

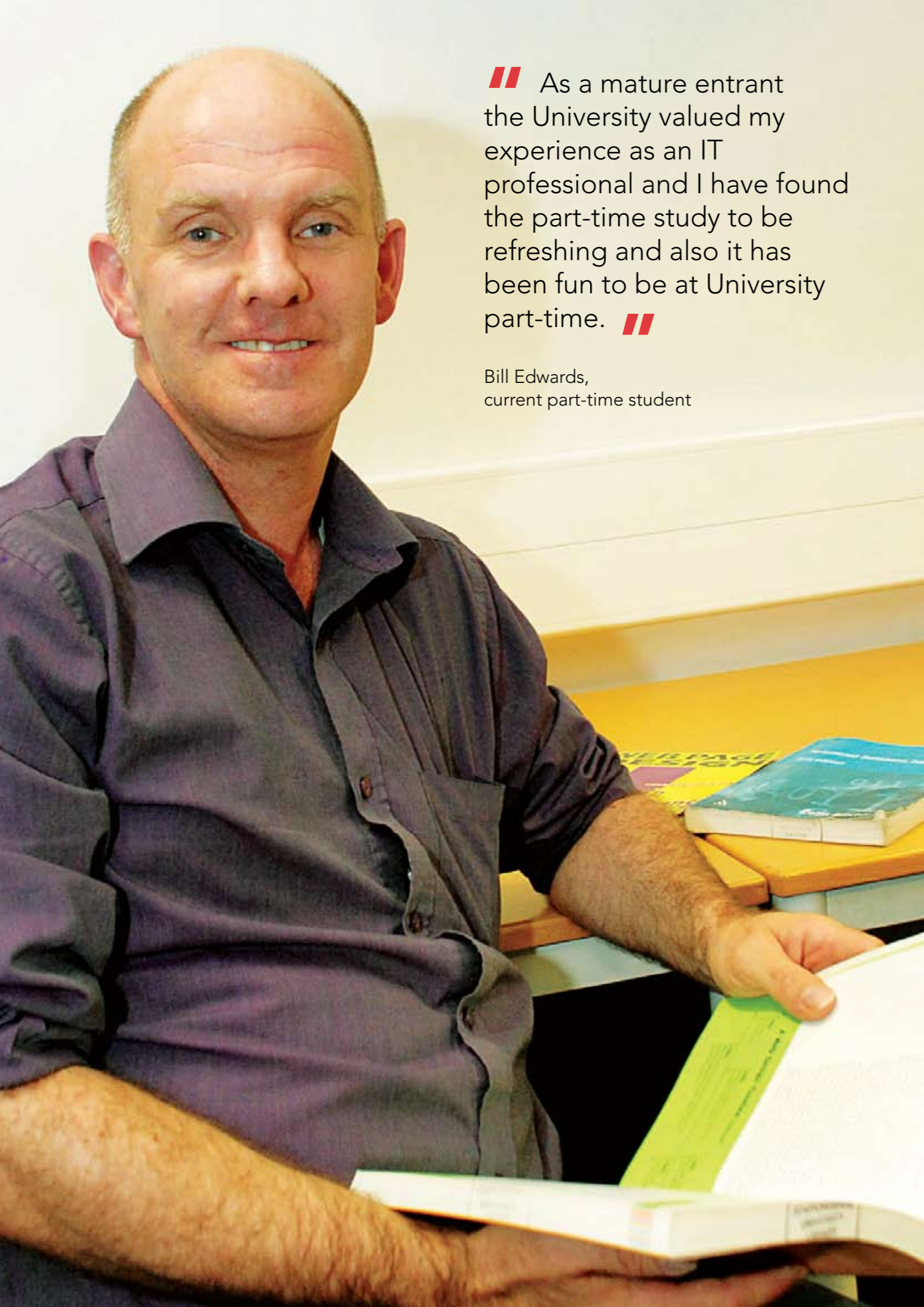


STAFFORDSHIRE  
UNIVERSITY

# Part-time Computing Courses

## Course Guide

A wide range of options – a more flexible way to study



“ As a mature entrant the University valued my experience as an IT professional and I have found the part-time study to be refreshing and also it has been fun to be at University part-time. ”

Bill Edwards,  
current part-time student

## Part-time computing awards to give you a real-world advantage

**Whether you are an employer looking to enhance employee skills; an individual wishing to increase your understanding of computing; a non-computing graduate wanting to study computing at postgraduate level, or a computing graduate looking to progress to Masters level, our innovative approach - based around genuine expertise, individual study profiles and outstanding pastoral care - will provide just the solution you need.**

**The role of computing is so deeply engrained in modern society that more and more individuals are realising the very real and tangible benefits of gaining a professional computing qualification.**

At Staffordshire University, we have a long, proud history of excellence in the provision of high quality full- and part-time computing education and research.



