



Agored Cymru  
Levels 2 + 3



Gower College Swansea  
Coleg Gŵyr Abertawe

Change your life!



Each year it is a pleasure to witness our Access students achieving their dreams...

As a team, it's amazing to see the hard work and determination that goes into our students completing their courses. Helping people change their lives is rewarding and inspiring.

We look forward to the beginning of each year. Come along and speak to us at our open evenings - you could change your life!



The  
Access  
Team



**If you require this publication in an alternative format please telephone 01792 284000 or 01792 890700.**

All the information is correct at the time of publication.

# These one year Access to Higher Education Diploma courses are designed for those over 18 years of age who want to return to education.

The Access to Higher Education Diploma is recognised by all universities and higher education institutions in Wales and England.

No formal qualifications are required but, in most instances, a Pre-Access course is advisable, though not essential (especially if the applicant has a Level 3 qualification). For some courses, a GCSE in Maths or English may be required.

Suitability for courses is assessed on a case by case basis and all applicants are advised to speak to a course tutor for guidance which is tailored to the individual's needs.

You will be assessed throughout the course through a variety

of assessment methods and will receive credits for each successfully completed unit.

While Access courses do involve hard work, learners thoroughly enjoy developing their own interests and skills.

**238 students successfully completed an Access course in 2014**

**94%**  
overall pass rate

## Support

Lecturers are always at hand to offer support and guidance to groups and individuals on their journey through their course. The goal is to prepare students for the demands of university. This involves many skills, from time management to how to reference an essay. Our experienced lecturers will always listen to whatever particular problems, difficulties or challenges a student may be experiencing.

Each Access group is allocated a personal tutor who will oversee academic performance. They will also provide advice and support on the whole process of applying to university, from completing the UCAS application form to preparing for interview.

Personal tutors can help with accessing a wider range of college support services such as counselling, student support officers, plus housing and financial services.

## Funding

Students may be eligible for an Assembly Learning Grant (ALG) and college financial support for childcare and travel expenses.

**For more information contact Fiona John on 01792 284179.**

## Contact Us

For further information or to arrange an application interview please contact

**Beth Hughes 01792 284177**  
**bethan.hughes@gcs.ac.uk**

# Pre-Access

The Pre-Access programme assists students in their skill development and successful completion will enable students to complete the entry assessment for Access to HE. Students who feel they need more time to develop will be given the opportunity to study on the one year Level 2 Skills for Further Study course.

## Preparation for Learning Level 1 & 2 Agored Cymru

Campus: **Tycoch**

Course length: **6 or 12 weeks**

Courses start from January each year with the option to study on two evenings per week for 6 weeks or one evening per week for 12 weeks.

### What's involved:

The course provides a taste of college life and experience of essay writing, numeracy, debates, presentations and career planning.

The programme will provide students with time management skills and increase their confidence.

### Moving on:

Students will be able to progress to a Level 3 programme within the college, primarily an Access to HE programme.

## Skills for Further Study Level 2 Agored Cymru Diploma

Campus: **Gorseinon/Tycoch**

Course length: **one year**

This course is designed for students who wish to prepare for an Access to HE programme and who have basic literacy and numeracy needs, as well as lack of confidence to undertake the one year Access programme which, with the introduction of grading in 2009, has become challenging.

### What's involved:

The subjects studied on this Level 2 course closely underpin those studied on the Access provision and so allow students to gain an insight and develop a greater understanding of what is required of them before embarking upon the Access at Level 3.

### Moving on:

Students will be able to progress to the Access courses upon successful completion or move on to other Level 3 programmes within the college. Employment and voluntary opportunities may also be enhanced with this qualification.



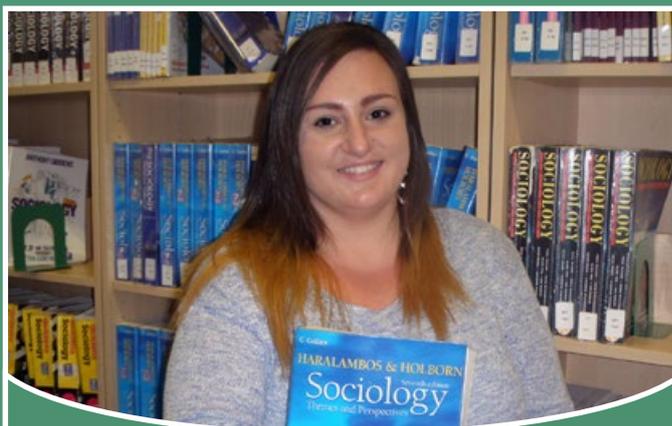
**Lauren Watkins**

When I first decided to go back into education I had no idea who to speak to and what to expect. Access to Nursing was my original plan but I knew there was no way that I would have been able to complete a Level 3 course at that stage.

