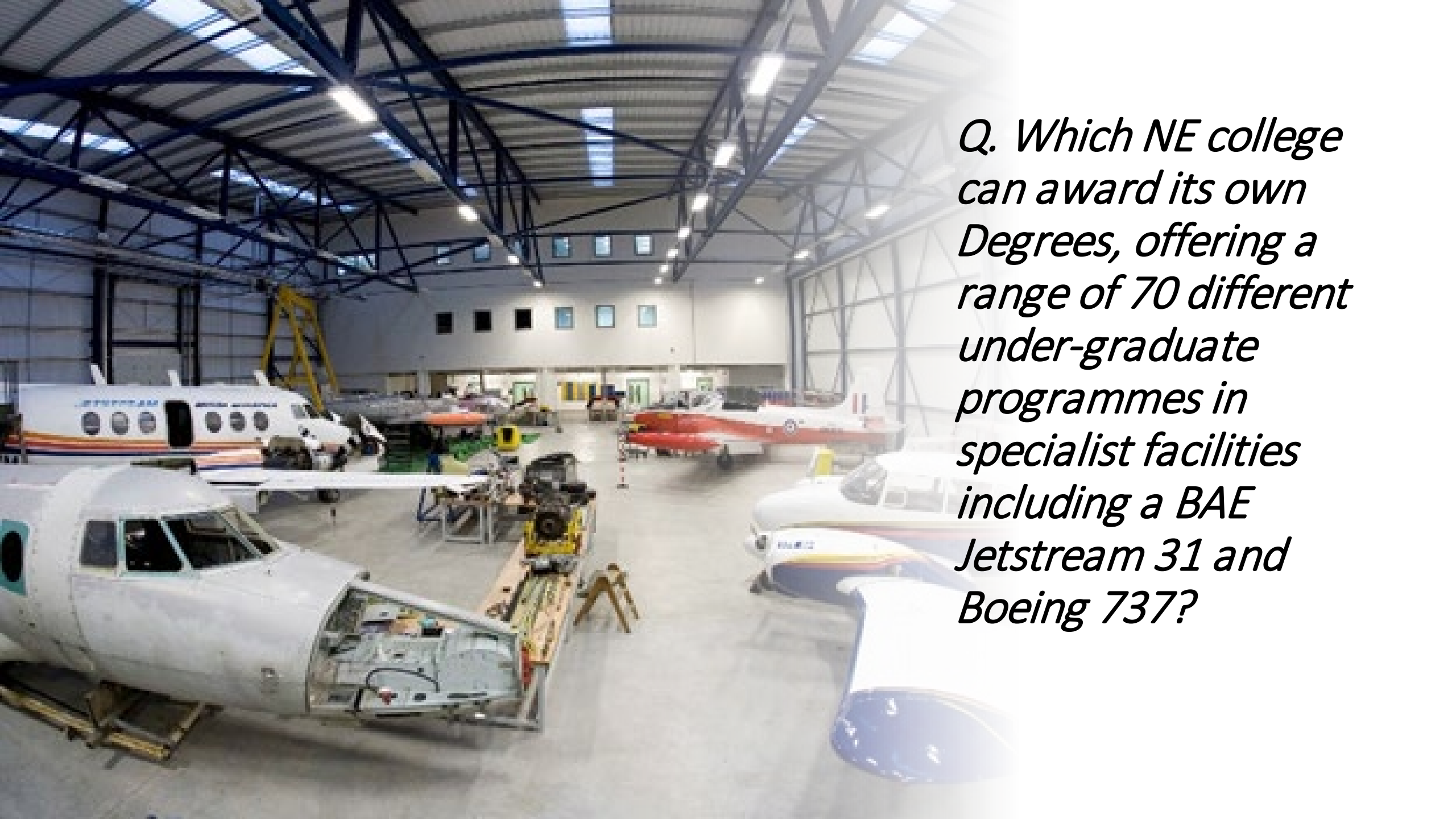
# North East 'HE in FE' Headlines

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- **13 North East College “Corporations” deliver some form of higher education provision (across 18 different NE campus locations)**
  - I. **One has full degree awarding powers**
  - II. **another two with foundation degree awarding powers**
- **NE Colleges have validation and partnership arrangements with a range of NE and out of area Universities – including Teesside, Sunderland, the OU and Arts University Bournemouth**
- **The provision ranges from HNCs to Post Graduate Degrees- with HNC/Ds, FDs and Undergraduate degrees being the most frequently offered**
- **Specialist provision in a wide range of industry sectors**