“ The experience I gained from the degree course helped me in getting the job. I rose rapidly from a junior position to one of seniority within two years... the grounding the staff gave me really came into play ”

Jason Toft,  
ICT Project Manager and former student

We were the very first university to offer a computing degree back in the 1960s. Today, we are renowned for our experienced staff, in-depth knowledge, cutting-edge facilities and outstanding awards structure.

Taking pride in creating highly sought-after computing professionals, we offer a range of bespoke part-time applied computing courses from our Stoke-on-Trent campus that are regularly updated and based around a modular programme for immense variety and flexibility.

In short, whatever your professional, personal or workplace computing requirements, we can help you gain the skills necessary to succeed in the real world and progress in your chosen career.



# A more flexible way to study

**Our entire part-time computing programme has been created with considerable flexibility in mind.**

In fact, whether you are progressing towards your first degree or contemplating postgraduate study, you will find we offer all the flexibility you need.

A wide and varied range of modules, for example, allows us to offer immense versatility and tailor studies towards each student's specific goals.

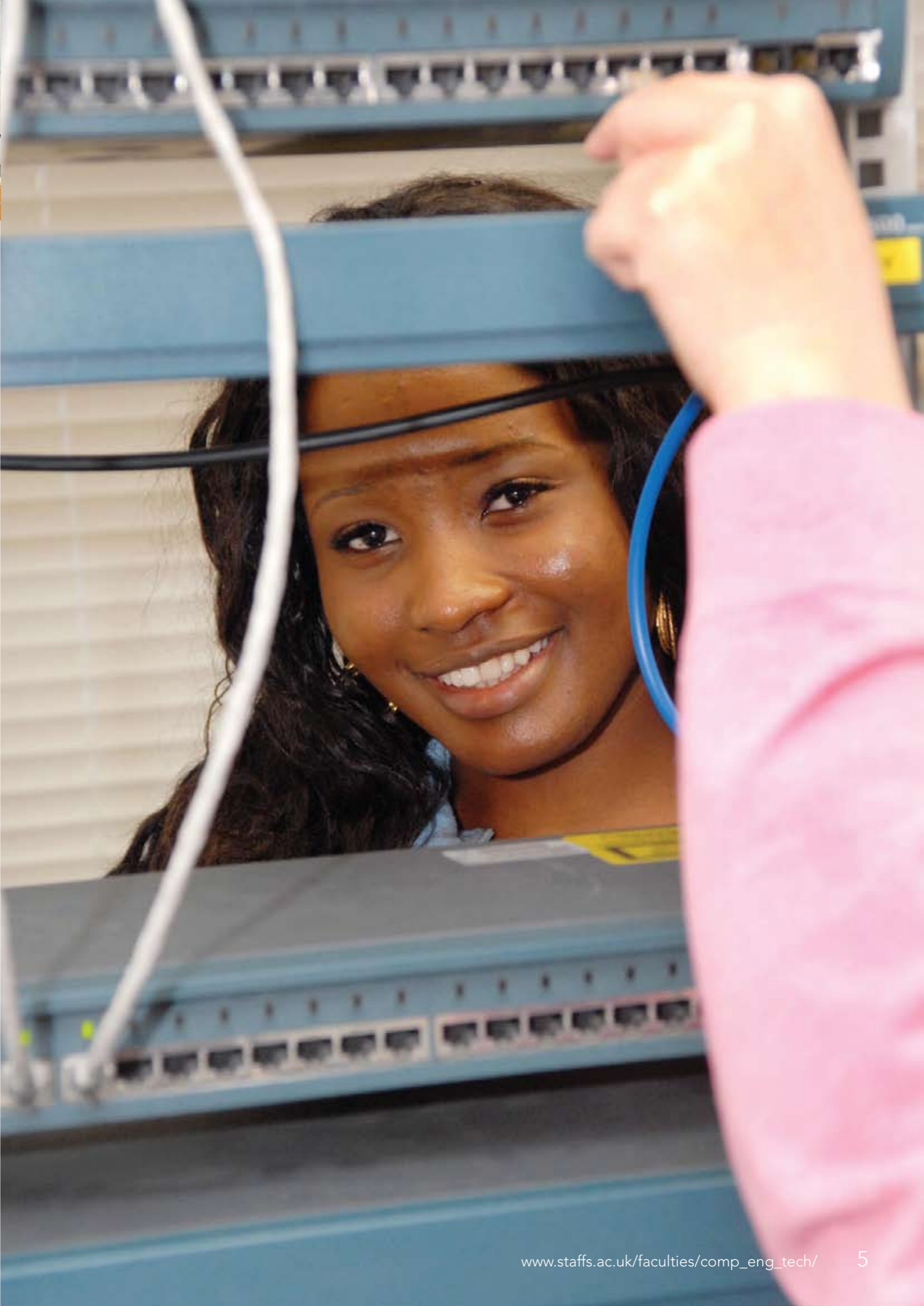
The rate of learning can also be adjusted to fit around existing commitments or to enable students to progress faster.