I phoned the college and was invited to come in to have an interview when I was told that the Pre-Access courses are designed to prepare you for other courses, such as an Access course. I was very nervous on the first day but, after meeting the course lecturers and other members of the class, my nerves began to ease and I enjoyed it.

The Level 2 is ideal for people who have been out of education for a while. It teaches you a range of skills but, most of all, it builds confidence in people who think that they are unable to do things. The amount of support you receive from this course is outstanding. All of the course lecturers are extremely helpful and each of them is a credit to the college.

Without this course I would not be progressing on to Access to Nursing. I would highly recommend it as it eases you in to college life rather than just throwing you in at the deep end.



**Amy Bendall**

I am a 25 year old mother and I enrolled onto the Skills for Further Study course in 2013. I was worried about returning to education and whether I could cope with the work and juggle my home life at the same time. I thought that I would be the oldest person there and feel out of place after being out of education for ten years. However, as soon as I started, I was made to feel comfortable and was pleasantly surprised at how much the course suited me. The lecturers really made the experience a fantastic one; I heavily relied on their support and guidance as I was such a worrier and they were there for me throughout.

The whole course was interesting and varied and I enjoyed it immensely. The material we covered during the year prepared me fully to enrol onto an Access course, which I began in September 2014.

This course has given me the opportunity to feel pride in something I have achieved and I would recommend it to anyone. There were people on the course of all ages and backgrounds, which enriched the experience as we all made friends and helped one another. So, for anyone thinking about enrolling, don't be frightened... do it!

**UPDATE:** Amy has since completed her Level 3 Access to Social Welfare course and is now studying Psychology at university.

# Access to Higher Education Diploma courses

## All Access courses include the following core skills:

Communication • Delivering Oral Presentations • Numeracy • Investigative Project

## Law

**Level 3** Agored Cymru

Campus: **Gorseinon/Tychoch**

Course length: **one year**  
(full time or part time)

Level 2 in numeracy and communication skills or equivalent required to undertake this course.  
No previous knowledge of law is required.

### What's involved:

Students will study the following modules:

- Criminal law
- Tort
- The nature of law and society
- Psychology of crime
- Sociology
- Crime and deviance

### Moving on:

The course is recognised by all academic institutions and provides an excellent background for degrees and HNDs in law, criminology and other related subjects.



### Jade Burden

The Access course has, in many ways, changed my life. I used to think that going back to school was never going to be the way for me to change my life for the better but then I met the Access staff and saw the course structure.

The Pre-Access course brought back some of the skills that I had lost over the years, providing a refresher on mathematics, essay writing, research and computer skills, and introducing the new skill of referencing.

I am currently studying on the Access to Law course and intend to go on to university to study for a Joint Honours Degree in Law and Criminology.

The Access course has helped me to start out on the career of my dreams and given me the confidence to continue towards my goals.

**UPDATE:** Jade has since progressed to university where she is studying Criminology.

## Health Science

**Level 3** Agored Cymru

Campus: **Tychoch**

Course length: **one year (full time)**

### What's involved:

Students study microbiology, chemistry, health care, psychology, research project, anatomy and physiology, as well as a radiography unit for those wishing to progress into radiography.

### Moving on:

The course supports students through the UCAS application system for entry into higher education institutions throughout the UK and Northern Ireland.

Progression to higher education to study audiology, radiography, paramedics, speech therapy, podiatry, cardiology or medical sciences.

Many students gain employment directly from this programme, for example laboratory work or health care assistant role in local hospitals.



### Julie Templeton Cray

The Access course was perfect for me, as an adult learner, as it fitted into my multi-faceted lifestyle. It was an excellent starting point, equipping me with the relevant knowledge and skills to enter university and achieve my lifelong goal of becoming a Diagnostic Radiographer.

I am so grateful to the staff at the college - their support and guidance gave me the confidence to believe in myself and my ability to succeed.

## Science

Level 3 Agored Cymru

Campus: **Gorseinon/Tycoch**

Course length: **one year (full time)**

Although no formal qualifications are required, a Level 2 qualification in Science, or successful completion of the Pre-Access programme, is desirable.

### What's involved:

The course focuses heavily on practical aspects of science and you will spend significant time carrying out modern, exciting industrial laboratory procedures – including genetic engineering.

You will study modules in biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics. Throughout the programme we will focus on developing the skills, knowledge and understanding which will enable you to be successful in higher education.

### Moving on:

The course offers direct university entrance to many bioscience related degree courses in the UK.

The course is ideal for students who wish to progress on to degree or diploma courses in the biological sciences and eventually pursue a career in a science based profession, eg pharmacology, dietetics, radiography, physiotherapy, cardiology and biomedical science.