# North East Colleges - HE Provision Matrix

North East Colleges offering HE provision	Levels 4/5 (HNC, HNDs, HTQs)	Higher Apprenticeships	Foundation Degrees	Honours Degrees	Degree Apprenticeships	Professional Qualifications and/or Masters
Bishop Auckland College	X	X	X	X		X
Darlington College	X	X	X	X	X	X
Derwentside College	X					
East Durham College	X	X	X	X		X
Gateshead College	X	X				
Hartlepool College of FE	X	X	X	X	X	X
Middlesbrough College	X	X	X	X	X	X
New College Durham	X	X	X	X	X	X
NCG (Newcastle College)	X	X	X	X	X	X
The Education Training Collective (Stockton Riverside & Redcar & Cleveland Colleges)	X	X	X	X	X	X
Education Partnership North East (Sunderland & Northumberland Colleges)	X	X	X	X	X	X
The Northern School of Art			X	X		X
Tyne Coast College (Tyne Met & South Tyneside Colleges)	X	X	X	X		X



*Q. Which NE college can award its own Degrees, offering a range of 70 different under-graduate programmes in specialist facilities including a BAE Jetstream 31 and Boeing 737?*

UNIVERSITY  
CENTRE



NEWCASTLE  
COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY  
CENTRE

# OUR COURSES

**ART AND DESIGN** AESTHETICS AND MAKE-UP AVIATION  
**BUSINESS** CHILDCARE COMPUTING **DIGITAL ARTS** ENERGY  
ENGINEERING **HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE** HOSPITALITY  
AND TOURISM MUSIC **PERFORMING ARTS** POLICING  
RAIL AND CIVIL **SPORT AND EXERCISE**

## OUR UNIVERSITY CENTRE OFFERS YOU

1

**STRONG INDUSTRY LINKS**

2

**SMALLER CLASS SIZES**

3

**PRACTICAL LEARNING**

4

**STUDENT  
SUPPORT**

5

**DEDICATED SPACES FOR  
HIGHER EDUCATION**



# **REAL WORKING ENVIRONMENTS**

# Aviation



# Aesthetics and Make-Up



# Childcare, Health and Care



# Digital Arts



# Hospitality and Tourism



UNIVERSITY  
CENTRE

PARSONS





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Which regional college group was ranked higher than some of the North East's leading universities for student satisfaction in 2022?



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# Education Partnership NorthEast

**H**  
Hartlepool  
SixthForm

**S**  
Sunderland  
College

**N**  
Northumberland  
College

- 87% overall satisfaction rate by HE students (NSS 2022 – EPNE registered students)
- Choose from over 38 university level courses
- State-of-the-art facilities including Immersive Space, Sports Academy, Creative Arts Academy and health simulation ward along with bespoke equine centre, health simulation ward and new animal care centre





Where can you get  
*Exceptional Education for  
Creative Careers?*

THE  
**NORTHERN**  
**SCHOOL**  
OF ART



# FE CAMPUS: MIDDLESBROUGH



## Full-time:

UAL Diploma Level 2

UAL Diploma Level 3

A-Levels

Foundation Diploma in Art & Design

## Part-time:

Access to Higher Education (19+)

## Saturday:

Saturday Club

Arts Award Bronze & Silver



# UNIVERSITY LEVEL CAMPUS: HARTLEPOOL

## BA (Hons) programmes

- Photography
- Film, TV & Theatre Production
- Acting for Stage & Screen
- Model Making & Visual FX
- Costume Interpretation with Design
- Fashion
- Fine Art
- Illustration for Commercial Application
- Animation
- Graphic Design
- Digital Design & Advertising
- Textiles & Surface Design



## Master of Arts (MAs)

- Design History
- Directing & Theatre Making
- Arts Practice
- Design Practice

## Employability Support

- FOLIO

**91% OVERALL STUDENT SATISFACTION (NSS 2022)**

national average for all HE = 76.3%

# Work with Industry



# The Northern Film Studios

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Study next door to the only large scale film and TV studios north of the M62 corridor.





## **4. Where to find further information ...**

# Finding HE in FE information ...

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- All NE Colleges have dedicated websites detailing their higher education offer – search “*X College higher education*”
  - Colleges have dedicated staff who can answer your questions
- Outreach North East - <https://www.outreachnortheast.ac.uk/>
- UCAS portal - <https://www.ucas.com/>
- Discover Uni - <https://discoveruni.gov.uk/>



# Questions?



**Outreach North East**  
Supporting Access to Higher Education Pathways