While for company-funded continuous professional development programmes, we work closely with employers to create bespoke solutions that provide clearly defined learning outcomes and fit around individual workplace needs.

We encourage part-time students to discuss and reflect on module content in their work-based setting. This approach ensures relevancy and enables employers to see a practical return from the part-time study.

**//** As a parent of three young children, and working full-time, I didn't think I would be able to fit a degree in, but studying part-time at Staffordshire has been great. The staff are incredibly supportive and understanding and are always on hand with help and advice. The course is interesting and varied and I have been able to tailor the modules to fit in with my lifestyle. **//**

Joanne Jackson,  
BSc(Hons) Applied Computing



# Professional development for employees

Through cutting-edge thinking and sector-leading expertise, Staffordshire University specialises in putting together the continuous professional development courses that unlock real potential in the workplace.

Establishing the learning requirements of individual staff and departments, we create programmes that are challenging, engaging, outstanding quality and exceptional value-for-money.

As a result, we enhance the performance of organisations and make staff feel wanted and better able to perform their roles.

Exceptionally versatile, our continuous professional development programmes for employees includes:

- Website development
- An introduction to multimedia
- Relational database systems development
- E-commerce
- Advanced computing applications
- Development of E-commerce applications with XML
- Database administration and management

“ I found teaching to be from staff who were all highly knowledgeable in their subject areas, but able to communicate and explain things very effectively. They are also highly approachable people. The course content which I have experienced has all been up-to-date and highly relevant for modern IT professionals. The excellent standard of teaching is also backed up by the availability of high quality facilities in well-managed labs. ”

Peter Moss, studying part-time for MSc Computer Science

## A real advantage for individuals

**With an enviable track record of professional accreditation, numerous industry partnerships – and that reputation for well-proven computing expertise – Staffordshire University is widely acknowledged as the place to study.**

Choosing to take a part-time computing award with us, however, means far more than embarking upon a course that will provide you with an educational experience of a particular technology.

Our awards have all been designed to give you a greater understanding of why you have done something, what the outcomes will be and how to put what you have learnt into an everyday, practical context.



Embracing such subjects as systems analysis, database development, software development, understanding Internet and e-commerce applications, networking and hardware, publishing for the worldwide web, we blend together the most popular areas of study across the fields of Computing and Information Technology.

As a result, you gain the opportunity to develop and demonstrate knowledge, understanding, cognitive and highly practical skills within the discipline of computing.

You can also be confident that by choosing to study at Staffordshire University you will gain:

- A thorough understanding of the IT sector
- A clearer idea of the area you wish to work in
- The skills you need to succeed

# Our part-time computing courses

- Undergraduate Framework Award – Computing: Certificate in Continuous Professional Development
- University Diploma in Applied Computing (UDAC) via E-learning
- BSc(Hons) Applied Computing part-time or via E-learning
- BSc (Hons) Applied Information Technology Degree Scheme
- Computer Science (PgC/PgD/MSc) part-time or via E-learning
- Computing for Business (PgC/PgD/MSc)
- Computing (PgC/PgD/MSc)
- Computing Solutions for Business (PgC/PgD/MSc)
- Mobile Computing (PgC/PgD/MSc)
- Mobile Computer Systems (PgC/PgD/MSc)
- Mobile Computer Systems – via E-learning (PgC/PgD/MSc)

## Some key benefits of studying with us:

- Modern computing facilities
- Informed and up-to-date staff
- Easy access to tutors and award manager



Knowledge  
Transfer  
Partnerships



## Our key industry partnerships

**Well-established relationships with many of the leading names across the IT industry enable us to provide computing courses that are relevant, highly topical and have a real edge.**

### Microsoft MSDN

Staffordshire University is a member of the Microsoft Developer Network, the area of Microsoft responsible for managing relationships with hardware developers. This relationship provides students with a wide range of learning resources as well as access to use nearly all Microsoft software that has been made publicly available.

