

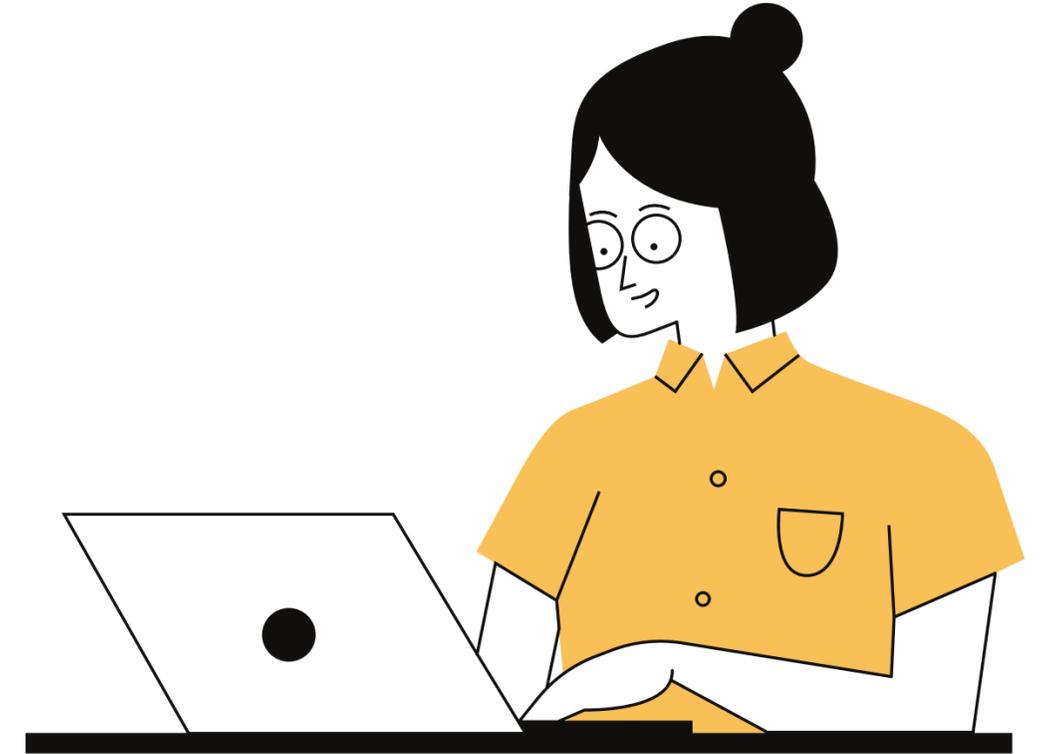


Articulation: A guide for Care Experienced Students



What does 'articulation' actually mean?

The Scottish Funding Council (which funds all colleges and universities in Scotland) defines articulation as "a student gaining entry into second year of a degree with a Higher National Certificate (HNC) gained at a college, or into third year with a Higher National Diploma (HND) gained at college."



So, articulation is a pathway between colleges and universities that enables students to finish their college course then transition to university using the qualifications they've already achieved.

This means that if you have achieved an HNC or an HND at college and want to go to university, you may be able to go straight into the second or third year of your course. This could save you time and money!

Why is it helpful for Care Experienced students to know about articulation?



At Who Cares? Scotland we know from statistics and from our work with Care Experienced people that college is a really important route into education for Care Experienced learners.

We also know that as a Care Experienced person, there are obstacles you might face which could make it more difficult to go straight from school to university, or which interrupt your studies. These might include moving placement, attending hearings during class time, having trouble with housing or homelessness, problems with mental health, financial worries, not having access to the equipment you need and not knowing who to ask for advice and support. These are just some examples, but we know that every Care Experienced learner's journey is different.

However, if you find that you have to take a break from studying and return at a later point in your life, or if you're currently at college, or thinking about going to college or university in the future - articulation could be a great option for you in ultimately achieving a degree.

Whatever your path in education, you deserve to be supported in making the most of the qualifications you have gained so far, while also saving time and money. It's important too that you get the opportunity to keep moving forward in your learning, rather than repeating what you have learned at college when you move on to university.

