

HIGHER EDUCATION IN THURROCK - Working and Learning



Learning and Working

All major employers in Thurrock help their staff to develop. All these stories are about people who live and work in Thurrock and have either achieved their degree or other higher level qualification or are working towards this success. Good employers want to help you to build your skills. It's good for you and good for business.



*Tina Moore,
Thurrock Council employee*

I work for the Education Leadership Team at Thurrock Council.

I live in Linford and went to school at St Clere's School in Stanford le Hope.

Over the past four years I have studied for my BSc Psychology Honours degree on a part time basis while continuing to work for the Education Department.

I was able to do this as I was supported by my employer who was able to let me work around my university timetable which changed from year to year and also allowed me time off to sit the necessary exams.

I have now received confirmation that I have been accepted on a MSc Forensic Psychology course at Middlesex University and I hope to continue my personal development and work part-time,

Working and studying was hard work but it was worth it when I received my results

*Caroline Gerrad
Norse Skog Terminal
Port of Tilbury*

I joined the Port in February 2001 as Commercial Co-ordinator dealing with general commercial enquiries and customers on a daily basis as well as other administration functions.

The department moved to Neptune House in May 2002 and I joined the Business Manager's office. I continued with my current role and also undertook credit control.

I heard about the Foundation Degree through the training department. I asked if it was possible for me to do it. I completed some ability tests through the assessment centre and

had an interview with one of the course administrators.

I was accepted on the course and started in October 2002 at the new Academy of Logistics and Transport. I had 4 mandatory modules to complete each term for three terms. I have just received my marks for 10 of these modules and have passed them all.

I moved to the Norske Skog paper terminal in July 2003, as Logistics Co-ordinator. The Port took over the customer's administration functions and a team of three people including myself were relocated to 32/33 Berth.

My second year of my course starts in a week's time and I am hoping to go on and study for my honour's degree in Logistics and Transport for the third year. Thurrock has led the way in establishing an Academy of Logistics in Transport and the

Foundation Degree in Logistics and Transport thanks to good partnership working by Port of Tilbury, Thurrock & Basildon College and Anglia Polytechnic University.



Dave Clifford (Diploma in Management Services)

A recent recruit to Thurrock & Basildon College part time teaching staff is David Clifford, Manager of Caretaking Services at Thurrock Council. Dave has been teaching on the Diploma in Management Studies (DMS), a part time postgraduate level course on which Dave himself was a student only a few years ago.

Dave attended Aveley County Technical High School, leaving at 16 with 6 O levels to become an apprentice toolmaker at Ford, where he worked for 27 years. Dave says "Married at 21, 3 children by the

time I was 24, I had little time to further my education beyond my engineering qualifications (City and Guilds and BTEC certificates)". After redundancy, Dave worked briefly as a transport manager/driver, then for the Council as a lifeguard, quickly working his way up via a series of roles to his current



senior management position. Along the way, Dave gained an NVQ 3 in Management on a course provided at Woodview Campus for Council staff. "This awakened in me a long lost desire to prove myself as an academic with a higher level qualification as well as helping me become more effective in my job." College staff were so impressed by Dave's enthusiasm that they took the risk of letting him "skip" to the higher level of management qualifications and enrol on the DMS.

Their faith paid off! Dave gained the DMS with an overall Merit, then went on to study for, and gain, his MBA at the University of Westminster. This will enable Dave to apply for very senior management posts – and of course help with the DMS teaching in Thurrock.

*Tracey Woodward
Finnish Terminal*

The Finnish Terminal opened in January 1999 and I joined the Port of Tilbury in February that year as Import/Export Clerk for the terminal.

I am now the Office Supervisor, overseeing day-to-day administration for the delivery and ship operations. I control the running of the office and manage a

team of 10 clerical staff . Studying locally, I have taken a National Examination Board for Supervisors and Managers course. When I had completed all the modules I was given a project to undertake and then I had to give a presentation on my project.

I have gained confidence through the training and I am more efficient. I feel I benefited most from the teambuilding courses and subsequently arranged for my staff to attend them. The opportunities are here in Thurrock for those who want them.



*John Ramsay
BP employee and part-time lecturer*

Taking part in workplace training got me hooked on study with the Open University. I'm now in my eighth year with the OU , with a degree in psychology behind me. I'm working towards an MEd.

I have been working for BP for just over a year and the company has been very supportive and encouraging about my OU studies. I really couldn't have done it without them and I am very grateful to them.

As well as working for BP I teach psychology part time at an adult education centre. Eventually I am hoping to do this full-time, which is why I am doing my MEd.