### The British Computer Society (BCS)

The leading body for those working in IT, the BCS is a registered charity with over 65,000 members and was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1984. Its objectives are to promote the study and practice of computing and to advance knowledge of and education in IT for the benefit of the public.

### Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP)

KTP is Europe's leading programme in helping businesses increase their competitiveness and productivity through the better use of knowledge, technology and skills that reside within the UK knowledge base. KTP membership ensures Staffordshire University computing students benefit from examples of applied IT in business and gain commercial knowledge and employability skills.

### The Institute for the Management of Information (IMIS)

A registered charity, IMIS is an international professional development association, devoted to supporting and promoting the profession of Information Systems Management, enhancing the status of those engaged in the profession and promoting higher standards through better education and training. Our membership of IMIS means access to best practice as an accredited body of knowledge.

# Superb teaching and course delivery

Regardless of the part-time computing course you choose, your studies will be supported by our team of highly qualified, enthusiastic and friendly academic staff, many of whom enjoy international reputations for research and consultancy within their specialist fields.

In addition to this, the campus has dedicated student advisors, as well as support from the University's extensive student welfare network.

## Valuable industrial experience

Placing over 300 full-time students a year all over the world, with many leading names across the field of IT, as well as numerous small-to-medium companies, ensures we are always fully up-to-speed with the latest industry trends, technologies and developments.

As the campus also attracts students from all over the world and has partner institutions in countries including Malaysia, Singapore and China, Staffordshire University is also an exceptionally cosmopolitan place to study.



# Superbly equipped

**Choosing to study your professional qualification in computing part-time at Staffordshire University means benefiting from considerable technical advice, specifically obtained with your course in mind.**

There are around 200 totally dedicated networked computers within the Stoke facility, with approximately one third upgraded every year. There are ample lecture theatres, as well as quiet study areas, areas for collaborative work and wireless study areas with laptop ports.



Over 200 high-specification Windows XP workstations

### Standard Software Installation includes:

- Adobe Acrobat Reader 8
- J2SE (JAVA SDK)
- McAfee Virus Scan 8.5i
- Mozilla Firefox
- Office 2007 Enterprise
- Oracle 9i Client
- Project 2007
- QuickTime
- Real Player
- SPSS 15
- SSADM 5.1
- Visio 2007
- Windows XP Pro SP2
- Winzip 8.0

