



School of Foundation Studies

Building for better

If you choose to study engineering at Caledonian, you will most likely begin your experience of college life at our Airport Heights Campus, dedicated to the School of Foundation Studies. Here you will receive a warm welcome from our team of foundation experts who provide every support to help you prepare for your future studies.

Programme

The School of Foundation Studies comprises 50 committed and expert staff members who deliver a strong foundation programme to over 800 students. The programme comprises three separate modules, covering English language, mathematics and IT skills. Also included in the programme are elements of physics and chemistry, important in your future engineering studies. Throughout the programme, you will learn important study skills such as note-taking, use of the

library, report writing, academic referencing, and keeping to deadlines. The programme fully conforms to national standards for foundation studies, as approved by the Oman Academic Accreditation Authority (OAAA).

Foundation Approach to Learning & Teaching

We firmly believe that people remember better when they find things out for themselves. We also believe that people learn better through practical application,

rather than just learning rules or theories. Success in the modern world depends on the ability to solve problems creatively, working in teams to meet deadlines. Your preparation for those challenges begins in Foundation.

Structure of the Programme

The Foundation Programme is an 18-month programme comprised of three courses, Pre-Foundation (necessary only for those with limited English skills), Foundation 1 and the more-challenging Foundation 2. Each course takes



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a minimum of one semester to complete. The rate of progress you make through Foundation is determined by two factors: firstly, the amount of effort you put into your studies, and secondly, the level of language competence you have when you join the college. It is normally expected that you can progress from the equivalent of IELTS Band 2.5 to Band 5 in two semesters. If you arrive with a lower language level, it will take you a minimum of three semesters.

The Pre-Foundation course comprises a single module in basic English language skills.

Modules

All modules are offered in fulltime mode. F1 and F2 modules are offered in part-time and special part-time mode as well.

PRE-FOUNDATION		
ENGLISH LANGUAGE		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General English Language Skills• Practical Application of Grammar	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basic English Vocabulary for Mathematics• Basic English Vocabulary for IT	
FOUNDATION 1 (F1)		
LANGUAGE & LEARNING 1	TECHNOBASICS 1	IT SKILLS 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Structure (Grammar, Vocabulary & Pronunciation)• Production (Listening & Writing, Reading & Speaking)• Diagnostic Clinic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mathematics• Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research Skills• Document Design
FOUNDATION 2 (F2)		
LANGUAGE & LEARNING 2	TECHNOBASICS 2	IT SKILLS 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Structure (Academic Writing, Applied Grammar)• Production (Technothread, Speaking & Debate)• Diagnostic Clinic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mathematics• Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research Skills• Document Design

Your Role in Foundation

To progress through foundation in the minimum time, you must be ready to play your part by:

- Studying hard
- Working independently in the library and learning resource centre
- Taking charge of your own learning in the Diagnostic Clinic
- Practising English inside and outside the college
- Watching English-language programmes on television
- Reading widely
- Learning general vocabulary and that related to engineering

Foundation 1 and 2 each comprise three modules: Language & Learning (English and study skills), Technobasics (maths and science) and IT Skills. At the beginning of the Foundation Programme, you will take a placement test so that we can ensure that you are put into the right class that meets your language needs. While all students will study a common core of subjects, there is an opportunity each week to work on the areas of language that you feel you need most help with. This is facilitated through a fully supervised 'diagnostic clinic', where you will receive advice on accessing

learning resources appropriate to your needs.

Depending on the results of the Caledonian Entrance Assessment (CEA), students may be exempted from some of the modules of the Foundation Programme allowing for some students to complete their foundation studies in a single semester.

Continuing Support

The School of Foundation Studies also provides support in Levels 1 and 2 of engineering studies as well as offering professional development through short courses. Staff development is offered through a certified CELTA and DELTA course.

Learning Outcomes

- Language capability equivalent of IELTS Band 5
- Knowledge of mathematical and scientific principles
- Effective use of IT
- Acquisition of academic skills such as note-taking and summarisation
- Ability to form arguments, research, plan and reference reports
- Knowledge of soft skills such as time-management and team-work

Award

All students who successfully complete the Foundation Programme will receive a certificate and are automatically eligible to progress to Level 1 (first year) of their chosen engineering programme at Caledonian College of Engineering.

Hear it from our Alumni:

Ishaq Hamood Mohammed Al Kalabani

1st year, Process Operation & Maintenance Engineering

"My studies in the School of Foundation helped me develop and practise my English, mathematics and study skills. I was able to speak and write better with the help of this programme. Foundation was a useful bridge for my engineering studies, enabling me to understand the concepts in engineering more easily."

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