



Further Education 2026/27

Discover your Potential with
Further Education at SRC

Course Levels Explained

At Southern Regional College, you can choose from a variety of courses, from entry level qualifications right through to degree and postgraduate study.

So where do you begin your journey? The table below should help you understand at which level to join. This leaflet focusses mainly on courses from entry level to level 3. Apprenticeships at level 2 and 3 are dealt with separately in our Apprenticeship leaflet.

Level	What is it?	Qualifications Offered at SRC	Equivalency	Progression Routes
Entry Level 0	An introduction to education and employment skills. Generally, courses for those not currently in education, training or employment or with special educational needs.	LEAP Employability or LEAP Personal & Social Development	N/A	Progress to a level 1 course, or depending on qualifications gained, consider applying for a level 2 qualification.
Level 1	An opportunity to acquire a broad range of knowledge and practical skills. These courses address personal and development needs to enable learners to gain the necessary skills to move to the next level.	Step Up Employ Me Hospitality & Catering Level 1 Certificate	GCSE Grades D-G	Join a Level 2 NI Traineeship, Level 2 Apprenticeship or Level 2 Award or Certificate in a variety of disciplines and move your career forward.
Level 2	Focus on a specific subject area. Level 2 courses offer a practical way to study to gain the skills needed to secure employment or to progress to Level 3. Suitable for those with GCSE grades D-G. Also suitable for those wishing to study an apprenticeship.	Level 2 NI Traineeships Level 2 Diplomas Level 2 Apprenticeships (pick up an Apprenticeship leaflet)	4 or more GCSEs Grades A*-C	Progress to Level 3 Further Education or a Level 3 Apprenticeship. Can lead directly into skilled employment where level 2 skills are in demand.
Level 3	Build on knowledge to progress to higher education or skilled employment. Most level 3 courses carry UCAS points to allow entry to higher level education. Access courses for adults with few or no formal qualifications who wish to prepare for entry to university. Recognised by employers. Level 3 Apprenticeships will help further knowledge in a chosen subject area.	A-Levels Extended or National Diplomas Adult Access Level 3 Apprenticeships (pick up an Apprenticeship Leaflet)	2, 3 or 4 A-Levels (depending on route taken)	Move onto higher education courses. Gain a Degree, Foundation Degree, Higher National Diploma/Certificate or Certificate of Higher Education. Apply direct to the College for higher education or to university.

Courses in Depth

A-Levels (Level 3)

The SRC A-Level Academy is located at our Armagh campus and offers a full range of AS and A2 subjects on either a full-time or part-time basis. You can find out more about our A-Level Academy by viewing our A-Level course guide on the College website in the course guide download section (available via Student Life on the College's website).

Duration: 2 years to complete A2 levels

Entry Requirements: To study 3 A-Levels – 18 points / 6 GCSEs at Grade C including GCSE Maths & English. To study 4 A-Levels – 21 points / 7 GCSEs at Grade C including Maths & English. Specific subject grades at GCSE may apply depending on A-Level options chosen. It is desirable that applicants have attained a GCSE at grade B or above in the subject they wish to study for A-Level.

Further Education (Level 3)

Level 3 full-time further education courses offered at SRC are generally Level 3 Extended Diplomas or National Diplomas. Students choose one area they are interested in and this forms the basis of the full Level 3. Most of these qualifications are equivalent to 3 A-Levels. Our level 3 courses have been developed in collaboration with employers so that the course content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work, further training, or further study.

Duration: 2 years

Entry Requirements: 15 points, consisting of at least 4 GCSEs at grade C or BTEC Level 2 Diploma or NVQ Level 2 or Leaving Cert profile equivalent to 12 points (of which 3 subjects must be achieved at Grade C3 or better at Ordinary Level) pre-2017. From 2017 onwards, 3 subjects must be achieved at O4 or better at Ordinary Level. Each Level 3 course at SRC will require differing and specific requirements. Please see the course information on the SRC website for further details.