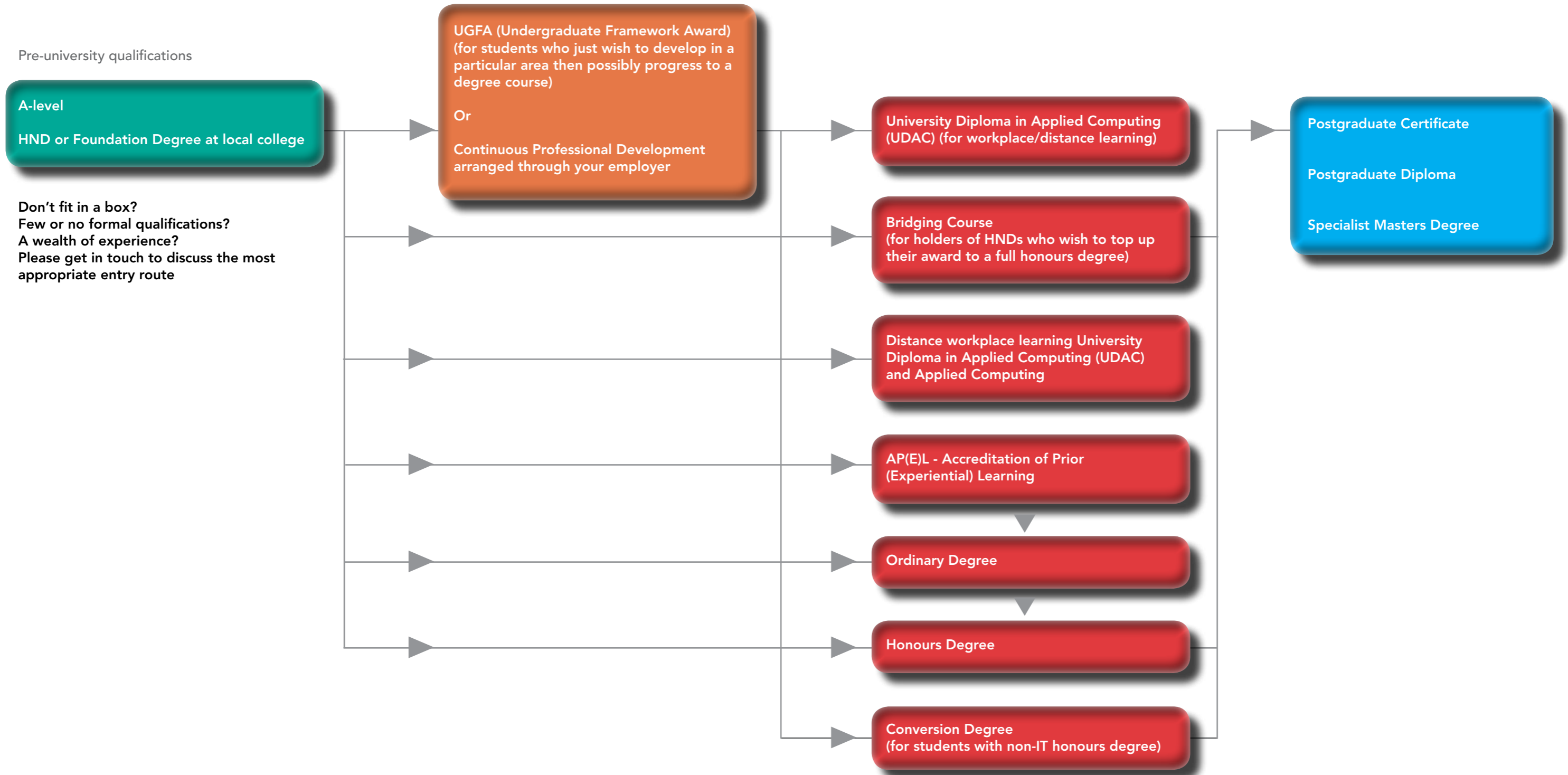
### Specialist software includes:

- Adobe Photoshop 7.0.1
- Adobe Premier Pro
- Audacity (.wav editor)
- Context (text editor)
- ECLIPSE IDE
- Feed Reader (RSS)
- FTP Surfer
- Macromedia Director MX 2004
- Macromedia Dreamweaver MX 2004
- Macromedia Flash MX 2004
- Macromedia Studio MX
- Microsoft Project 2003
- MS Virtual PC 2004
- SQL YOG
- Nero Burning ROM 6
- Visual Studio .Net 2005
- Windows Moviemaker
- Windows Media Encoder
- Winsurf
- Altova Studio – XMLSPY

# At what level can you study?

The chart below shows the various entry points – including experiential learning - for studying with us, right up to Masters level!

If you haven't studied since school or further education, or it's been a while since you received your degree, don't worry. Our helpful admissions team will be able to advise on exactly at what level you can commence your studies.





# Professional qualifications with a practical context

## William Edwards

William Edwards is an experienced IT professional who completed the University Diploma in Applied Computing in 2009 and is currently working towards his full degree in Applied Computing. The courses have provided a chance for William to learn new skills and apply them in the workplace.

## Christopher Lowden

Christopher Lowden works for the Ministry of Defence and wanted to get a computing qualification as part of his professional development within the forces. He has found the flexibility of the part-time course fits with his commitments to work, which often involve travel abroad. Christopher is due to graduate in 2010 with an Applied Computing degree.

## Melanie Charlesworth

Melanie Charlesworth works for a well-known company in Crewe, Cheshire. She found her role within the firm becoming increasingly IT-focused and used the part-time Applied Computing course to equip her with the skills to further her IT career development. Melanie graduated with 1st class honours in July 2009.

## Anne-Marie Ryan

Anne-Marie Ryan works in the business process area of a nationally-known building society. The society relies heavily on IT and Anne-Marie is studying a part-time Masters degree in Computing for Business to gain an IT qualification to augment her other qualifications and experience.

