

Schools and colleges guide

for international institutions

**FLEXIBLE OPTIONS TO BROADEN YOUR
SCHOOL'S CURRICULUM OFFER**

GCSE

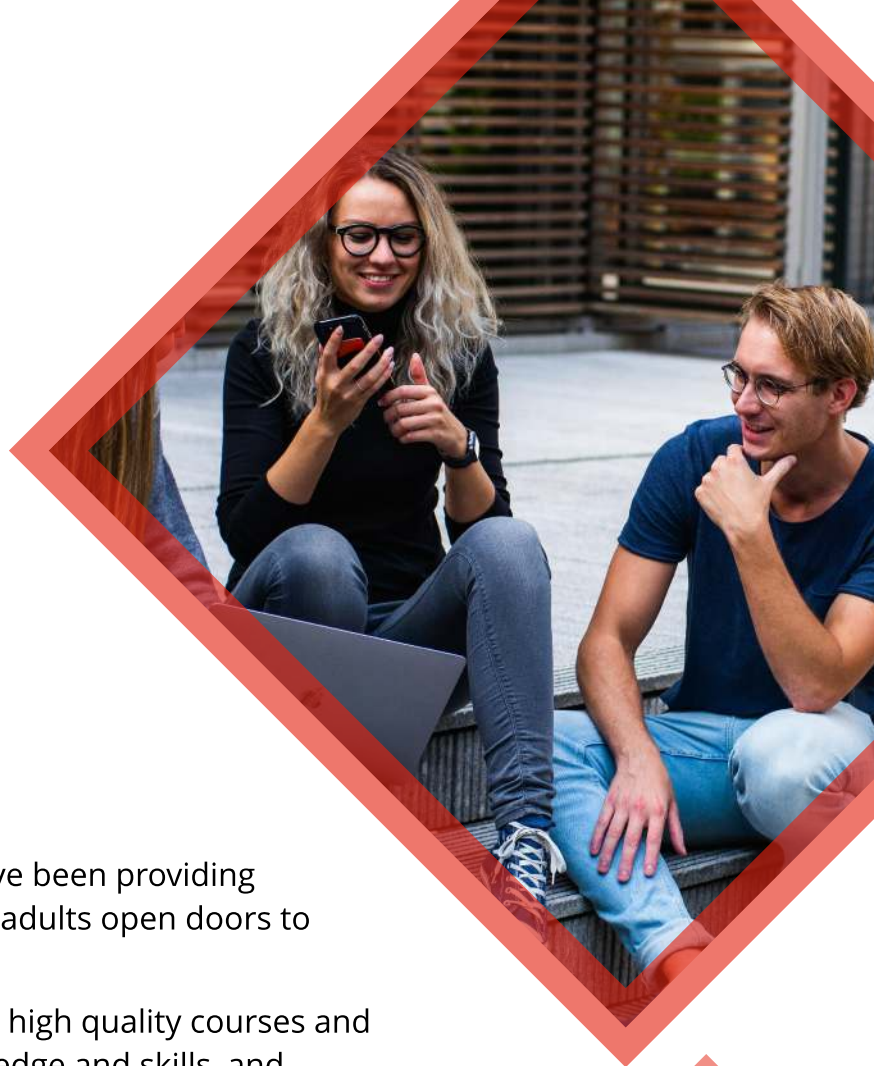
A level

UCAS service

Career development

www.nec.ac.uk

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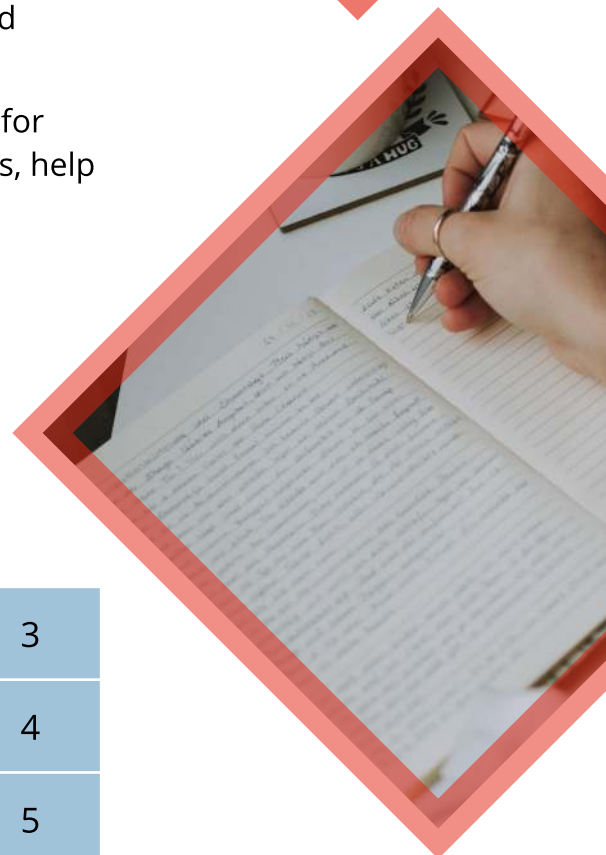


About NEC

At the National Extension College (NEC) we've been providing distance learning to help young people and adults open doors to their futures for over 55 years.

