



Oldham College

LEARN IT
LIVE IT
ACHIEVE IT

16-18 Mini Guide *2026/27*

VOCATIONAL COURSES

T LEVELS

APPRENTICESHIPS

KEY DATES

Applications

Wednesday 1st October 2025
Applications open for September 2026 entry.

Open Events

Wednesday 8th October 2025
4.30pm - 6.30pm

Saturday 15th November 2025
10.30am - 1.00pm

Saturday 14th March 2026
10.30am - 1.00pm

Explore our campus and meet our tutors at one of our Open Events.

Interview Evenings

Wednesday 26th November 2025

Wednesday 14th January 2026

Wednesday 25th February 2026

Wednesday 15th April 2026

Attend an interview evening to secure an offer on the course that's right for you.

New Student FEst

Wednesday 24th June 2026

Get a taste for college life at our exclusive event for 16-18 applicants who have received an offer.



WELCOME TO OLDHAM COLLEGE

I'm delighted that you're considering joining us as you take the first exciting steps toward a **successful and fulfilling career**.

At Oldham College, our mission is simple: to help you unlock your full potential and prepare you for the world of work. This mini guide gives you a real insight into life at Oldham College - what it's like to study here, the support you'll receive, and how our qualifications can help you take your next step, whether that's a vocational course, an apprenticeship, or a T Level.

Here, you'll **LEARN IT** with expert guidance from our tutors in industry-standard facilities, **LIVE IT** through meaningful work experience and personal development opportunities, and **ACHIEVE IT** by gaining the knowledge, skills and behaviours to succeed in the real world.

Your journey starts now, and we can't wait to welcome you to Oldham College.

Simon Jordan, Principal & Chief Executive



WHY OLDHAM COLLEGE?

Oldham College offers a range of qualifications for 16-18-year-olds in the heart of Oldham.



Convenient **town centre location**



Be taught by **supportive, industry-expert tutors**



Learn in our **state-of-the-art facilities**



Benefit from a broad range of **real-world work experience**



Study courses designed with **industry in mind**



Enjoy a variety of **personal development activities, trips and opportunities**



Receive **tailored support** from our dedicated student services



T Level and Level 3 pass rate of 92%



Progression opportunities to our Higher Education provision, University Campus Oldham



LIVE YOUR BEST COLLEGE LIFE

At Oldham College, we respect and support you as young adults.

Our environment is very different from school, offering a more mature, independent atmosphere. Alongside your studies, you'll enjoy a wide range of social activities that reflect the energy and diversity of a modern, vibrant college campus. It's important that you enjoy your time at college - it's a chance to meet new people, explore exciting opportunities, and build valuable skills that will shape your future. That's why we encourage you to get involved in all that college life has to offer.

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Your time at Oldham College is about more than just learning.

As part of your study programme, you'll not only gain a qualification but get opportunities to develop personally and professionally, aligned with our strategic values.

Through our Personal and Professional Development model, you'll benefit from a varied careers programme, develop real-world skills with extensive work experience opportunities and exciting personal development activities. This wrap-around support during your programme will give you all the help you need to succeed.



Develop your skills with short courses & workshops



Take part in exciting trips and visits



Get competitive and join a sports team



Make lifelong friends at our college clubs



Get a manicure or a new hairdo at our salon

OUR CAMPUS

We've recently invested in our campus to provide you with fantastic facilities including:

- Simulation suites which mirror real life; a clinical hospital ward, nursery, courtroom and financial trading floor
- The Imaginarium, our brand-new immersive learning space
- An esports arena with state-of-the-art equipment
- Recently renovated TV, radio and podcast studios, home to OC Radio
- A new Brickwork Centre with workshop and classroom spaces
- An on-site gym, fully equipped with modern, high-quality fitness equipment
- Areas for you to eat, socialise and relax
- The Student Hive, where you can access our personal development and wellbeing support
- An outdoor social area with ping pong and picnic tables.



“I have enjoyed working in a salon environment, gaining real-world experience of what working as a hairdresser will be like”

Sammy
Level 2 Hairdressing Apprenticeship

GETTING TO COLLEGE

Wherever you're coming from, Oldham College is well connected.

We're just a 5-minute walk from Oldham Bus Station, so getting here couldn't be easier. We're also just a short walk from Oldham King Street and Oldham Central tram stops.

Top tip: If you're aged 16–18, you can travel for free across Greater Manchester using Our Pass.

Scan the QR to learn more about Our Pass



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STUDENT SUPPORT

This is a pivotal time in your life - a time to focus on your career goals, passions and ambitions. At Oldham College, we're here to support you every step of the way on this exciting journey.

The Careers Team

In our dedicated Careers Hub, you will find our team of qualified advisers ready to help you to choose your next career steps and the right course for you, even before you've officially joined us.