Potential articulation routes

To be able to articulate, the higher national qualifications you hold must be relevant to those in the degree programme you want to enter. It's important to think carefully about what you'd like to study, so that you can plan your future and what your path might look like.

An articulation route is created when colleges and universities work together to ensure that what you learn at HNC and HND matches with what you go on to learn at university in getting your degree e.g. with an HND in Accounting (and final units graded at AAA) you could get into third year BA (Hons) Accounting at Glasgow Caledonian University*.

Not all universities have articulation routes in place. It's important to do some research about which routes are available into the course you would like to study, and the college and university you would like to attend.

Articulation routes can also be called 'Progression Routes' or you may see that some universities refer to 'Advanced Entry'. 'Advanced Entry' is when you can use your grades from school or college to go into second or third year of university, 'skipping' years.

* This may change, students should always check with the university.



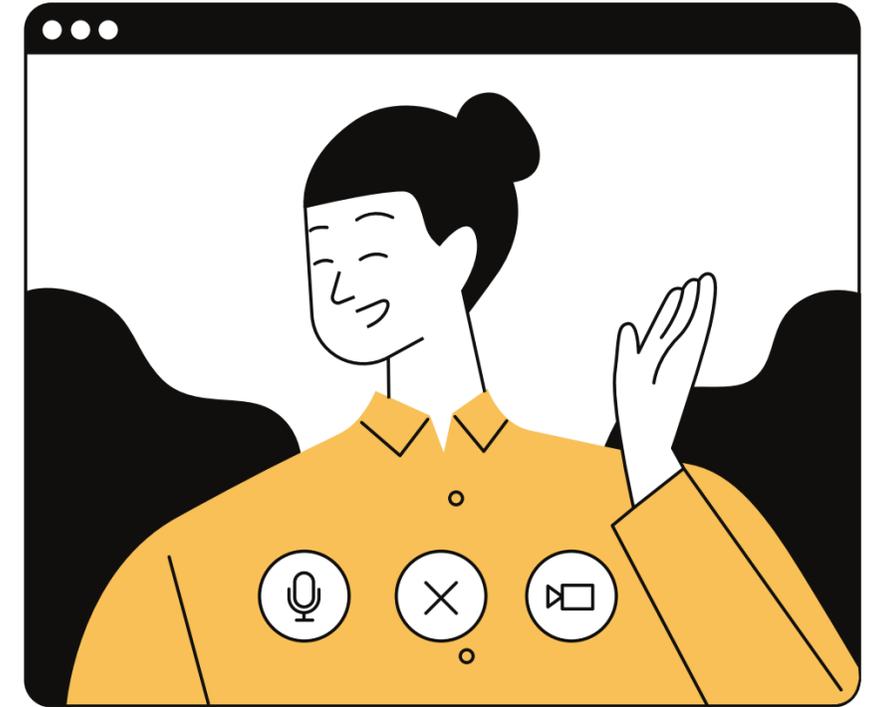
Why choose articulation?

In considering whether articulation is right for you - it's important that you know you have options. It might be that although you would like to get a degree eventually, you don't feel ready to go straight to university, or that you don't have the grades or subjects you need for the university course you'd like to apply to just yet. It could be that you are returning to education after taking some time away.

Studying at college can be a different experience to studying at university. College offers more classroom time and there is often a blended approach to learning (for example, some online learning in your own time, some learning in a class with a tutor) which can suit some Care Experienced students who benefit from the support but also the flexibility.

Learning rather than earning can be expensive. Gaining an HNC then HND at college then going into first year of university would take 5 or 6 years, which is a long time to be a student! However, choosing an articulation route could see you get your degree in four years - the same amount of time as a student starting their university course in first year - as you would enter university in year two or three, having done one or two years at college.

COVID-19 is impacting how colleges and universities teach their students in the new academic year and beyond. [The National Articulation Forum report](#) published in 2020 highlighted the role articulation will play in Scotland's recovery and renewal from the pandemic. Colleges and universities are being encouraged to create more flexible learning opportunities and to work more closely and collaboratively.



