

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	HNC Computing
Awarding Bodies	Pearson
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 4
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	120 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time
Standard Length of Course ³	1 year full-time
Intended Award	HNC Computing
Named Exit Awards	None
Entry Requirements ⁴	60 UCAS tariff points or above (or the equivalent)
Delivering Institution(s)	East Coast College (Lowestoft 6th Form campus)
UCAS Code	I101

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the HNC Computing course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2022-23 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

The Pearson BTEC Level 4 HNC Computing offers students a broad introduction to the subject area via a mandatory core of learning, while allowing for the acquisition of skills and experience through the selection of optional units across a range of occupational sectors at Level 4. This effectively builds underpinning core skills while preparing the student for subject specialisation at Level 5. Students will gain a wide range of sector knowledge tied to practical skills gained in research, self-study, directed study and workplace scenarios.

Course Aims

- Demonstrate a sound knowledge of the basic concepts of the global computing sector;
- Communicate accurately and appropriately in a range of formats;
- Develop the skills necessary for employment, requiring some degree of personal responsibility;

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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

³ 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.

⁴ 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](#).

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

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- Develop transferable skills including effective team working, implementation of personal initiatives, demonstrating organisational competence and problem-solving strategies;
- Demonstrate adaptability and flexibility in approaches to computing;
- Demonstrate a degree of resilience under pressure and to meet challenging targets within a given resource.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from HNC Computing 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 4 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

1. To equip students with computing skills, knowledge and the understanding necessary to achieve high performance in the global computing environment.
2. To provide education and training for a range of careers in computing, including network engineering, software engineering, data analytics, security, intelligent systems, and applications development.
3. To provide insight and understanding into international computing operations and the opportunities and challenges presented by a globalised market place.
4. To equip students with knowledge and understanding of culturally diverse organisations, cross-cultural issues, diversity and values.
5. To provide opportunities for students to enter or progress in employment in computing, or progress to higher education qualifications such as an Honours degree in computing or a related area.
6. To provide opportunities for students to develop the skills, techniques and personal attributes essential for successful working lives.
7. To provide opportunities for those students with a global outlook to aspire to international career pathways.
8. To provide opportunities for students to achieve a nationally recognised professional qualification.
9. To provide opportunities for students to achieve vendor accredited certifications.
10. To offer students the chance of career progression in their chosen field.
11. To allow flexibility of study and to meet local or specialist needs.
12. To offer a balance between employability skills and the knowledge essential for students with entrepreneurial, employment or academic aspirations.

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks:

- QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Computing (2019);
- QAA Framework for UK Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) (2014).

Course Structure

The HNC Computing comprises units at levels 4.

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

	Unit	Credits	Unit Type ⁷
Level 4			
4	Programming	15	M
4	Networking	15	M
4	Professional Practice	15	M
4	Database Design and Development	15	M
4	Security	15	M
4	Managing a Successful Computing Project (Pearson set)	15	M
4	Computer Systems Architecture	15	R
4	Website Design and Development	15	R

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a HNC Computing.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Lowestoft Sixth Form College as part of the University of Suffolk at East Coast College. Students studying full-time on HNC Computing are likely to have approximately 12 contact hours for level 4 per week. The year is divided into two 15 week semesters, of which 12 are teaching weeks, with 3 per semester devoted to assessment activities and preparation for Assessment Boards. The contact hours will be a mix of class sessions (lecture, seminar), practical activities, developmental workshop sessions and tutorials. Students will normally be expected to undertake a minimum of a further 20 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

⁷ Units designated as mandatory core (MC) must be taken and passed in order to achieve the award. For further information, see the [Framework and Regulations for Higher National Awards](#)

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100% coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work 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.

Course Costs

Students undertaking HNC Computing will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£6,168 per year
Part-time UK	Not applicable
Full-time EU/International	£6,570 per year
Part-time EU/International	Not applicable

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

Students are likely to incur some other costs associated with visits to professional environments (theatre, ballet etc.) and will be informed of plans for the year and any associated costs prior to the commencement of the relevant academic year.

Academic Framework and Regulations

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