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You can also use our online Career Finder and Career Quiz. **Just scan the QR code!**

Additional Learning Support

We have a large team of qualified and highly-trained staff who are experienced in supporting people with special educational needs or those requiring additional learning support.

Safeguarding and Wellbeing Support

We're committed to creating a safe, supportive environment where every student can thrive, including those from LGBT+, BME, and other underrepresented groups. Our dedicated team of experienced professionals are always here to offer guidance and help you stay on track whenever you need it.

The Oldham College Bursary

The Bursary can help with some of the costs of attending college. If you're eligible, it may cover travel, meals, essential books, equipment, course clothing, and work experience costs.



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Scan the QR code to apply online.



"I had a teaching assistant to help me in class, access to a quiet room and incredible tutors who were always ready to support me."

Idrees, Level 3 Public Services

QUALIFICATIONS EXPLAINED

Vocational courses

Full-time vocational courses are designed for students aged 16-18 who want to specialise in a career-focused subject. They are hands-on, practical qualifications that prepare you directly for work, apprenticeships, or Higher Education.

Benefits of studying a vocational course:

- Study in industry-standard learning environments
- Develop specific skills and knowledge directly relevant to your chosen career path
- Explore work experience opportunities with our employer partners.



Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships offer a fantastic opportunity to earn while you learn. You will typically spend four days a week developing your practical skills on the job and one day a week at Oldham College.

Benefits of studying an apprenticeship:

- You can do an apprenticeship in most industries
- Gain hands-on experience and earn while you learn
- Improve your career prospects by learning real-world skills.



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Scan the QR code to browse our apprenticeships

T Levels

A T Level is a two-year qualification that offers a work-based, technical alternative to A Levels. T Levels are an ideal way to combine the benefits of both practical and theory-based learning. Over the course, students get a mix of 80% classroom-based learning and 20% on the job experience in the workplace.

Benefits of studying a T Level:

- Learn in state-of-the-art specialist facilities
- Gain real-world skills through a minimum 45-day industry placement
- Progress to university, a higher apprenticeship or a job.



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Scan the QR code to discover T Levels on offer at Oldham College



T-LEVELS
THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION



HEAR FROM OUR STUDENTS



Callum

Level 3
Travel and Tourism

“My journey at Oldham College has been fantastic. I’ve been able to gain a lot of confidence, help and support off the staff. I have been fortunate enough to secure a permanent job at Manchester Airport.”



Watch Callum's
case study

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Isabelle

Level 3 T Level
Supporting the Midwifery Team

“The facilities are great. Having the simulation suite makes it easy for us to get into the role play of being a healthcare assistant.”



Watch Isabelle's
case study

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“One of the main things about doing an apprenticeship is the hands-on experience you get. It's great to build confidence and character.”



Watch Sundee's
case study

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Sundee

Level 3 Apprenticeship
Paralegal

“Esports isn't only about games. It's about business, marketing, nutrition, production and more. The course has given me some amazing opportunities, including a trip to South Korea and flag bearing at Manchester City matches.”



Watch Manuka's
case study

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Manuka

Level 3
Esports

OUR COURSES

Business and Administration

A career in business is ideal for those who enjoy working with and leading others, making strategic decisions and taking on big challenges.

Our tutors are highly skilled professionals with vast industry experience, which helps develop students' practical and theoretical knowledge of business practices.



Creative and Design

Our state-of-the-art equipment and studios provide students with the necessary practical experience and theoretical knowledge required to pursue their vision.

Our industry-expert teachers nurture students' individual creative flair, coaching originality to ensure each student fulfils their potential.



Construction

Our specialist courses include brickwork, joinery, electrical installation, plumbing and building services.

Our courses will prepare you for a technical or professional career in industry. You will build knowledge and skills in classrooms and workshops led by teachers who have had successful careers in the sector.



Development Skills

Our entry-level courses, Preparing for Adulthood and Preparing for Work, are both focused on the key outcomes around employment, independent living, community inclusion and wellbeing.

These programmes will be very practical and based in our specialist teaching rooms or in real-life settings out in the local community.





Digital and IT

Our Digital courses prepare you for both university and employment. We have extensive links with local digital companies and national organisations.

Our state-of-the-art 3D manufacturing suite and agile workshops will enable you to see your digital products come to life.



Education and Childcare

If you are a passionate 'people person' and want to make a difference to the lives of others, you can find reward and fulfilment by embarking on one of our courses in Education and Childcare.

Our sector-experienced tutors are skilled in coaching, development and inspiring our students to succeed in this field.

English and Maths Skills

Having a good level of English and maths makes a huge difference to future employment and career prospects.