Q & A

I'd like to go to university, but I want to go to college first. How do I know what course to pick to articulate to the university I want to attend?

If you are at school, speak to your Skills Development Scotland (SDS) worker. You can also contact the college and/or university you would like to attend to ask about your options. You could speak to Student Services at college. At university, you could talk to the Widening Participation Team for advice. Some institutions have specific staff available to talk to you about articulation. Every college and university has a Care Experienced student contact - their details can be found on [the Propel website](#).

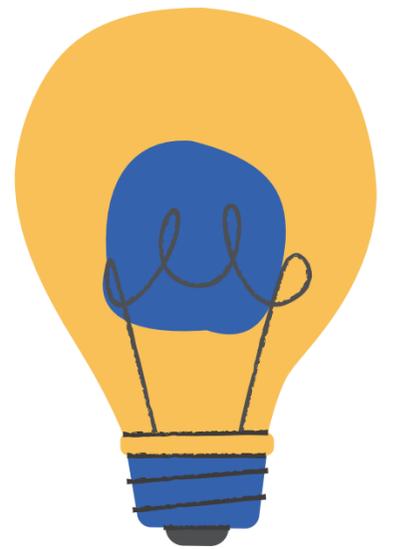


I'm already at college, who do I speak to about my options to articulate to university?

Some universities in Scotland have specific staff who support students who wish to articulate. You can find this information on their website or ask [the named point of contact](#) for Care Experienced students. It could also help to speak to Student Services or the named point of contact for Care Experienced students within your college, they might be aware of particular progression routes from your course to certain universities.

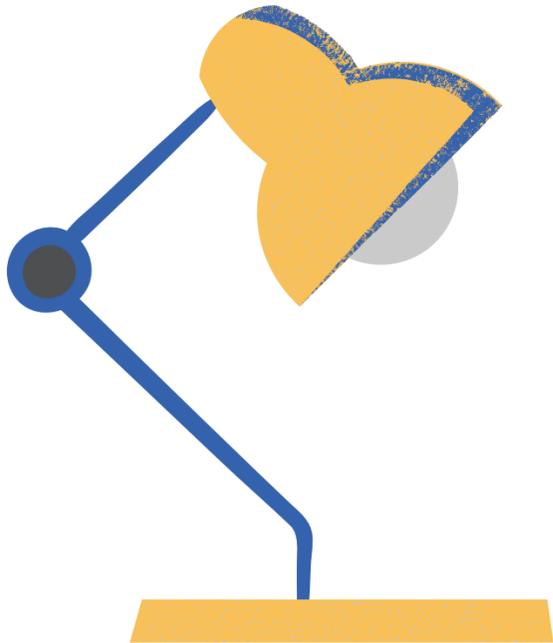
I'm in my 2nd year at university but I have an HND in a relevant subject to my course. Could I have articulated? How do I find this out?

Whilst you have completed an HND and will have gained qualifications and relevant credits, the course content may not fully align with the course you are now studying, meaning 2nd year entry may not be an option. The college you attended may not have an articulation route with your university. You should discuss this with [the named point of contact for Care Experienced students](#) at your university.



Will I be funded throughout my HN and degree?

The SAAS Care Experienced Student Bursary can fund you throughout your HN and degree which is usually 4 years of study for an honours degree. SAAS state that they will fund 4 years study, plus 1. The 'plus 1' year is an extra year of funding. This extra funding can be used if you have to repeat a year of studies, change your course, or for first year of entry to your degree when you already hold an HND. Care Experienced students are entitled to two 'plus one' years if they require it to complete their studies. To learn more, [contact SAAS](#). If you are studying nursing or midwifery you don't apply for the SAAS Care Experience Bursary you apply for the [SAAS Nursing and Midwifery Student Bursary](#), but don't worry, you are awarded the same amount of money as the Care Experienced Student Bursary.



What if I want to start at first year in university and not go directly into second or third year?

