



## **PARTNERS ACADEMIC SUMMER SCHOOL 2025**

### **Syllabus for Combined Honours**

#### **Subject Area**

This syllabus is for PARTNERS applicants seeking to progress to the degrees of:

- Y001 BA Hons Combined Honours
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#### **Aims**

To allow students to demonstrate their potential to succeed in specified degree programmes by showing a grasp of entry-level subject-specific knowledge, understanding, cognitive and subject-specific skills.

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#### **Learning Outcomes**

A good knowledge and understanding of ...

- What it is like to be a student in the Combined Honours Centre at Newcastle University
- Our Partners week focuses on personal development and reflection, understanding of the options available to you and preparation for your forthcoming degree (with us)
- The academic literacies required for Higher Education and learn about the schemes and societies available to you through Combined Honours to support you through your chosen degree pathway.
- What it is like to study with us, within a learning environment that simulates an authentic university experience and based on readings and other resources that echo this.
- Our week looks at student experience, student engagement, student voice and the expectations of higher education
- The ability to apply this knowledge and critical understanding to...
- To support well-considered decision making about your future subject and module selections, then to begin to explore the interconnections between subject selections and interests.
- The importance of collaboration and relationship with peers and understanding how and where your interests may overlap.

- Issues of identity and representation when in higher education; our week will offer opportunities to think about how students gain a sense of belonging at university and what to expect from the transition to higher education.

The ability to apply this knowledge and critical understanding to...

- The formative assessment for Combined Honours is a reflective piece of working asking students to:
  - Identify one key lesson or experience you are taking away from our Combined Honours input
  - Explain how you have arrived at that point in your understanding
  - Comment on how this experience or lesson will influence your decision making about university and why that is?

Competence in...

- Self-reflection and evaluative discussion, as there will be opportunities for both oral and written academic reflection.
  - Navigating and accessing the support networks, opportunities and degree pathways available in Combined Honours at Newcastle.
  - Understanding personal motivation, self-confidence and resilience; this understanding is needed to frame decisions and thoughts related to future educational pathways.
  - The week will also offer students a chance to become better informed and more confident about their degree choice, and so having gained competencies in judgement and decision making and interpersonal effectiveness.
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## Summer School Syllabus

Utilising the experience and learning offered this week in order to make an informed decision about whether Combined Honours is the most suitable programme for you in your transition to Higher Education. The programme also seeks to offer opportunities to build networks and a sense of cohort identity with other widening participation students likely to be starting the programme together in September. Pre entry peer support and early familiarisation with university systems and procedures is proven to be beneficial to widening participation students as this increases a sense of emotional security and confidence in the first semester.

Monday 30th June

- 10am: Welcome and Introduction to the CH Staff
- Learn about the activities of the week
- Introducing the CH work and social space
- Icebreakers
- Workshop 11pm: Undergraduate Future in CH and Transition to University (icebreakers)

- Workshop 12noon: Introducing Assessments in CH and our assessment this week (icebreakers)
- Teaching Method- Workshops – requiring student led participation and some teaching led sections
- 2pm Talk (from our) Combined Honours Engagement and Support Team
- Teaching Method: Staff led information session
- 3pm: Lecture and Seminar: A taster to the Combined Honours Social Justice Module
- To include briefing on the fieldwork task for Tuesday : Locating Social Justice in Newcastle
- Teaching Method: Lecture will be staff led, seminar section of the afternoon to be student led interaction including small group work.

#### Tuesday 1st July

- 9am Group Planning for our Locating Social Justice in Newcastle fieldwork
- Teaching Method: informal group planning session – student led
- Fieldwork: 10am-12pm noon Student guides will take you to see all the essential places for CH Students on campus, plus work on the topic 'Social Justice in Newcastle'
- 12noon: Project Presentation Work – computer cluster
- Teaching Method: Student Led sessions supported by student guide
- Lunch break 1pm- 2pm
- Presentations 2pm - student groups will present their findings, round up and instruction on online learning ahead.
- Teaching method: Students to led their own presentations. Instruction for the forthcoming week staff led.

#### Wednesday 3rd July

- Navigating the specifics of a Combined Honours Degree
  - Academic Session - Info Bite 1: Working Together- Cohort Identity
  - Academic Session- Info Bite 2: Your degree pathway (The Degree Tree)
  - Academic Session- Info Bite 3: Internationalising Your Degree
  - Academic Session - Info Bite 4: What to expect in the later stages of your degree?
- Info Bites are recorded video sessions accompanied by optional student engagement activities.

#### Thursday 4th July

- Future thinking- Making the most of your Combined Honours degree
  - Academic Session - Info Bite 5: The Dis/Advantages of being a Combined Honours Student
  - Academic Session – Info Bite 6: Making the most of your Combined Honours Degree

- Info Bites are recorded video sessions accompanied by optional student engagement activities.

Friday 5th July

- Belonging and Representation as a Combined Honours Student
  - Academic Session- Info Bite 7: Belonging and Representation at Newcastle
- Info Bites are recorded video sessions accompanied by optional student engagement activities.

Live Q and A sessions provided on each day involve a guest speaker, with opportunities for student to question the speaker on the topic of the day.

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### **Activities for Personal Study**

Students will be provided with reading and post-Class activities to complete during the Summer School. Reading will be provided via the Library Reading List feature within Canvas; exercise will be posted on Canvas before the Summer School commences.

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### **On-Campus Teaching:**

Sunday 29th June (PM), Monday 30th June & Tuesday 1st July

### **Online Teaching:**

Wednesday 2nd, Thursday 3rd & Friday 4th (AM only) July

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### **Formative Assessment Details**

Either a 750-word written reflection or 3min 30sec audio reflection  
More details will be given during the event by your Academic Strand Lead.

### **Hand-in Method**

Digital

### **Assessment deadline**

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July, 12pm