Adult Access Courses (Level 3)

If you are returning to education, don't feel daunted. Whether it's been a while since you've been in a classroom or you have qualifications in a different area, our Adult Access courses will introduce you

to your new career and prepare you for university or other higher education courses. Adult Access courses are designed for those aged 19+ who have been out of education for a while. Learning never stops, so why should you!

Duration: 1-2 years (depending if full-time or part-time route taken)

Entry Requirements: No formal requirements.

Apprenticeships (Level 2 & 3)

Apprenticeships offer apprentices the opportunity to gain a qualification while working within their chosen field. Apprentices split their time between the workplace and College and earn a wage while completing their course. Our facilities allow apprentices to gain practical experience to take into the workplace making them work ready. Apprenticeships are open to anyone of any age allowing older learners to jump back into workplace learning and get qualified. Find out more about apprenticeships on offer at SRC in our separate Apprenticeships course guide.

Duration: 1-2 years depending on level

Entry Requirements: Requirements are dependent on level. Some apprenticeships also carry enhanced entry criteria. For further details consult our separate Apprenticeships course guide or the College's website.

NI Traineeships (Level 2)

Get ready for work or further study with a NI Traineeship. Traineeships provide a vocational education and training programme and are aimed at school leavers or adults who aspire to work within a specific sector. They are a full-time programme. As part of a Traineeship students will gain:

- A professional and technical qualification in a chosen area.
- Practical and soft skills, such as problem solving, communication, teamwork and leadership.
- A work placement with relevant experience.
- Literacy and numeracy qualifications (Essential Skills or GCSEs if not previously obtained).
- Additional qualifications aligned to occupational area e.g. health and safety, CSR or manual handling.

Duration: Either 1 or 2 years (depending on subject)

Entry Requirements: A Level 1 qualification which is normally 4 GCSEs grades D-G including Maths and English grades D-F or equivalent. Some Traineeships require enhanced grades, so check each subject listing on the College website for details.

Facilities

Think you know Southern Regional College? Think again!

We offer top class facilities to support our students through their learning experience at the College.

Learning Resource Centres

The Learning Resource Centre (LRC) offers extensive resources to support your studies, including thousands of hardcopy books and 24/7 access to eBooks, eJournals, podcasts, and multimedia materials. Our interactive website features research seminars and guides to help you navigate our resources. LRCs are also equipped with PCs and iMacs and offer printing, scanning and photocopying services. Our friendly staff are always available for advice and support.

Cafes and Social Spaces

Take a break in one of our cafes and chill in comfortable surroundings. You'll never go hungry with the range of food on offer.

Restaurant

Fancy an exceptional meal prepared by hospitality students under the guidance of our industry trained Chefs and Restaurant Managers! Then come along to the Graduate Restaurant (Newry East campus) for a fine dining experience. Pre-booking recommended.


To book a table, contact:

 028 3025 9713  cosgravek@src.ac.uk

Hairdressing, Barbering & Beauty Salons

Pamper yourself at our salons on the Armagh, Lurgan and Newry campuses, where you can choose from a range of treatments at affordable prices. Our students will provide you with a quality experience under the guidance of our experienced lecturers.

To make an appointment:

Armagh campus  028 3751 2856
Lurgan campus  028 3839 7827
Newry campus  028 3025 9608
 salonbookings@src.ac.uk

Fitness Suites & Testing Labs

We believe in education that is practical and relevant. If you chose a fitness related discipline, you will have access to our fitness suites and labs which host a range of cardiovascular and resistance equipment. You can also join one of our sports academies. We also have quite a few sports teams that are always keen for new members - and any student can join!

Theatre & Dance Studios

Our Armagh campus contains a dedicated multipurpose theatre and dance studio. Performing Arts students will train and perform in this space alongside highly skilled musicians, sound engineers, composers, and producers. Students will also tour local schools with performances. Watch out for the SRC Panto each December too - book your tickets early for this in-demand performance.

Music Facilities

Our Armagh campus contains cutting-edge recording studios and rehearsal rooms which will allow students to experience music projects from composition and recording to post-production.