This would be dependent on the course and the university. Some universities reserve places in the first year of their courses for students entering university with Higher qualifications, so it may not be possible to choose to enter in first year when you hold an HNC or HND. To find out more, it would be a good idea to speak to [the point of contact for Care Experienced students](#) at the university you wish to attend, who will be able to discuss what their policy is around entering first year with HNs.



Which colleges and universities have articulation agreements in place?

Many universities have articulation routes in place, but there are some institutions that are more likely to offer it. [Focus Point](#) have gathered information about articulation routes from some of the most popular college courses in Scotland into universities in Edinburgh, Stirling, Glasgow and The West. If you are interested in studying in the East of Scotland [the Pathways website](#) has information on articulation agreements between colleges and universities in those regions.



I'm nervous about entering in 2nd or 3rd year, I won't know anyone and what if the course content feels really different to what I've already studied?

This is completely understandable and you're not alone in feeling this way. Some students have [described articulation](#) as an empowering experience. Course content is carefully considered by colleges and universities to make sure it's similar. Support is available too. For example, some universities offer specific transition support on campus where they make sure you're familiar with the building, their timetabling systems, how to use the library and generally support you to feel more prepared.

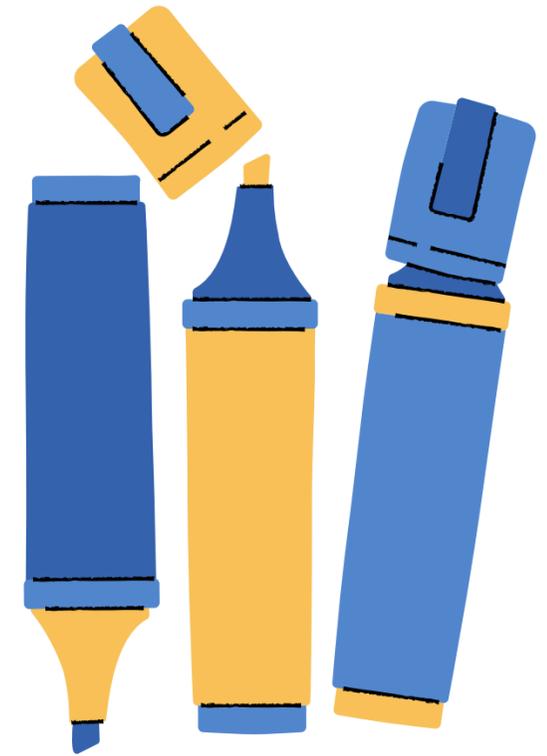


The university I want to study at won't give me an offer to enter in second or third year, only in first year. Is there anything I can do about this?

If you have questions about the potential pathway into the university of your choice, [contact the named point of contact](#) for Care Experienced students at that institution.

Not all HNCs or HNDs have an articulation route directly into 2nd or 3rd year. Courses which meet the requirements for articulation have a pre-arranged agreement and articulation route between the college and the university. This curriculum will be mapped out to support the transition between the two.

If there was an articulation agreement between your college and university and you achieved the acquired grades, then an articulation route should be offered. If an agreement is not in place, and a student has an HN that isn't usually accepted, then the university may offer a lower entry point.



I've been offered a place at university in third year, but I want to start in second year. Can I do this?

