

**DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD**

Course Title	<b>FdA Additional Support Needs</b>
Awarding Bodies	<b>University of Suffolk</b>
Level of Award <sup>1</sup>	<b>FHEQ Level 5</b>
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	<b>None</b>
Credit Structure <sup>2</sup>	<b>120/240 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits</b>
Mode of Attendance	<b>Full-time</b>
Standard Length of Course <sup>3</sup>	<b>2 years full-time</b>
Intended Award	<b>FdA Additional Support Needs</b>
Named Exit Awards	<b>Cert HE Additional Support Needs</b>
Entry Requirements <sup>4</sup>	<b>Ability to gain paid or voluntary work in an appropriate care or educational setting.  Level 2 English Language, 80 UCAS points (or above)  This course is not open to visa sponsored students (those students sponsored by the University under the student route)</b>
Delivering Institution(s)	<b>University of Suffolk at East Coast College (Lowestoft campus)</b>
UCAS Code	X161

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the **FdA Additional Support Needs** course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2025-26 academic year<sup>5</sup>.

**Course Summary**

The Foundation degree of the Arts in Additional Support Needs places a strong emphasis on the holistic development of individuals across the lifespan. The curriculum is designed to support students to recognise and address the diverse needs of individuals they may work

<sup>1</sup> For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

<sup>3</sup> Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#).

<sup>4</sup> Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#).

<sup>5</sup> The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

## DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

with, with a focus on enabling them to provide support tailored to each person's unique characteristics and requirements.

Inclusion, equality, diversity, and rights are fundamental themes that run through the entire programme. The course places a significant emphasis on work-based learning, providing students with the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge in real-world settings. The reflective aspect of this practice ensures that students can connect their learning experiences to their specific contexts, personalizing their educational journey. Students are encouraged to broaden their expertise, reflecting on its application and potential utilisation within their respective sectors.

### Course Aims

- To engage in work-based learning to develop skills and knowledge to support professional practice and enhance employability.
- Develop knowledge and a critical understanding of the learning and development needs of individuals across the lifespan.
- Develop appropriate values and beliefs for working as part of these workforces.
- Develop awareness of research methods and methodologies.
- Develop knowledge and a critical understanding of the regulatory and legislative framework for working in Additional Support roles.
- Develop key transferable employability skills.

### Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the **FdA Additional Support Needs** course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 5 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)<sup>6</sup>.

1. Demonstrate knowledge and an understanding of theoretical concepts applicable to Additional Support Needs.
2. Deploy established techniques of analysis and enquiry used within relevant subjects
3. Demonstrate ability to evaluate evidence from different perspectives to reach sound judgements and communicate them effectively.
4. Demonstrate appropriate ethics, values and beliefs for working with individuals with additional support needs including anti-discriminatory practice and equality of opportunity.
5. Demonstrate knowledge and an understanding of the ideological, regulatory and legislative frameworks for the services within which they and others work.
6. Demonstrate reflection and development of personal professional knowledge and skills.
7. Support the overall development and wellbeing of those they work with.
8. Critically evaluate the development and application of theory to practice through work-based learning and reflection
9. Acquire qualities and transferable skills essential for employment and advancement, demonstrating personal responsibility and decision-making.

### Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks / Professional Standards

- **National Occupational Standards Health & Social Care (2012)**

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<sup>6</sup> As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

## DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

- **National Occupational Standards for Learning Development Support Services (2021)**
- **Department for Education: SEND Code of Practice (2014)**
- **QAA Foundation Degree Benchmarks (2010)**

### Course Structure

The FdA Additional Support Needs comprises modules at levels 4 and 5.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type <sup>7</sup>
Level 4			
1	Personal Professional Development & Reflective Practice	20	M
2	Safeguarding	20	R
3	Equality & Diversity in Practice	20	R
4	Psychological and Sociological Perspectives	20	R
5	Supporting Mental Health (through the Lifespan)	20	R
6	Understanding Neurodiversity: Enabling Inclusive practice	20	R
Level 5			
1	Advocacy and Empowerment	20	R
2	Coaching and Motivational Interventions	20	R
3	Co-production and Collaborative Working	20	R
4	Ethical decision making in practice	20	R
5	Research in Practice	20	M
6	Leadership and Project Management	20	R

### Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a Foundation Degree of the Arts in Additional Support Needs. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a CertHE in Additional Support Needs on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at level 4.

### Course Delivery

The course is delivered at East Coast College, Lowestoft campus. Students studying full-time on FdA Additional Support Needs are likely to have approximately 216 contact hours for level 4 and 180 contact hours for level 5. The contact hours will be a mix of lecture, seminar, and tutorial and students will also be required to participate in a minimum of ten hours per week

<sup>7</sup> Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#)

## DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

(during semesters) of paid or voluntary work placement in an appropriate setting (e.g. education or social care). Students will be expected to find their own placement. Students will normally be expected to undertake 10 hours of independent study in an average week but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

### Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be coursework including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects.

### Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute [and are registered with the appropriate professional body (i.e. NMC, SWE or HCPC)].

### Course Costs

Students undertaking FdA Additional Support Needs will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£8,220 per year
Part-time UK	£1,370 per 20 credit module
Full-time EU/International	£15,090 per year
Part-time EU/International	£2,515 per 20 credit module

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Students will be required to pay additional costs for any trips, amounting to a maximum of £200 payable at a later date although attendance at these is optional.

### Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).