## Tony Giblin

Tony Giblin is a contract network systems consultant. Well-known in his field and much travelled, Tony is completing his part-time Masters degree in Computer Science. The award has helped him to broaden his knowledge beyond his specialism of networking.

## Laura Adams

Laura Adams is a qualified teacher and works locally in a primary school. The ICT content of her part-time Masters degree has been applied in the work place. Laura graduated in July 2009 and her MSc dissertation had an applied education context.



# At-a-glance course guide

Our range of part-time computing courses offers immense flexibility and enables us to put together a programme of learning to suit the needs of most individuals, as well as the professional development requirements of employers. Use our simple guide to decide which course is right for you, then read the full course details that follow.

## Undergraduate study – at-a-glance

Undergraduate Framework Award (UGFA) – Computing, Certificate in Continuous Professional Development  
This course is designed for people who wish to study one or more individual computing modules, in order to develop specific computing skills or as a taster prior to starting a full-time degree. Course length: 12 weeks per module (More than one module may be studied at once.)

## University Diploma in Applied Computing (UDAC) via E-learning

For students with a HND or equivalent, the Diploma is aimed at individuals looking for a relevant course of study in IT as part of their Continuous Professional Development. Run in association with Learn through Work, learning takes place over 3 modules in the workplace or by our Virtual Learning Environment and includes the option to tailor a module to your specific needs. Course length: 3 months - 2 years.

## BSc(Hons) Applied Computing via part-time or E-learning

A very flexible route to a degree in IT, this award blends together the most popular areas of study and includes topics such as systems analysis, database development, software development, Internet and e-commerce applications, networking and hardware. Course length: 2 – 5 years, based on half-day release for part-time study or can be progressed via E-learning.

## BSc(Hons) Applied Information Technology Degree Scheme

This flexible scheme allows you to choose from no less than 14 degree courses. The scheme integrates information systems, Internet commerce and multimedia with technology, computing and transferable skills to help you advance your professional skills and gain excellent career/promotion prospects. See full course listing for available options.

# Courses for computer graduates - at-a-glance

The following courses will typically require 2 - 5 years' part-time study:

## Computer Science (PgC, PgD, MSc)

This course is designed for computing graduates who would like to take a breadth of subjects at postgraduate level, in order to become a hardware specialist, networking specialist, software developer, analyst or computer systems manager. The course offers a choice of modules to extend your knowledge of computer-related science topics and requires you to include research methods.

## Computing for Business (PgC, PgD, MSc)

This course is for non-computing graduates who would like to study the area of computing at postgraduate level. With the possibility of an industry placement during the programme, you will be well-equipped to enter a wide variety of careers in IT and business in companies ranging from small software houses to large multinationals.

## Computing (PgC, PgD, MSc)

This course is for non-computing graduates who would like to study computing at postgraduate level, possibly with a view to seeking employment as a computer analyst, interface designer, computing manager or applications programmer. A wide range of specific options makes this a highly flexible Masters programme.

## Computing Solutions for Business (PgC, PgD, MSc)

This course takes graduates from computing/IT related disciplines into postgraduate studies. The aim of the course is to provide a thorough and deep knowledge of business computing related topics. As a student you, will be given the opportunity to examine a wide range of practices, subject areas and technologies.

## Mobile Computing (PgC, PgD, MSc)

This course is for non-computing graduates who would like to broaden their professional knowledge of mobile computing. A 12-month placement during the course provides valuable employment experience. Alternatively, those already employed in IT can select an integrated (work-based) project. On completion of the programme, you will be equipped to seek employment in the migration of legacy systems and mobile application design. Alternatively, you may wish to become a business analyst or IT manager.

## Mobile Computer Systems (PgC, PgD, MSc)

This course is for computing graduates who would like to extend their studies into the area of mobile computing and take a breadth of subjects at postgraduate level. A 12-month placement during the course provides valuable employment experience. Alternatively, those already employed in IT can select an integrated project. Completing this course will provide you with the necessary skills to seek employment as a mobile hardware or networking specialist, mobile systems software developer, analyst or computer systems manager.

Mobile Computer Systems – E-learning (PgC, PgD, MSc)  
This course is for computing graduates who would like to study our Mobile Computer Systems Course by distance or E-learning.

# Everything we do is for you

Choosing a university is one of the most important decisions you'll make.

That's why everything in our part-time course guide has been designed to help make finding and picking the course that's right for you as easy as possible.