### Richard Williams

I left school with no real qualifications and spent many years going from job to job not knowing what I was doing with myself or where my life was heading. At the age of 30 I helped deliver my friend's baby son, who was 10 weeks premature. This was a life-changing experience for me and opened my eyes to what life is all about. I decided to go back to education and change things.

I decided upon pharmacy as a career as I am good at science and maths comes naturally to me. I am thoroughly enjoying the course, although it is demanding. The staff are always there to support me, and believe in my abilities.

My advice to anyone who wants to better themselves is to give it a go, you have nothing to lose – believe in your own potential!

## Nursing and Health Professions

Level 3 Agored Cymru

Campus: **Gorseinon/Tycoch**

Course length: **one year (full time or part time)**

### What's involved:

Students study sociology, psychology and health care, as well as anatomy and physiology and research. Students are expected to gain work experience within the field of health care.

### Moving on:

Progression to university health related subjects such as adult nursing, paediatric nursing, mental health nursing, midwifery, audiology, radiography, paramedics, speech therapy, podiatry, ODP and clinical physiology.

Many students gain employment from this programme, for example as a social work assistant, health care support worker or youth worker.



### Adam Lewis

After completing the Access to Nursing course at the college I went on to complete my Bachelor of Nursing degree and, subsequently, a Masters degree in Health Care Law and Ethics. I now have a fantastic career in a noble profession and have practised in areas such as intensive care and the emergency department, through to my current role in brain injury rehab at Neath Port Talbot Hospital, where I am the Nurse Practitioner for a regional unit.

I had left school with mediocre GCSE results and, without the Access course, routes into higher education were limited. The knowledge, belief and self-confidence I gained, with the fantastic support of the Access team, have stood me in good stead and opened up a world of work and education that I had never thought possible. I personally don't feel that the immense value of such a course can be stressed enough.

## Social Welfare/Social Work Level 3 Agored Cymru

Campus: **Gorseinon/Tychoch**  
Course length: **one year**  
(full time or part time)

### What's involved:

Students study social policy, research, sociology and health care, as well as social work law. Students who are going into social work will be expected to have gained over 200 hours working with people before applying through UCAS for university.

### Moving on:

Progression to university to study subjects including social work, youth work, criminology, social policy, community studies, psychology and social sciences. Students have also progressed on to a teaching degree. Many students gain employment from this programme, including as a teaching assistant.



### Lynne Evans

I cannot recommend the Access courses highly enough. They build self-confidence, create friendships and, in the majority of cases, they set students on the pathway to a whole new career. The course led to a new self-awareness as I began to question my personal beliefs and ethical values about topics such as the application of human rights, euthanasia and child protection.

The lectures were informative and, at times, a source of lively debate amongst the cohort of students. All the members of staff were incredibly supportive and accessible to students. Following the course I secured a place on the BSc Social Work degree programme at Swansea University. I was obviously well prepared by the college as I graduated in 2013 with a first class honours degree. I am now a qualified and registered social worker.

I have realised a dream and, if I have been able to achieve this, then so can others!

## Counselling Skills and Psychology Level 3 Agored Cymru

Campus: **Tychoch**  
Course length: **one year (full time)**

### What's involved:

Students study sociology, counselling, psychology and health care, as well as research project and law units. Students need to be aware that this course deals with sensitive issues surrounding the counselling field.

### Moving on:

Progression to university to study psychology, youth work, social work, counselling and psychology and social science programmes.



### Lizzy Clatworthy

The course allowed me to explore a career path in a supportive and encouraging environment.

The experience and knowledge I gained on the course provided me with the skills necessary to progress in my chosen field of learning disability nursing. I then specialised in autism for my Masters Degree, which I completed whilst being a full time specialist foster carer for children with additional needs.

The Access course was my first step on an incredibly rewarding journey which I am hoping will lead me onwards to gaining my PhD.

## Humanities

Level 3 Agored Cymru

Campus: **Gorseinon/Tycoch**

Course length: **one year (full time)**

### What's involved:

Students are introduced to four humanities subject areas: English, history, psychology and sociology. Within each topic, a range of themes and concepts will be considered.

### Moving on:

The goal of the course is to develop the skills necessary for study at degree level, progressing onto an arts, humanities or social science subject, such as English, history, sociology, psychology or a related discipline.

Past students have progressed on to careers in teaching, youth and community work, public administration and counselling.



### Matt Steele

I believe that the Access course was the first step to changing and improving my life. The education which was given to me during the Access to Humanities course was of a great standard; it was exciting, enjoyable and I made many firm friends along the way.

The high level of dedication of college staff prepared me for my course at Swansea University. I have since graduated with Joint Honours and am now pursuing a teaching career in Humanities.