Multimedia, Photography & Art Studios

Unleash your creativity in our multipurpose art and design studios where students can develop their work from initial idea to masterpiece! Facilities include industry standard multimedia suites, equipped with the latest technology for digital design, animation, and video production. Additionally, our professional photography suite provides the ideal environment for studio-based shoots, allowing students to explore various aspects of visual storytelling. Whether you're working with traditional materials or digital media, our comprehensive creative spaces are designed to inspire and support your artistic journey.

Training Workshops

We have huge training workshops across three of our campuses, each hosting industry-standard equipment. Trainees and apprentices can benefit from the latest technology in their chosen discipline.

Support at SRC

Careers Advice

Whenever you need it, our Careers Advisors will guide you through big career and study choices. Advice is available to you before joining the College, during your time at the College and when considering your options after SRC. Our Careers Service holds the Matrix Quality Standard for the quality of information and advice provided.

Contact the Careers Team

☎ 028 3751 2808
✉ mail_careers@src.ac.uk

Learning Support

If you need help with your learning due to a difficulty or disability, get in touch with our Learning Support team who will guide you through the support available to help you achieve your full potential. Our Learning Support Service holds the Autism Advanced Accreditation for the excellent support they provide to autistic young people and adults.

For more information visit the Learning Support section of our website.

Counselling Services

Life can be challenging but you don't have to go through it alone. Whether it's study, relationships, or money worries, you can access free and confidential counselling services with Lena Student Wellbeing. Online and phone services are available 24/7 or you can attend drop-in counselling sessions at our Armagh, Lurgan and Newry campuses.

Contact Lena Student Wellbeing

☎ 0800 389 5362
✉ support@inspirewellbeing.org



Scan to find out
more about support
available at SRC

Health Hub

We offer a free and confidential health and wellbeing service for young people studying with us aged 16-25. Get in touch using the details below to access information and support.

Contact the Health Hub

☎ 077 8743 2845
✉ health.hub@southerntrust.hscni.net

Good Morning Advice Clinic

The Good Morning Advice Clinic offers students accessible, timely support for mental health and well-being. It's a safe and welcoming space!

Drop into the Clinic for confidential help, guidance and resources matched to your needs.



Finance

Full-Time Students

Fees

There are no tuition fees while studying a full-time course. Some trips or uniform fees may apply. You'll be informed of any extra costs prior to starting your course.

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

This is a means tested allowance for students under 19 years and is based upon attendance during your time at College. EMA is administered externally.

[Contact the EMA team](#)

- ☎ 0300 200 7089
- ✉ ema_ni@slc.co.uk
- 🌐 www.emani.gov.uk

Free School Meals

If you're 18 years or under on 31st July at your course start date and your parents receive certain benefits, you can get help with meals while at College. Free School Meals are operated by the Education Authority (EA), with applications being made online at the EA's website.

[Contact the EA Free School Meals Team](#)

- ☎ 028 9047 0233
- ✉ mealsanduniform@eani.org.uk

Travel

If you're under 19 years at your course start date and live more than 3 miles from College, you may be able to avail of free bus and rail transport. Apply online to the Education Authority for help with transport.

[Contact the Further Education Transport Helpdesk](#)

- ☎ 028 9598 5959
- ✉ transport.localityeast@eani.org.uk
(Newry Mourne & Down District Council)
- ✉ transport.localitysouthwest@eani.org.uk
(Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council)
- 🌐 www.eani.org.uk

All Students

Grants

If you're aged 19 years or over on your course start date you can apply for a means tested Further Education Grant. Grants are applied for through the Education Authority's (EA) Grant Team.

[Contact the EA Grants Team](#)

- ☎ 028 9047 0155
- ✉ fegrants@eani.org.uk
- 🌐 www.eani.org.uk

Hardship Fund

Students who are aged 18 years or over and find themselves in financial hardship, may receive help from the SRC Hardship Fund if they have exhausted all other sources of finance. Applications can only be made on campus via College computers.

To apply, attend a College campus and visit:

- 🌐 <http://hardship.src.ac.uk>

Contact Campus Services at any campus reception for more information.

Childcare

If you are a parent and main carer, aged between 16-19 years and need help with childcare costs, you may be eligible for financial help through the Care to Learn Scheme.

