

Frequently asked questions

What happens if I miss a grade?

We understand that your exam performance might not always go to plan and so we aim to be as flexible as we can be in making you an offer to study with us. Although our typical offer requirements are AAA/AAB we also consider students with ABB to be highly competitive applicants for our courses. Our advice is to get in touch with the School if you would like to discuss your offer in more detail via bns.ugadmin@ncl.ac.uk.

What are class sizes like?

We have 25 places on the dietetics programme at Newcastle University, so there is a good opportunity to get to know all of your classmates and for your lecturers to get to know you. However, in some modules you will also be taught alongside students from nutrition and biomedical sciences so could be in classes of up to 400 students.

How will I be taught?

Our teaching methods include traditional lectures, seminars/workshops and practicals as well as utilising a blended learning approach. In a number of modules, you will be provided with pre-recorded lectures as well as online tasks and activities. You will complete these in advance of classes, where you will subsequently undertake group work, case studies and problem-based learning.

How will I be assessed?

We use a range of assessment methods which have been carefully designed to achieve the Aims and Learning Outcomes of the individual modules, and to support you in applying your knowledge so that you are 'work-ready'. You will complete oral presentations, scientific reports, case studies, practical and written examinations. Our exams include questions in a variety of forms (multiple-choice, short answer, essays and case studies).

Where will my placements take place?

Your placements are integrated into the programme in each year of your studies. We utilise a variety of placement settings in years 1 and 2 to expose students to different environments applicable to the work of dietitians e.g. hospital catering, foodbanks, care homes, community settings. In years 2, 3 and 4, students will also complete placements in NHS Trusts which are located across the North and North East of England. Some placement locations may be some distance from Newcastle such that you may choose to re-locate during these periods.

Are there any additional requirements or costs?

Due to the professional and vocational nature of your course, during your studies there may be some additional activities and costs. These may be for equipment, uniforms, professional memberships, health and character checks etc.. Some practice placements may be undertaken during normal University vacation periods. This means that undertaking paid work during those times may be limited. Placement locations and experiences will predominantly be within the North East of England but there may be additional travel or dual accommodation costs. Subject to eligibility, some students may be reimbursed through the Learning Support Fund from the NHS Business Services Authority. You can find out more here: [NHS Learning Support Fund | NHSBSA](#).

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What is the timetable like?

Our timetable varies to some extent from week to week and across the four years of the degree programme. In 1st year, students can expect an average of 17 hours of scheduled classes per week – but additional preparatory and reflective activities will be required for most sessions.

What personal support is available?

When you start university you will be assigned a personal tutor who will be responsible for guiding and advising you. Your tutor can help with matters relating to your course and can also advise about sources of support if you have personal difficulties. It is important that you develop a good relationship with your tutor, so we allow you to change your tutor on request if necessary, or to ask for a tutor of your gender. To ensure you receive excellent support our tutors are assigned no more than 4 new students each year, so each tutor has a maximum of 12 tutees. There are also senior tutors as well as peer mentors (current 2nd or 3rd year students) who offer additional layers of academic and pastoral support. The University in general has a very well-developed support network, including a student advice centre, counselling service, and disability support. Bespoke Student Support Plans (SSPs) can be put in place for students requiring additional adjustments to support their study. Further information is available on the website at: <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/wellbeing/>

What is the social aspect like?

Newcastle is a vibrant city famed for its friendliness and social life, and the University is no exception. There is a vast range of extracurricular activities, societies, and sports teams to take part in, many of which offer free or cheap trials in order to encourage students to get involved and make friends.

Is there a reading list to prepare me for the start of the course?

We do not send out a reading list in advance as we feel you should enjoy your summer and come to University feeling refreshed and ready to study. However, we are happy to advise students who wish to do additional reading before they start. Please contact our administration team on bns.ugadmin@ncl.ac.uk for more information.

Will I be able to combine part-time work with my studies?

A number of our students have part-time jobs, but it is important to balance any commitments to an employer with your University studies so that your studies do not suffer and you do not subject yourself to unnecessary stress. The academic teaching day runs from 9am-6pm Monday to Friday apart from Wednesdays which are 9am-1pm, although placements experiences may have different days and hours, so you must ensure you are available to attend University during these times. Whilst we appreciate many students need to work part-time for financial reasons, it is important not to commit to too many hours and we suggest 15 hours per week as a maximum (less than this as you progress through the course) alongside careful planning. More information about work can be found on our Careers website: <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/careers/jobs/parttime/>