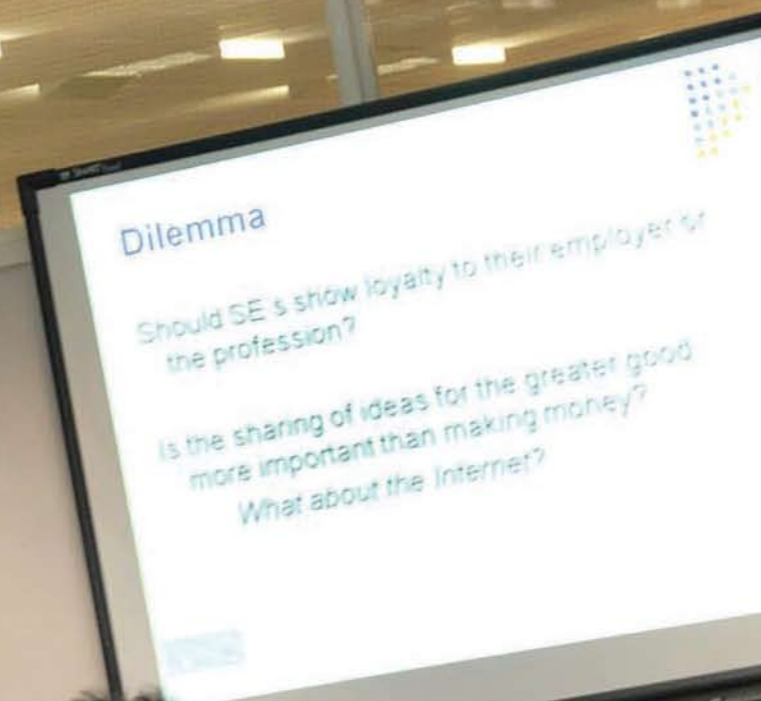
In fact, from the way our courses are described, to the opinions of real students, we've done everything possible to help you make the right choice.

At Staffordshire University, we're proud of what we do and we're especially proud of our students.

We've ploughed millions into facilities. We run over 800 highly respected courses.

And you can take it as read that as well as helping you achieve a superb qualification, we want you to thoroughly enjoy the experience of studying with us.

To find out more about us, and our facilities, visit [www.staffs.ac.uk](http://www.staffs.ac.uk)



## Exceeding your expectations

At Staffordshire University, we make sure the learning environment and facilities don't simply match your expectations, but exceed them.

In fact, we have recently invested over £5 million in new buildings and facilities to help make sure the opportunities we provide remain first class.

**Our Libraries and IT Centres are located at:**

Stoke, Stafford, Lichfield and Shrewsbury campuses, where you can use computers, take out and reserve books, plug in your laptop, access special collections and short loan items, use printing and photocopying facilities and visit Help Desks.

You can also go on our training courses and borrow professional presentation and audio-visual equipment.

### online information

As well as iPac (the library catalogue, where you can search books, journals, videos and CDs, DVDs and access your library account), we provide access to many databases, e-journals and texts and a vast range of other research and learning material available only to HE users.

As a student, you'll also enjoy free Internet access, free University email and access to our Information Services web pages. Access to some network services and your University email is available on any PC anywhere with access to the Internet.

**For more information, please visit:**

**[www.staffs.ac.uk/infozone](http://www.staffs.ac.uk/infozone) or  
[www.staffs.ac.uk/uniservices/infoservices/library/offcampus](http://www.staffs.ac.uk/uniservices/infoservices/library/offcampus)**

You can also contact us by phone and email and use our web pages for information, advice and support.

# What you need ...

When considering you for a place on a course, we don't just look at your qualifications. We look for...

- Motivation
- Commitment
- Willingness to learn

## Entry requirements

All applicants are individually assessed on their qualifications, skills and experience. However, typical offers are as follows:

**Foundation Degrees:** 100 UCAS tariff points from a minimum of 1 A level or a BTEC National Award, or a level 3 automotive or motorsport vocational qualification or equivalent.

**Bachelor Degree:** 240 UCAS tariff points from a minimum of 2x A levels, BTEC National Certificate or equivalent.

**Masters Degrees:** Undergraduate Degree at 2:ii or above in a Computing or related discipline.

# We value your work and life experience...

Rest assured, we won't ignore your life experiences. You may be able to use these to gain credit towards your course. We take into account Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL). You can use previous study or work, community or volunteer experience as credit to enable you to achieve qualifications in a shorter time.

