



Fircroft College
Of Adult Education

Access to Higher Education Diploma

A life changing opportunity!

The 30 week full-time **Access to Higher Education Diploma** course at Fircroft College runs from the end of September to May each year and **is aimed at adults who want to go to University but don't currently have the required qualifications**. It combines the study of History, Literature and Sociology. Maths and English are also an important part of every Access course. We include a qualification equivalent to GCSE Maths for those who need it to go to University, and who are capable of achieving it in the same year.

What will I achieve?

After 30 weeks of study, successful learners leave with an Access to HE Diploma (Combined Studies) from the Open College Network. This is accepted by a wide range of University departments. One of the advantages of the Combined Studies course is that you can decide which University courses to apply for once you are here. Former students of Fircroft have gone on to study for degrees and professional qualifications including History, Social Policy, Politics, Literature, Journalism, Creative Writing, Youth Work and Education. Many then go on to successful careers in a wide range of vocations.

Why choose Fircroft College?

- ✦ Success rates on the Access programme at Fircroft are high – almost 20% above the national average
- ✦ Fircroft is a small, friendly and supportive residential college. Being a resident allows you to really 'get away from it all' and focus on achieving your goals. However, there are also some limited non-resident places available on the Access programme
- ✦ You will have a personal tutor to guide you through the course, helping you with any stresses or challenges you may face and keeping you on realistic targets
- ✦ Fircroft is a pleasant place to learn, occupying a former Cadbury family home set in six acres of beautiful gardens, yet just fifteen minutes from central Birmingham and benefiting from excellent transport links
- ✦ Fircroft was graded 'outstanding' in every area during its last inspection visit by Ofsted. It has also been awarded Beacon Status, in recognition of its academic excellence

Who can come?

To be eligible for the Access course at Fircroft, you must be aged over 19, residing in England and have not received an educational grant previously. You must be a UK citizen, EU national or have indefinite leave to remain – and have lived in the UK for at least three years. Students of all ages from a wide variety of backgrounds join the Access course. What they all have in common is their commitment and willingness to learn.

I want to apply. What should I do next?

We are now accepting applications for the 2013/14 Access course and application packs are available by calling us on 0121 472 0116 or can be downloaded from our website at www.fircroft.ac.uk.

In the meantime you may want to consider enrolling on some of the short residential courses available throughout the year at Fircroft, many of which are free for eligible learners. In particular, the **'Skills for Learning'** programme is **designed specifically for students wishing to progress onto the Access Diploma**. For more information visit www.fircroft.ac.uk or contact the short course office on 0121 472 0116.





About Fircroft College

Founded in 1909 by George Cadbury Jr, Fircroft College is an adult residential college based in Selly Oak, Birmingham. It offers a unique experience where students live and learn in a friendly and attractive environment, working with highly-skilled and supportive staff.

Fircroft is located in a beautiful Edwardian building, formerly a Cadbury family home, situated in six acres of peaceful gardens. The College has modern learning resources, computer facilities, library and a secure environment with on-site night support, as well as a common room and recreation room for students. The library and other resources are open 24 hours a day. All bedrooms are on-campus – none are shared and all have en-suite facilities.

Living at the College allows you to really get away from it all, so you can focus on fulfilling your potential and achieving the best possible results. It gives you the opportunity to engage with a diverse network of people and means help from staff or from other students is never far away. For those with dependents, there are non-residential as well as residential places available.

There is a friendly and active social scene for those that want to get involved, with regular activities and trips going on. Birmingham itself offers something for all tastes – be it shopping, nightlife, culture, sport and lots more. Fircroft has excellent public transport links with regular buses and trains to central Birmingham (about fifteen minutes away) and elsewhere. If you're new to the area, we'll show you around!

" Fircroft is such a special place, everyone is so friendly and supportive. I have met people from different backgrounds and cultures, and I'm sure, like me, they will all take away with them fond memories of their time at Fircroft."

Deborah Fiddaman, former student



" When I came to Fircroft College, I felt like I'd taken the first step towards a better life. It was a brilliant experience, the best decision I've made in my whole life."

Ant Allen, former student



" I have learned a lot about myself and what kind of person I am. I've finally decided what I want to do with my life and I'm on the path to achieving it. I have been accepted to university to study Journalism and Creative Writing."

Naomi Minto, former student

