

# STUDENT SUPPORT GUIDE



**THIS IS**  
*#MyTime*







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**We recognise that as an Higher Education (HE) student, your journey is not just focused on your academic progress. It is also focused on enrichment and support from us to help you find personal and professional success and achievement through additional support opportunities and experience to develop your skills during your time with us.**

**The extensive range of support and facilities for HE students will ensure you not only achieve your qualification but extend your knowledge, skills and work readiness.**

**We do this in a number of ways:**

## **Academic Support**

**Bridging Skills: Pre-course or early induction support to develop academic skills, including:**

- Academic writing and Harvard referencing.
- Research skills and using academic databases from RNN and validating Higher Education Institution (HEIs).
- Time management and independent study.
- Study Skills Workshops: Regular timetabled or drop-in sessions focused on:
  - Critical thinking and analysis.
  - Presentation skills.
  - Using feedback effectively.
  - Assignment Clinics: 1:1 or small group support for planning and proofreading.

## **Pastoral, financial and Wellbeing Support**

- **Dedicated HE Tutors:** Personal tutors who understand HE-level expectations and can guide on academic and personal matters.
- **Mental Health and Wellbeing Services:** Targeted support – including external agencies – for adult students, mature students, and those juggling work/family responsibilities.
- **Peer Mentoring:** Matching new students with experienced HE students.
- **Empowering Wellbeing Mentorship:** Connect with a wellbeing mentor who can offer insights, support, and a sounding board as you progress through your studies and explore your personal and academic aspirations.
- **Professional Counselling Services:** Confidential and professional counselling is available to support your mental health and emotional well-being, providing a safe space to discuss any concerns you may have.
- **Tailored Advice & Guidance:** Our experienced team offers personalised advice on a wide range of personal matters, helping you navigate challenges and make informed decisions about your future.
- **Adult Related and Facilitated External Support Services:** We arrange for a diverse range of external support services to be available on-site, including personal development guest speaker activities, offering specialised expertise and inspiring insights to complement our internal provisions.
- **Accessible Financial Support:** We understand the pressures of university life. Our dedicated team can provide guidance on student finance and hardship funds, helping you access the financial assistance you may be entitled to.

## Digital and Learning Resources

- HE Level Library Access: Extensive range of online journals, ebooks, and library loans.
- Google Classroom Training: Support to effectively use the college's Virtual Learning Environment and HE digital tools (e.g., Turnitin, referencing tools).
- Laptop Loan Schemes or Digital Inclusion: Ensuring equitable access to hardware/software relevant to the level and type of curriculum being studied.

## Induction and Transition Support

Our support and induction is designed to help and guide both adults and school leaver age groups to becoming Level 4 students

Elongated Induction Period: A more comprehensive induction than our Further Education transition starting in advance of your course, covering:

- Introduction to HE expectations.
- Meeting the teaching team and student support staff.
- Ice-breakers and cohort-building activities.
- Induction assignment to support academic writing
- Keeping in touch programmes over the summer with catch ups to understand the HE programme
- Bridging Programmes: For internal progression (L3 to L4), offer summer bridging tasks or taster days.

## Career Development and Graduate Skills

- Employability Workshops: CV building, interview prep, LinkedIn support, sector-specific insights by Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) team.
- Guest Speakers and Industry Visits: Embedding vocational relevance from our network within the induction period.
- Progression Support: Help with Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) (for Top-Up applications), postgraduate study options, or job searching.
- HEI events: these events happen throughout the year supporting students with next steps and options for careers and employment as well as advice and support with career options.
- Employer Links: interactions with employers and industry specialists throughout your time with us ensures you develop sustainable skills and work-readiness.



## HE Student Voice

- HE student voice meets (Course Rep meets) are held half termly at each site. We offer adult learner specific meets throughout the year and hold Adult drop in evenings at each campus from 5pm - 6pm for one night each half term. This allows students attending evening classes to meet and interact with different areas of the support teams and reach out for advice or to give feedback if needed.
- All students are welcome to apply for Student Union or Student Governor roles that run throughout the year.



## Quality and Belonging

- HE Identity: A distinct identity within the RNN Group with events, branding, and newsletters and an opportunity to enjoy social interaction in the Student Union Bar at the Wharncliffe on specific times throughout the University week.
- Academic Community: Opportunities for cross-course collaboration, research projects, and publishing student work for dissertation and/or end year projects
- HE Spaces: Our purpose built University Centre Rotherham has all the facilities you need to reach your potential and be successful both academically and in your chosen career. With a two storey library, study spaces, hubs including a business centre, café, and outside green space to think and work, our centre has everything. Our campuses at North Notts and Dearne have all the same options as well as dedicated spaces for HE students.

## Enrichment and Activities

All enrichment activities and guest speaker sessions are open to students from FE and HE backgrounds, this includes sessions on student finance, wellbeing, current issues etc. However, we appreciate that students studying on HE courses may have less time on site resulting in less availability for this. To support HE students with this, we have created a Personal Development site specifically for adult/HE students. This features a range of support systems and links for students (such as advice on wellbeing, interviewing etc) alongside having recorded sessions of guest speakers and personal development sessions available for students to access. As these are recorded, each learner can access in their own time and pause/stop the clips if needed. Learner requests for specific enrichment can be sent to – [studentactivities@rnnngroup.ac.uk](mailto:studentactivities@rnnngroup.ac.uk)

## Notes

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## **In person lunchtime drop-in advice at UCR:**

**Monday at 2pm - Enrichment opportunities**

**Tuesday at 2pm - Careers Advice**

**Wednesday at 2pm - Wellbeing Advice**

**Thursday at 2pm - Finance Advice**

**For more information,  
email: [ucr@rotherham.ac.uk](mailto:ucr@rotherham.ac.uk)  
Telephone: 01709 722806**