Seven or eight years ago I took part in training and it fascinated me to learn about the teacher and student relationship and the views of the students. I go more interested in this area and then took part in a 'training the trainer' course that exposed me to psychology. After that, I was hooked and signed up with the OU.

It is a brilliant way to study and when I began my first degree my

wife was studying too. It has also been very good for our children and I feel sure it has had a positive influence on their education.

I would recommend the OU to anyone; it is an excellent way to study



Schools are employers too - whatever your role you can work in a school and gain a degree or higher level qualifications

Thurrock schools also offer a range of higher education provision for their staff not only for initial teacher training and the Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) but also for Learning Support Assistants and technicians.

For example: four Learning Support Assistants and technicians at William Edwards School are currently following degree courses with the University of London funded by the school.

One of the degree courses being undertaken by staff at



Marion Kidney, one of the many valuable Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) in Thurrock. Marion works at Aveley Primary School which is funding her to study locally to achieve an LSA Foundation Degree

Hassenbrook School in Stanford le Hope is a BA in Sports Science.

The following are just some of the universities local schools work with: Anglia Polytechnic University, De Montfort University, CILT, Institute of Education, University of East London, Goldsmiths, Greenwich, University of Wales.

There is ample opportunity locally to develop your career, and contribute to Thurrock becoming a real learning society with a good quality of life for all.

New Ways to Higher Education

What are Foundation Degrees

The Foundation Degree is a new vocational higher education qualification that lies just below the honours degree. Foundation Degrees will address the growing skills gap at associate professional and higher technician level. It is predicted that there will be around 800,000 job vacancies at this level over the coming decade. Typical careers at this level include legal executives, engineering technicians, personnel officers, and teaching assistants.

Why is the Skills for Business Network getting involved?

All sectors of the economy are facing some degree of skills shortage at this level. Skills Councils can ensure that this qualification meets the needs of their employers and contribute to increased productivity.

Foundation Degrees will provide employers with people who have the technical skills, underpinning academic knowledge and wider employability skills vital to the success of their enterprises. This qualification is particularly well-suited for upskilling existing employees since flexible delivery arrangements enable them to earn and learn at the same time.

(ie university or courses of a similar level)

Students need no previous qualifications as the course makes use of the skills they have developed. Everyone studies a Common Core of Communications, Study Skills, Information Technology and Numeracy; specialist subjects, of which students follow three, are chosen from the following: English, Life Sciences and Health, History, Psychology, Social Studies and Education. Access courses are available at Thurrock & Basildon College.

What is an Access Course?

Access to HE is usually a year-long course which prepares adults (over 19) for entry to higher education



*Local Access students and their tutors at Thurrock and Basildon College
Next step — Higher Education*

Local colleges work with a number of universities to develop courses to meet local needs. The Foundation Degree in Logistics and Transport is a good example of this. Thurrock & Basildon College, Anglia Polytechnic University, the Academy of Logistics and Transport all collaborated to meet the needs of this important industry for Thurrock.

A key element in planning is to ensure pathways for progression so individuals can take it a step at a time. You may want to start by taking a New Directions Course at the Adult Community College as your first step and then move on through further and higher education. Whatever stage you are at, you should be able to move on to the next level for you. If you are ready you can go straight into a degree level course. If you need someone to talk to first, your line manager or HR Manager should be able to help you or you can have a free information and advice session at either Thurrock Adult Community College or Thurrock & Basildon College and, if you wish, follow that with a more in-depth confidential careers guidance interview through Thurrock's Integrated Guidance Network (IGN).

KEY CONTACTS:

Thurrock & Basildon College www.tab.ac.uk	0845 601 5746
Palmer's College www.palmers.ac.uk	01375 370121
Thurrock Adult Community College www.thurrock.gov.uk/adultcollege	01375 372476
Anglia Polytechnic University www.anglia.ac.uk	01245 493131
Open University www.open.ac.uk	01223 364721
Connexions (under 19) www.estconnexions.co.uk	01375 413735
IGN—Free Careers Guidance Interviews (over 19) www.thurrocklearningpartnership.org.uk	0800 169 7002

THURROCK LEARNING PARTNERSHIP—Working together for you

Partners:

- Anglia Polytechnic University
- Connexions
- Government Office-East
- Jobcentreplus
- Link-Ed Consortium
- Palmer's College
- Private Sector Training Providers
- Thurrock Association of Schools and Colleges
- Thurrock Adult Community College
- Thurrock & Basildon College
- Thurrock Business Forum
- Thurrock Council
- Thurrock Council for Voluntary Service
- Thurrock District Association of Industries
- Thurrock Libraries and Cultural Services
- Thurrock Primary Care Trust
- Thurrock Youth and Play Service