By converting informal learning into certificated learning, APEL provides cost-effective routes to qualifications. It has potential significance for people who, through life and work experience, have gained knowledge, skills and analytical abilities that are comparable to those with a higher education award. Please discuss this opportunity with your Award Leader.

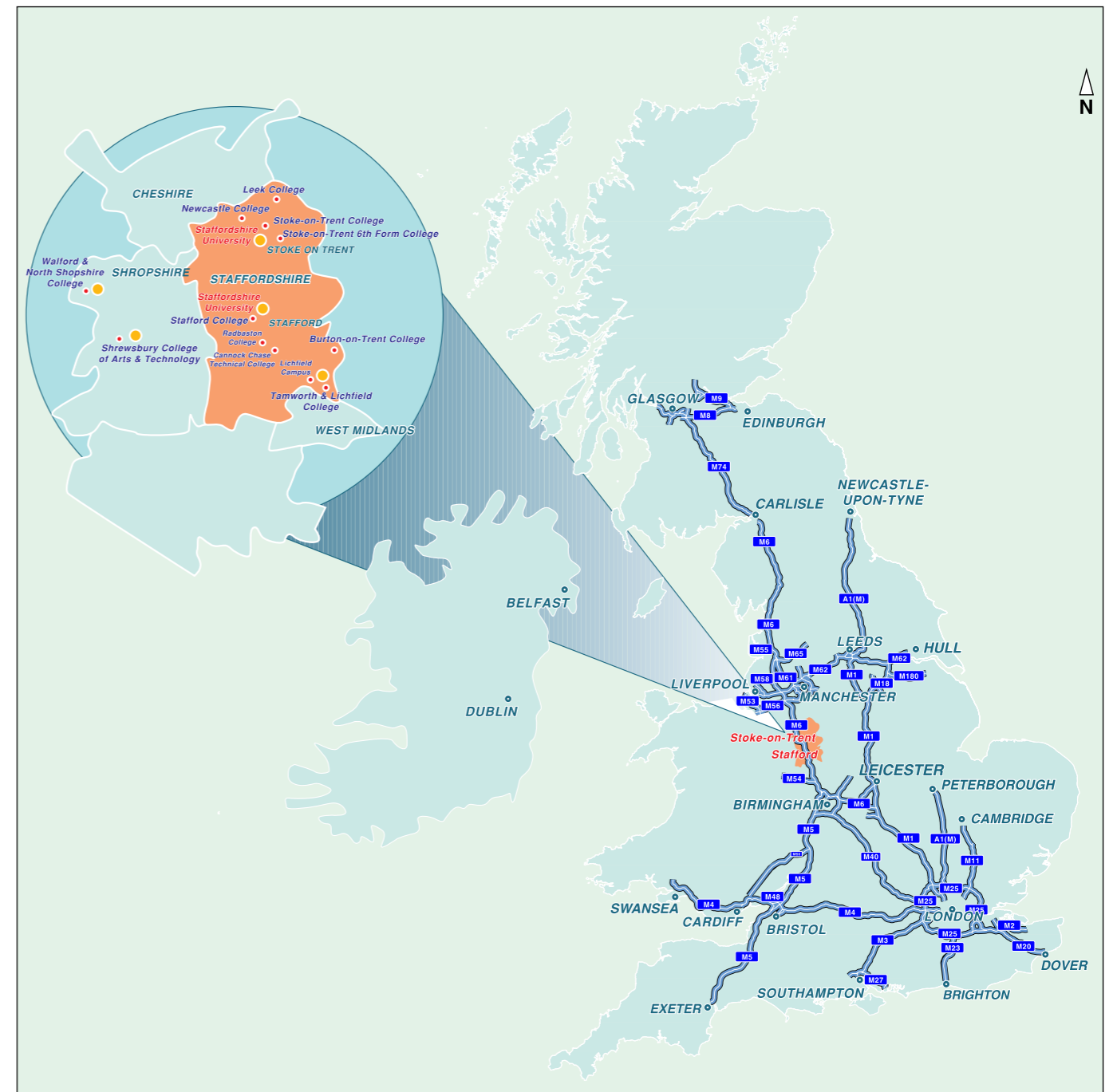
# what you need to know...

## contact us:

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e: r.w.allies@staffs.ac.uk

Please get in touch to discuss your options further, or to explore the most suitable starting point.

# where to find us







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