

Further information about studying at Sunderland

As a University we are very proud of our mission to support a diverse student body, secure and enhance a high-quality learning experience for students, develop collaborative partnerships in the UK and overseas, and pursue research and links with commerce and industry.

If you are interested in finding out more about how we do this you may want to read some of the documents linked from the text below. They may seem somewhat dry but they set out our mission and the ways in which we oversee and develop our programmes.

To find out more about our institutional vision you may wish to read:

- [The University's Corporate Plan \(.pdf\)](#)
- [The University's Academic Strategy \(.pdf\)](#)

UK universities are regularly reviewed by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, which operates on behalf of the funding council. Our latest QAA review (2015) confirmed that the quality and standards of our provision meet UK expectations and commended our approach to enhancement. Good practice was identified in areas including support and employability, student complaints and appeals, staff development and the management of collaborative provision. The report can be found on the [QAA website](#) and our action plan in response to it can be found here: [HER Action Plan 2016](#)

If you have any questions about any of the documents or processes which they describe, please contact academicservices@sunderland.ac.uk.

Student representation and feedback

We work closely in partnership with our students through the Students' Union, student representatives at programme, faculty and university levels, and the use of feedback questionnaires and focus groups.

Our commitment to partnership with our student community is set out in the document [Working Together \(.pdf\)](#)

You can also download and read our [student representation and feedback policy \(.pdf\)](#).

Programme quality, regulations and assessments

As with other UK universities we have a range of processes to assure and enhance the quality of our programmes.

The core processes are those for programme approval, annual monitoring and periodic review. You can find these in our Academic Quality Handbook:

- [Programme approval \(.pdf\)](#)
- [Annual review \(.pdf\)](#)
- [Periodic review \(.pdf\)](#)

External examiners are academics from other universities who moderate the marking of student work by our own colleagues and sit on our assessment boards to ensure that the decisions taken about students' achievement are fair and consistent.

Download our [Policy on the role of external examiners \(.pdf\)](#).

Our programme regulations and assessment policy ensure a consistent approach to assessment across the University. These are:

- [Undergraduate regulations](#)
- [Taught postgraduate regulations](#)
- [Assessment policy \(.pdf\)](#)

You can also download a list of our current [Partner colleges](#).

To read about our quality processes in more detail, explore the documents in the online [Academic Quality Handbook](#).

Learning Resources

Learning resources at the University of Sunderland include facilities which are provided for everyone to use (such as the Library) and those which are specific to a particular subject area or programme of study. These include laboratory resources for programmes such as Pharmacy and studio space for performing arts and fine art. The programme specification gives you an outline of the resources available to you but you can find more details on line.

Library: <http://library.sunderland.ac.uk>

You can find details of what is available for each programme on the programme pages of our website which you can access from:

[Programmes at Sunderland](#)
[Postgraduate Research programmes at Sunderland](#)
[Programmes at the London campus](#)

If you are planning to study in one of our partner colleges you should see the relevant college website for details of their learning resources.

Employability

The employability of our students after they graduate is something we take very seriously when we design our programmes.

Some programmes are directly linked to particular professions, while others develop skills which are more generally relevant to a wide range of employment.

The [Careers and Employability Service](#) website has information for students.

Our overarching [employability statement](#) can be found on our [Careers and Employability Service](#) website.

If things go wrong

If things go wrong we encourage students to raise their concerns through their representatives or directly with the relevant faculty or service manager. However, we also have formal processes to address issues impartially:

- [Request for Complaint Review Form \(.pdf\)](#)
- [Student Complaints Procedure \(.pdf\)](#)
- [Academic Appeals Procedure](#)

We also have certain expectations of how our students will engage with their studies and with the university community as a whole, and we have procedures which can be invoked if necessary:

- [Student Disciplinary Regulations \(.pdf\)](#)
- [Academic Integrity and Academic Misconduct- a guide \(.pdf\)](#)
- [Fitness to Practise Regulations \(.pdf\)](#)
- [University Drugs Policy \(.pdf\)](#)

The [University of Sunderland Students' Union \(USSU\)](#) provides advice and guidance for students across a whole range of issues, including complaints, appeals and disciplinary matters.