Those who take English and maths alongside a vocational course will be on the right path to achieving great things. With excellent success rates, we are here to support you.



English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

If English is not your first language, our ESOL courses will help improve your writing, reading, speaking and listening skills.

Our specialist ESOL team are experts at giving our students confidence when conversing and engaging with others in English.





Finance, Professional and Law

Our courses open the doors to a wide range of rewarding and varied careers in the legal, financial and professional sectors. Learners benefit from courtroom and financial trading floor simulation suites to hone their skills in real-world environments.

Our accounting programmes are certified by the Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT).

Hair and Beauty

Through our Hair and Beauty courses we are committed to developing students' creativity, technical aptitude and customer-facing skills.

Our purpose-built hair and beauty accommodation is the perfect platform for students to practice their cutting, blow-drying and beauty therapy skills with hands-on learning.



Health and Social Care

Our Health and Social Care qualifications provide a well-rounded education that makes our students highly sought after by employers.

You will develop exemplary values, behaviours and competencies to enable you to provide compassionate and person-centred care.



Marketing and Enterprise

On this course you will learn about the principles of marketing and business, including the understanding of ethics, laws and regulations in relation to marketing.

You may also have access to a mentor who runs their own successful business. This will provide you with workplace insights and help develop your employability skills.





Motor Vehicle

You will gain an outstanding grounding in this highly dynamic sector, taking advantage of well-equipped workshops. Much of the course is practical and you will benefit from our excellent local contacts.

You will also be part of a generation committed to tackling emissions, improving air quality and ensuring the highest safety and sustainability standards.

Performing Arts

You will flourish using our specialist studios to showcase your skills - whether that's acting, playing an instrument, dancing, singing or production.

We'll provide you with a broad base of practical and technical knowledge, as well as the time and opportunities to develop your specialist talent.



Science

Our applied science courses will provide you with the practical and theoretical knowledge you need to either work in the science industry or take on a university course. All our tutors have the relevant industry and/or research experience.

Sports

Sport is a dynamic and exciting part of our curriculum offer, and we enjoy seeing our talented athletes and fitness enthusiasts turn their passion into a career. Our Esports courses give you a pathway into one of the UK's fastest growing technology sectors, while our courses in Sport and Fitness focus on traditional sports performance, development and coaching.

We work in partnership with a range of local professional sports organisations including Oldham Athletic, Oldham Community Leisure, Manchester Junior Giants and Manchester City.



Travel and Tourism

Whether you want to fly around the globe as an air travel assistant, work abroad in a sunny destination, or land a job at Manchester Airport, there's a vast range of career choices available.

You will enjoy a wide-ranging overview of the travel industry, ensuring that you are as adept at delivering excellent customer service as you are in knowing your geography and major tourism attractions around the UK and across the globe.



Uniformed Public Services

The vital public and protective services sector accounts for a vast number of careers across the UK.

If you are looking for a career in this sector, our courses cover a range of topics including teambuilding, raising fitness levels, discipline, effects of crime and the role of citizenship in society.



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Discover
our courses

WHAT'S NEXT?



THE MY OLDHAM COLLEGE APP



My Oldham College is our bespoke app for applicants and students.

You can:

- Track your application
- Keep up-to-date with the latest college news and events
- Contact our support teams for advice on financial support and careers

To download the My Oldham College app, simply search for '**My Oldham College**' in your app store!

DISCOVER UNIVERSITY CAMPUS OLDHAM

If you're planning to continue your studies after college, you can choose from a wide range of higher education qualifications at our dedicated institution: University Campus Oldham (UCO).

Located in the heart of Oldham town centre, UCO provides outstanding facilities and a distinctive learning environment close to home.

You're our number one

At UCO, we put your future first. You'll be supported from day one and taught by people who genuinely care about your progress. We keep our class sizes small, so you get the one-to-one support that makes all the difference.

When you're progressing from college, you can continue to be part of one local community and one local study choice right here in Oldham. Our courses are built with leading universities and shaped by local employers, so you'll get a high-quality, career-focused qualification while learning in-demand industry skills.

UCO offers a range of degree level and professional courses in:

- Business, Leadership and Management
- Construction
- Counselling and Psychology
- Creative Arts and Design
- Criminology
- Education, Children and Young People
- Health and Care Professions
- Teacher Education



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Want to know more?

Visit: uco.oldham.ac.uk

Qualifications delivered in partnership with:





Oldham College

Oldham College, Rochdale Road
Oldham OL9 6AA

Opening times

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
8:30am - 6:00pm

Wednesday and Friday
8:30am - 5:00pm

Contact

General enquiries

0161 785 4000

Student recruitment enquiries

0161 785 4026

Apprenticeship enquiries

0161 785 4330

Email

info@oldham.ac.uk