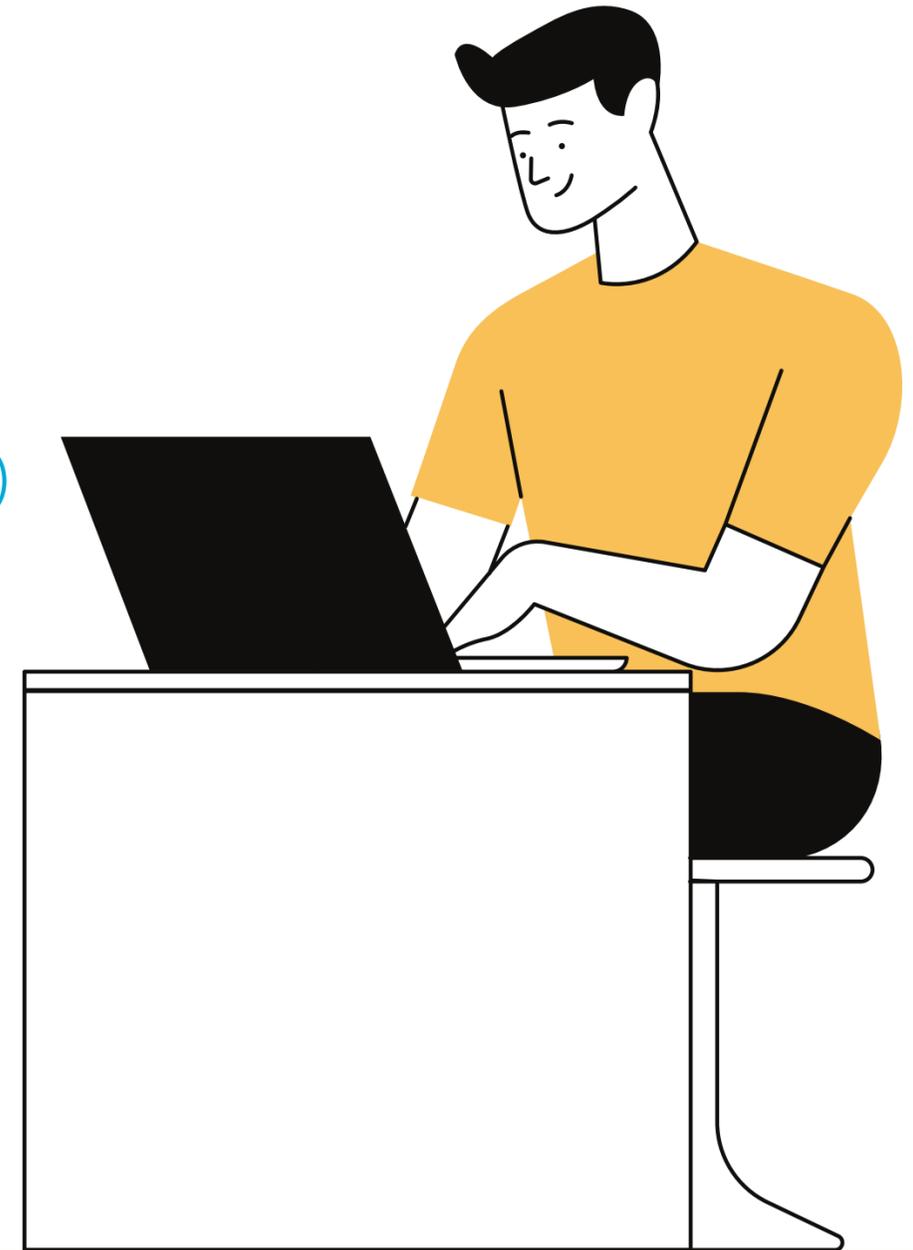


This can be looked at by your university on an individual case by case basis. The SFC guidance does state that where appropriate full credit for HNs (advanced standing) should be provided and the student should move to the relevant years study via the agreed articulation route. This is only guidance and is designed to ensure students are able to receive full credit. It is vital you are supported and feel ready to study at the level you enter university at. As a Care Experienced student in receipt of the SAAS Care Experienced bursary you will be funded for an extra 2 years over and above the 4 year degree. [Contact them to discuss your options.](#)

Articulation resources

- [The National Articulation Forum Report](#)
- [National Articulation Forum Report Summary \(9 Key Learnings\)](#)
- [Propel](#)
- [Focus Point - Progression Routes](#) (Glasgow & The West, Edinburgh & Stirling)
- [Pathways](#) (East Coast)
- [Scottish Wider Access Programme \(SWAP\)](#) (National, East and West)

If you have any questions about articulation, feel free to contact the Training & Education Team by emailing corporateparenting@whocarescotland.org. We're happy to help in any way we can.



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SCOTLAND