

How do you study?

The course can be studied at home or at work wherever you have access to online discussions and course materials. You have a chance to network with other students, sharing your interest in communities and from a variety of backgrounds, at short residential schools and occasional tutorials or self-help meetings. You may also have a mentor from your own workplace or from others in your profession to support you as you study.

How much will it cost?

The fee for each level is £3225 in 2009/10. If you study part-time, each level normally takes two years and payments can be spread over more than one year. There are additional costs for residential schools (accommodation and travel), books, field visits and the use of information technology.

How much time is involved?

Students need to plan quiet time for study at home or at work but most of the course is based on activity in the workplace. Time is needed for research and reflection and for putting together evidence of what has been learned. Students benefit from attending the residential schools, tutorials, self-help groups, meetings with a mentor and online discussion with fellow students and tutors.

This is **“a brilliant opportunity for people working in communities who haven't previously considered higher education.”**

Bernice Thompson Manager of the Cheltenham West End Partnership

“The course is challenging and rewarding at the same time. It helps build confidence to deal with the complex issues involved in being a town or parish clerk.”

David Martin Clerk, Corsham Town Council

As a guide this might take up to five hours a week for each module in addition to activity in the workplace. Your work can be spread over several months from September to June.

Key points

- As a supported distance learning course, it is very flexible.
- The course offers opportunities for networking with fellow students from different agencies and backgrounds across the United Kingdom.
- You can gain credit for learning at work but at the same time the course provides new ideas and solutions.
- As different stakeholders in local communities study together, partnership working is improved and life gets better for people in local communities.
- The course is very practical; it widens horizons, fosters new ideas and improves career opportunities.

How do you apply?

Please register your interest by contacting **Alison Pope** apope@glos.ac.uk and providing your contact details. You will then be advised of formal application procedures.

Community Engagement and Governance

A Foundation Degree



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A Foundation Degree

Do you work with a local council?

Does your organisation improve life in local neighbourhoods?

Do you engage with local communities?

Does community governance interest you?

If so . . . then read on.

What is community engagement and governance?

Community engagement is the way in which organisations and communities connect to improve the quality of life in neighbourhoods. Good governance ensures that councils and other organisations operate on a sound footing. Community governance often brings organisations together to deliver effective services.

What does this course have to offer?

If you work with local councils and communities, then this work-based course could be for you. It is designed to improve governance, partnership working and community engagement, helping to create more sustainable communities. It builds on short courses and lower level qualifications by examining your real experiences of working with a community based organisation more deeply. It helps you to learn new ideas, appreciate the wider context of your work and discuss key questions with different stakeholders. You can develop your career by gaining a qualification at this higher level. Whatever part you play, this course can help you and your organisation develop skills, knowledge and confidence for better working with councils and communities.

Who might be studying the course?

- officers, councillors and others who work with local councils or public sector agencies at all levels
- staff and volunteers who work for community or voluntary organisations, faith groups and charities supporting people in local communities
- Constables, Police Community Support Officers and others involved in neighbourhood policing and fire officers or health workers serving communities
- people of all ages interested in a career with communities, especially those progressing from courses in public service or citizenship
- community activists looking for improved skills or a career in regeneration, community development or local government.

What do you study?

The course strengthens your understanding of ways in which community governance operates, especially through sound management, partnership working and community engagement. You demonstrate your ability to contribute to the planning, creation and management of safe, cohesive and sustainable communities. The course helps you to appreciate the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders, legal and political aspects of community governance and ideas for strategic planning and service delivery.

Assignments are firmly linked to the workplace. You have an opportunity to reflect on what you learn and to develop appropriate professional skills.

What are your options?

You normally register for the foundation degree, equivalent to two years or two levels of full-time study. As a part-time student you take two years to study each level making four years in total. Most students take level one over two years and then decide whether to continue.

Another option is to register for a single module – this is particularly useful for people seeking a shorter experience for professional development or wanting to dip a toe in the water. You can transfer between options if you change your mind and can register for the BA Hons degree at a later date.

Modules at level one

Modules at level one cover a variety of themes; for example:

Community Governance: political systems, partnership working, community leadership

Achieving Sustainable Communities: empowering communities, town and county planning, sustainability, cohesion, community safety, identifying needs

Managing Organisations: structures, law and procedures, human resources and employment, finance

Projects and Services: planning, delivery and evaluation

Learning at Work: communication, investigation, ICT, technical, negotiation skills

Local Council Administration: law, procedures, finance for local councils

These themes are developed at level two of the Foundation Degree and there is an opportunity to progress to level three and a BA Honours Degree.