Contact the College's Campus Services team at any campus reception for more information or call:

- ☎ 0300 123 1223

For more information on finance and financial assistance, refer to our website.

Scan for more information
on finance and funding



Embrace Student Life

Jump straight into student life and discover opportunities to meet other students, build your confidence and develop your skills. At SRC we offer a vibrant mix of social, cultural and sporting activities alongside studying.

Get involved in student life



Freshers' Fair

Starting College is exciting but it can be nerve-wrecking. Our annual Freshers' Fairs will introduce you to life at College. Meet other students and get introduced to the wide range of clubs, societies and services available at SRC.



Student Consultative Groups/ Student Council

Sign up to become a class representative and influence policies, decisions and provide feedback. It is YOUR education after all and our Consultative Groups and Student Council act as the student voice on campus.



Students' Union (SU)

Champion your interests and amplify your views. Run for office in our SU elections and become a candidate for positive change. Or perhaps run for SU President and get involved in College governance.



Clubs and Societies

We offer a wide range of clubs and societies to suit every interest. This includes the LGBTQ+ Society, Movie Club, Gamers Club, Debate Club, Women's Society and My World, My Home Group who promote sustainability. Embrace diversity and inclusion with the Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Council or become a Campus Mental Health Champion. Make a difference for all students.



Health and Wellbeing

Your wellbeing matters. At SRC we provide health education, fitness suites, physical activity days, counselling services and life skills and resilience workshops to support all students.



Sustainability

Get serious about sustainability, it's not another buzzword, it's a shared commitment. Real change starts with small actions and together we can make a big impact. Help us reduce the College's carbon footprint, cut down on waste and promote a greener future for everyone. There are plenty of ways to get involved - so take action and be part of the change.



Fundraising

We're passionate about giving back to the community and want you to be part of the change. Share your ideas and let's make a difference together.



Exhibitions and Shows

Experience the creativity of your fellow students through captivating exhibitions and shows. Celebrate our art and design, hospitality, hairdressing, media, music, and visual arts students' work throughout the year.

**Together we can make your
College journey unforgettable.**

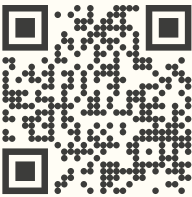
Scan to find out more about
Student Engagement



Disclaimer

SRC strives to provide accurate and up-to-date information. While every effort has been made to ensure its accuracy at the time of printing, the College cannot be held responsible for any changes that may occur afterwards. The College reserves the right to revise, alter, or cancel courses once they have started. The availability of courses depends on satisfactory enrolment numbers and funding availability.

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0300 123 1223 | info@src.ac.uk



