

city lit

Access to Higher Education Diploma: Humanities and Social Science

Evening Access Programme 2017-18

COURSE GUIDE

“I just want to make this clear: studying at City Lit was the best educational experience I've had. Thank you.”

“As cliché ridden as it is, the Access to humanities course really did change my life and expand my horizons in that special way that education and first class teaching can.”



experience
outstanding
learning

Dates
12/09/2017 – 28/6/2018

Course code
AA300

Enquiries
accesstohe@citylit.ac.uk

What is the Diploma?

The Access to Higher Education Diploma is an A-level standard qualification which prepares adults who want to go on to university. It is designed for people who would like to study for a degree but left school without the usual qualifications, or who have been away from formal education for some time. Access courses are intensive and aim to build your knowledge, skills and confidence ready for university degree-level study.

What does the City Lit evening Access course offer?

The course will prepare you to apply for degrees in humanities, including classics and social sciences, and will give you a nationally recognised qualification. It is a one-year intensive programme, on Tuesday and Thursday evenings between 6pm and 9.15pm from September to June. The subjects we cover are English Literature, History, Sociology and Study Skills. All these subjects are compulsory. Time is also allocated to support your UCAS application to university as well as regular one-to-one tutorials. Students typically apply for degrees in the core subjects or related disciplines such as anthropology, education, philosophy, politics and sometimes languages. Popular destinations for students include colleges of the University of London (UCL, Queen Mary, Birkbeck, Goldsmiths), LSE, Sussex, Exeter, Newcastle, Brighton and Glasgow.



The Access course will give you the stimulation and satisfaction of working on new and challenging subjects with your peers and tutors who are dedicated to your success. Our aim is to ensure you successfully move on to higher education. Past students have also achieved awards and bursaries from the Helena Kennedy Foundation and Open College Network.

“At the rather mature age of 45, I began my academic journey with the City Lit Humanities and Social Sciences Access Course. It was the excellent knowledge and skills base I developed there that subsequently enabled me to achieve a first class honours degree in anthropology at University College London, a Masters in visual anthropology at the University of Manchester, and secure my PhD Leverhulme Trust studentship at Newcastle University.”

Is this the right course for you?

Access courses are challenging. They are intensive and require committed attendance two evenings a week, as well as at least 15 hours a week of study outside classes. The course involves extensive reading and a good deal of writing. You will need to be able to read and respond to a range of fiction and non-fiction texts and communicate information and ideas logically and effectively. You will be studying several different subjects at once, so it is also crucial that you can manage your time efficiently and are ready to commit to a high degree of independent work. Our evening Access course is unique in London because you can fit it around part-time work and other commitments. We want every student to complete the course successfully so, before you apply, think carefully about whether you can realistically accommodate the rigour required.



“Definitely challenging returning to study at this level, but the structure of course is fantastic and support from staff and other students has given me the opportunity to develop and succeed!”

“The deadlines are tight and the amount of self-study and reading required is daunting. But the quality and support of the teaching staff meant that whilst vast, the workload was never too much. This is definitely not a course for the faint-hearted, but you’re working with a group of like minded individuals and the lessons are very engaging. Everything is taught in a very structured and logical way, which allowed me to follow modules that I had no prior knowledge of and additional help was always on hand from the teaching staff in those moments of pre-deadline panic!”

How do I apply?

- Complete the online application form and personal statement and return to us by email.
- Successful applicants will then be invited for an in-depth interview with one of the team.

There are no formal entry requirements for this course but as it involves substantial reading and essay writing, you will need to be able to read and respond to a range of texts, and to communicate information and ideas effectively in writing. Your reading and writing skills should be at the equivalent of Level 2 (a good GCSE English level). Please see the Course Guide for further details.

Places will be offered to students we are confident have clearly demonstrated the skills, qualities and commitment to enable them to succeed.

What does the course cost?

How much you pay depends on your age, previous qualifications and personal circumstances and whether you are eligible for an Advanced Learner Loan. The information below is for 'home learners'.

		Payment
19 years old and over – eligible for an Advanced Learner Loan	With or without level 3 qualifications	£3,022 Up-front payment: £199 Balance: £2,823 paid by a learner loan
<p>Note: Advanced Learner loans for Access courses are 'written off' on completion of your degree</p>		

“I joined the Access course as a 25 year old and I really don't think as a mature student who had previously worked I would have stuck it out going to a 16-18 school to do an equivalent course. I had been an impatient teen who was thoroughly bored with A levels first time round and squandered that time. City lit gave me the opportunity to rethink those choices and I'm bloody glad it did.”

What is the timetable?

Tuesday 18:00 – 21:15	Thursday 18.00 – 21:15
Study skills/Group Meeting	History
Break	Break
English Literature	Sociology

You will also have regular individual tutorials in addition to classroom sessions.

How is the Diploma structured?

This Access to HE Diploma requires a total of 60 credits with each unit of study worth 3 credits:

- 45 **graded** subject credits (grades are Pass, Merit or Distinction)
- 15 **ungraded** study skills credits

Credits are accumulated over the year through the coursework you complete. There is a 1500- word essay to submit on average every 2 weeks. Each successful essay will give you 3 credits. There is also an Extended Project which gives you an excellent introduction to the requirements of a dissertation.

“I am also very grateful for you and all the other teachers for the enthusiasm and support you gave to me and all the students. I must admit I couldn't have asked for a better place to be doing the access course!”

Subject content

Nb. Units offered may vary slightly from year to year:

	Total credits per unit – all graded
Module: Literature	
Short Fiction	3
Reading a Nineteenth-Century Novel	3
Interpreting Poetry	3
Interpreting a Shakespeare Play	3
Studying a Modern Play	3
Module: History	
Industrialisation: Urbanisation	3
Introduction to Primary and Secondary Sources	3
Russian Revolution: February Revolution	3
Imperialism and Resistance: Gandhi	3
Israel-Palestine	3
Module: Sociology	
The Sociological Imagination	3
The Nature versus Nurture Debate	3
Sociological Perspectives	3
The Sociology of Crime and Deviance	3
Introduction to Methods of Sociological Research	3
Module: Extended Project	
Extended Project (3,000 words) - on a subject of student's choice	6

Module: Study skills	Total credits per unit – all ungraded
Reading and comprehension of texts	3
Note-taking and Note-making	3
Essay writing	3
Speaking and Listening Skills	3
Examination Skills	3

If you would like any further information about any other aspects of the course please contact: accesstohe@citylit.ac.uk.