

Top-Up FAQ's

1. How long is the programme?
 - Two years part time study, running from January to December with a final graduation in the July of the following year (e.g. for 2021 entry, graduation for successful students would be in July 2023).
2. How does degree work?
 - The degree works like any traditional undergraduate programme at level H, and there are four taught modules and a final Civic Engagement dissertation focussed upon a particular project negotiated with your academic tutor.
3. How does it differ from the FdSc?
 - As well as being jointly delivered by the University and the PGA, the programme is different in that it is more academic and theoretical than your FdSc qualification was (in other words it may be more challenging and more academic than vocational). It is important to recognise that this may be a new type of challenge so will require the further development of skills and theoretical knowledge as it applies in the industry. It is not more of the same.
4. Where will lectures be delivered? –
 - The programme will be delivered online by staff from the University and the PGA National Training Academy (as appropriate on the module content). Online lectures will be supported by weekly group webinars/seminars, with online pre-recorded lectures, academic reading and other key materials.
5. Can it be done in one year?
 - No, part time allows you continue working whilst studying and the nature and level of study means that this is not possible.
6. How do I apply? – Through the PGA
 - All applications must be through the PGA (please contact them for an application form). Applications will be accepted until 1st October 2021, Successful candidates will be informed in early November 2021.
7. What are the entry criteria?
 - The minimum criteria to be considered for entry onto the programme is having passed the Foundation Degree with an overall average of more than 50%. However, where there is competition for places within each cohort then these may be allocated based upon Foundation Degree grades
8. How many places are available?
 - For 2022 entry, there are currently 20 places available.
9. What if I am not successful?
 - If you do not make it onto the degree, then there is no restriction to you applying by the October of the following year. Again, competition for places may apply.

10. Can I top up elsewhere?
- It is possible to take your Foundation Degree qualification elsewhere if you want to consider a change of focus or career. You would need to discuss what you currently have that degree programme provider, and what precisely they would expect you to undertake for their own qualification in order to gain a full degree.
11. Can I get a student loan?
- Yes, if you are entitled to receive one. Initially we would advise you to contact the Student Loans Company directly.
12. How much are the fees?
- The fees for 2021/22 entry are set at £4,250 per year for home/EU, and £5,500 for international students.
13. Which modules will I do in each year?
- The current modules you will study (from January 2022, the next year of entry) are:
 - Year 1 (2022):
 - Research Methods (20 credits)
 - Integrated Coaching (20 credits)
 - Leading and Managing People (20 credits)
 - Year 2 (2023):
 - Developing Professional Practice (20 credits)
 - Civic Engagement Dissertation (40 credits)
14. What are the assessments?
- Assessments range from essays, reports, online class tests and video presentations. More detail will be provided upon entry.
15. What are the module delivery dates?
- The module are delivered weekly with pre-recorded lectures, online tasks and a weekly face to face online seminar. These run during traditional term times:
 - Year 1 (2022)
 - Research Methods (20 credits) – January to March [Easter break]
 - Integrated Coaching (20 credits) – April – July [Summer break]
 - Leading and Managing People (20 credits) – September to December [Christmas break]
 - Year 2 (2023):
 - Developing Professional Practice (20 credits) – January to March [Easter break]
 - Civic Engagement Dissertation (40 credits) – January to December [Easter and Summer break]
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16. How is it delivered?
- Online, to accommodate your work commitments. A weekly hour of time (which will be discussed with all successful applicants prior to the programme) will be set up for the weekly face to face webinar sessions.

17. What about re-sits?
- In line with University of Birmingham regulations at level H, you cannot retrieve a failed module (i.e. there are no resits whatsoever). Failing a module may also put your Honours degree in jeopardy.
18. What is the system with assignment submissions?
- All submissions are online through Canvas (the University VLE).
19. Which VLE will I be using?
- For those students who have graduated from the Foundation Degree recently, the VLE is Canvas with which you will be familiar with.
20. What happens with my Foundation Degree Certificate?
- Your Foundation Degree and Certificate must be returned to the University, and for successful candidates it will be replaced by a BSc (Hons) Professional Golf Studies degree certificate. Since you have already studied and gained two thirds of a BSc degree qualification, you cannot then claim to have both. So, your Foundation Degree qualification would be replaced by a BSc (Hons) qualification.
21. If I am successful, can I then say that I have both an FdSc & BSc?
- No, you cannot, as you would be double counting qualifications.
22. Can I still get a degree if I fail a module?
- University Regulations on progression and award will be followed however it is still possible to get an Honours degree if you fail one 20 credit taught module. Anyone who ends up in a situation like this will be counselled carefully.
23. How is my final degree classification calculated?
- This is based entirely upon your level I (FdSc) and level H work. These are calculated as 25% level I and 75% level H marks.
24. What if I cannot attend/miss sessions?
- The weekly seminars will be recorded and available on Canvas, however because of the level and nature of the work, the expectation is that you will attend sessions. Students who do not attend or engage may be subject to due diligence procedures from the University.
25. What are the commitments I need to be aware of?
- You need to be 100% sure that you have the time and opportunities available to you to undertake the programme. Being busy at work or other golf commitments will not be seen as adequate reasons for extensions or Extenuating Circumstances appeals. It is important that students who are successful in obtaining a place on the programme can attend online lectures/tutorials/seminars; are able to appropriately pay fees; and can meet the required hand-in dates for coursework.
26. What can I do with a BSc afterwards?
- Having a BSc (Hons) degree may open more doors for you within the industry, may make it easier for you to gain a visa to work abroad and is often a pre-requisite for undertaking further Masters level degree study. It is also a pre-requisite for postgraduate professional qualifications like teacher training (which often requires you to achieve a 2:1 degree or above).

27. Who do I contact for more information?

- If you have further questions, please contact Dr Martin Toms (m.r.toms@bham.ac.uk) or Simon Hubbard (simon.hubbard@pga.org.uk).