Course Title	Level	Course Type	Campus	Awarding Body	Hours Per Week	Duration	Faculty Contact
ADULT ACCESS							
ADULT LEARNING PUBLIC HEALTH Level 3 Diploma	3	Further Education	Newry & Portadown	Ulster University	16	1 year	HESC
ADULT LEARNING SCIENCE Level 3 Diploma	3	Further Education	Newry	Ulster University	17	1 year	HESC
ADULT LEARNING ARTS AND HUMANITIES Level 3 Diploma	3	Further Education	Newry	Ulster University	17	1 year	HESC
ART & DESIGN							
ART AND DESIGN Level 3 Foundation Diploma	3	Further Education	Newry	UAL	17	1 year	CDAC
ART AND DESIGN Level 3 Extended Diploma	3	Further Education	Armagh & Newry	OCR	17	2 years	CDAC
ART AND DESIGN Level 2 Diploma Traineeship	2	Traineeship	Lurgan & Newry	OCR	20	1 year	CDAC
A LEVELS / AS LEVELS							
BIOLOGY AS & A2	3	A-Level	Armagh	CCEA	Various	1 or 2 years	CDAC
BUSINESS STUDIES AS & A2	3	A-Level	Armagh	CCEA	Various	1 or 2 years	CDAC
CHEMISTRY AS & A2	3	A-Level	Armagh	CCEA	Various	1 or 2 years	CDAC
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY AS & A2	3	A-Level	Armagh	CCEA	Various	1 or 2 years	CDAC
ENGLISH LITERATURE AS & A2	3	A-Level	Armagh	CCEA	Various	1 or 2 years	CDAC
GEOGRAPHY AS & A2	3	A-Level	Armagh	CCEA	Various	1 or 2 years	CDAC
GOVERNMENT & POLITICS AS & A2	3	A-Level	Armagh	CCEA	Various	1 or 2 years	CDAC
HISTORY AS & A2	3	A-Level	Armagh	CCEA	Various	1 or 2 years	CDAC
MATHEMATICS AS & A2	3	A-Level	Armagh	CCEA	Various	1 or 2 years	CDAC
NUTRITION & FOOD SCIENCE AS & A2	3	A-Level	Armagh	CCEA	Various	1 or 2 years	CDAC
PSYCHOLOGY AS & A2	3	A-Level	Armagh	AQA	Various	1 or 2 years	CDAC
RELIGIOUS STUDIES AS & A2	3	A-Level	Armagh	CCEA	Various	1 or 2 years	CDAC
SOCIOLOGY AS & A2	3	A-Level	Armagh	AQA	Various	1 or 2 years	CDAC
BEAUTY THERAPY							
BEAUTY THERAPY TECHNIQUES Level 3 Diploma	3	Further Education	Armagh & Newry	City & Guilds	17	1 year	PRSE
BEAUTY THERAPY Level 2 Diploma Traineeship	2	Traineeship	Armagh, Lurgan & Newry	City & Guilds	22	1 year	PRSE
BUSINESS							
BUSINESS Level 3 Extended Diploma	3	Further Education	Armagh, Portadown & Newry	Pearson	18	2 years	PRSE
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION Level 2 Traineeship	2	Traineeship	Newry	OCN NI	23	1 year	PRSE
CHILDCARE							
CHILDREN'S CARE LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT Level 3 Extended Diploma (Top Up)	3	Further Education	Armagh & Newry	CACHE	26	1 year	HESC
CHILDREN'S CARE LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT Level 3 Diploma	3	Further Education	Armagh, Lurgan & Newry	CACHE	35	1 year	HESC
CHILDREN'S CARE LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT Level 2 Traineeship	2	Traineeship	Armagh, Lurgan & Newry	CACHE	28	1 year	HESC
COMPUTING & IT							
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY Level 3 National Extended Diploma	3	Further Education	Armagh, Banbridge, Portadown & Newry	Pearson	17	2 years	CDAC
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY Level 3 National Diploma	3	Further Education	Portadown & Newry	Pearson	17	2 years	CDAC
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY Level 2 Traineeship	2	Traineeship	Armagh, Portadown & Newry	OCN NI	19	1 year	CDAC
CONSTRUCTION							
CONSTRUCTION AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT Level 3 Extended Diploma	3	Further Education	Armagh & Newry	Pearson	18	2 years	BUTE
BRICKWORK Level 2 Traineeship (Wet Trades)*	2	Traineeship	Portadown	OCN NI	21.5	2 years	BUTE
CARPENTRY AND JOINERY Level 2 Traineeship*	2	Traineeship	Portadown	OCN NI	21.5	2 years	BUTE
FLOOR AND WALL TILING Level 2 Traineeship (Wet Trades)*	2	Traineeship	Greenbank	OCNNI	21.5	2 years	BUTE
ENGINEERING							
ENGINEERING Level 3 Extended Diploma	3	Further Education	Newry & Portadown	Pearson	17	2 years	BUTE
ENGINEERING Level 2 Diploma Traineeship	2	Traineeship	Greenbank & Portadown	OCN NI	21.5	2 years	BUTE
GAMES DEVELOPMENT							
GAMES, ANIMATION AND VFX SKILLS Level 3 Extended Diploma	3	Further Education	Banbridge & Newry	AIM	17	2 years	CDAC
HAIRDRESSING & BARBERING							
BARBERING Level 2 Diploma Traineeship	2	Traineeship	Armagh, Lurgan & Newry	City & Guilds	22	1 year	PRSE
HAIRDRESSING Level 2 Diploma Traineeship	2	Traineeship	Armagh, Lurgan & Newry	OCN	22	1 year	PRSE
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE							
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE Level 3 National Extended Diploma	3	Further Education	Armagh, Banbridge, Lurgan & Newry	Pearson	17	2 years	HESC
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE Level 2 Traineeship	2	Traineeship	Armagh, Lurgan & Newry	Pearson	19	1 year	HESC
HOSPITALITY & TOURISM							
TRAVEL AND TOURISM Level 3 Extended Diploma	3	Further Education	Newry	NCFE	17	2 years	PRSE
HOSPITALITY Level 2 Traineeship	2	Traineeship	Newry	OCN NI	22	1 year	PRSE
PROFESSIONAL CHEF Level 2 Diploma Traineeship	2	Traineeship	Newry & Portadown	FDO	21.5	2 years	PRSE
HOSPITALITY AND CATERING Level 2 Certificate in Vocational Skills	2	Further Education	Newry	OCN NI	17	1 year	PRSE
MEDIA							
MEDIA Level 3 Extended Diploma	3	Further Education	Armagh, Banbridge & Newry	OCR	17	2 years	CDAC
CREATIVE ARTS AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES Level 2 Diploma Traineeship	2	Traineeship	Armagh	OCR	22	1 year	CDAC
MEDIA Level 2 Diploma Traineeship	2	Traineeship	Banbridge & Newry	OCR	20	1 year	CDAC
MOTOR VEHICLE							
LIGHT VEHICLE Level 2 Diploma Traineeship*	2	Traineeship	Armagh, Portadown & Greenbank	OCN NI	21.5	2 years	BUTE
VEHICLE BODY REPAIR Level 2 Traineeship*	2	Traineeship	Portadown	IMI	21.5	2 years	BUTE
VEHICLE PAINT REFINISHING Level 2 Traineeship*	2	Traineeship	Portadown	IMI	21.5	2 years	BUTE
MUSIC							
MUSIC PERFORMANCE & PRODUCTION Level 3 Extended Diploma	3	Further Education	Armagh	UAL	17	2 years	CDAC
PERFORMING ARTS							
PERFORMING AND PRODUCTION ARTS Level 3 Extended Diploma	3	Further Education	Armagh	UAL	17	2 years	CDAC
SCIENCE							
APPLIED SCIENCE Level 3 Extended Diploma	3	Further Education	Armagh & Newry	Pearson	17	2 years	HESC
APPLIED SCIENCE Level 3 Extended Diploma (Biomedical Pathway)	3	Further Education	Portadown	Pearson	17	2 years	HESC
FORENSIC AND CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION Level 3 National Extended Diploma	3	Further Education	Armagh	Pearson	17	2 years	HESC
SPORT, EXERCISE & FITNESS							
SPORTS COACHING AND DEVELOPMENT Level 3 National Extended Diploma	3	Further Education	Newry	Pearson	17	2 years	PRSE
SPORT AND EXERCISE SCIENCE Level 3 Extended Diploma	3	Further Education	Armagh, Lurgan & Newry	Pearson	17	2 years	PRSE
GYM FITNESS INSTRUCTING AND PERSONAL TRAINING Level 3 Diploma	3	Further Education	Armagh, Lurgan & Newry	TQH	17	1 year	PRSE
SPORT AND ACTIVE LEISURE Level 2 Traineeship	2	Traineeship	Lurgan	Pearson	22.5	1 year	PRSE
TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE & EMPLOYMENT							
LEAP EMPLOYABILITY Level 3 Certificate	3	Further Education	Armagh, Banbridge & Newry	ASDAN	17	1 year	HESC
LEAP PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT Entry Level 2 Certificate	2	Further Education	Armagh, Banbridge & Newry	ASDAN	17	1 year	HESC
UNIFORMED PUBLIC & PROTECTIVE SERVICES							
UNIFORMED PROTECTIVE SERVICES Level 3 Extended Diploma	3	Further Education	Portadown	Pearson	17	2 years	PRSE
*Also available as a level 2 Apprenticeship							