Each year thousands of students access our high quality courses and expert tutor support to develop their knowledge and skills, and achieve their goals.

We understand that as a school leader, you will want the best for your students. So, if you are looking to fill gaps in subject areas, help a student unable to attend school or looking for professional development courses for your staff, we can help.



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Flexible solutions to support you and your students

With over 20 years' experience working with schools and colleges, the National Extension College (NEC) has a wealth of expertise in supporting you and your students with flexible learning.

We've put together this Guide to show you how distance learning can fill gaps in your curriculum to give your students more subject choices. It can also help you to overcome the lack of readily available skilled teaching staff, and support students absent from school, for example due to illness.

At NEC we can help you to:

- Maintain and expand subject choice - choose from a wide range of subjects including: psychology, philosophy, astronomy and politics.
- Overcome the lack of skilled and knowledgeable teaching staff.
- Support students unable to attend school or college, such as those with a long-term illness.
- Fill gaps in students' GCSE qualifications - including English and maths.
- Stretch your gifted and talented students.
- Develop transferable independent study skills that prepare students for higher education and employment.
- Support University applications and preparation for Undergraduate study

We have helped many schools and colleges to meet these challenges. Why not get in contact with us to see how we can help you?

No set enrolment times or minimum number of students

There are no set enrolment times or minimum numbers of students. Whether you need to enrol one student or meet the needs of a group of students, our flexible provision means we can step in at short notice, and at any time, to help. With our affordable course fees you are guaranteed a high-quality solution to your student's study needs.

Your students will benefit from our:

- High-quality, structured course materials that guide them through the subject and are specially written for independent study by our expert teams of writers.
- A tutor who is a specialist in their subject, to support them through their course, mark assignments and provide feedback.
- Access to online course materials - including forums where they can interact with other students on the same course.

We will support you with:

- Your own login to learn@nec to access the course so you have access to the students' gradebook to help monitor their progress and provide appropriate support.
- Advice on exams and coursework administration.
- Reassurance that our tutors are quality assured and experienced in delivering the UK curriculum to a high standard.



What makes an NEC course the best

Teachers tell us that they value our high-quality course materials, expert tutor support and non-examination assessment elements like coursework authentication and marking. We believe that the NEC model of carefully designed course materials, support from a personal tutor and NEA services, provides your students with the best chance of success. We are proud of what we do and build on over 55 years' of experience of supporting students at a distance.

“With NEC the course follows the student, they can carry on studying wherever they are. Flexibility like that is hard to find.”
School using NEC courses with A level and GCSE students

1. Materials

Course materials

- Engaging content develops interest in the subject
- Getting started guidance and videos
- Course plans, activities and quizzes
- Guidance on answering exam questions
- Assignments to submit to a personal tutor
- Personal learning journal

“The materials are set out in a way that makes them easy to understand.”
David, IGCSE Physics and IGCSE Biology

3. Experts

Personal tutor

- Subject specialists
- Qualified and experienced teachers
- DBS checked

Expert writers

Materials specially written and structured for independent study; to meet assessment and exam requirements; to build knowledge and skills

2. Support

Tutor support

- Expert and constructive marking of assignments
- Carefully structured feedback
- Answers to subject-based questions
- Predicted grades if needed

Student support

- Course advice before you enrol
- Help with enrolling and arranging payment
- Personal support when needed
- Answers to specific queries about the course, exam or assessment
- Forums to discuss ideas with other students and tutors

Exam support

- Mock exam paper marking service (additional service)
- Authentication and marking of coursework if required

4. Extras

Free extras

- Study skills to support independent learning
- ebooks for some courses
- Spelling, punctuation and grammar guides

Our course fees include the course materials, tutorial support for the whole course, as well as Progress Portal access for one teacher at your school. We support a GCSE subject for 18 months and an A level subject for 24 months.

From as little as 450 pounds sterling your student can complete a fully supported course of study. Our business development team will provide a full list of fees tailored to your needs.

NEC A levels and GCSE courses at a glance

Our courses are written by subject specialists and cover the same topics as those taught in schools and colleges.

NEC can support students sitting exams in the UK.

Subject	Awarding body	AS	A Level	GCSE	Sit exam in home country
Classical Civilisation A level	OCR H408		x		
Geography IGCSE	CAIE0460			x	x
History A level	Edexcel 8HI0/9HI0 (Route D)	x	x		
History of Art A level	Edexcel 9HT0		x		
History IGCSE	Edexcel 4HI1			x	x
French A level	AQA 7651/7652	x	x		
French IGCSE	Edexcel 4FR1			x	x
Spanish A level	AQA 7691/7692	x	x		
Spanish IGCSE	Edexcel 4SP1			x	x
English Language A level	AQA 7701/7702	x	x		
English Language GCSE	AQA 8700			x	
English Literature A level	AQA 7712 (Spec A)		x		
English Literature GCSE	Edexcel 1ET0			x	x
Astronomy GCSE	Edexcel 1AS0			x	x
Biology A level	Edexcel 8BN0/9BN0 (Salters Nuffield)	x	x		x
Biology IGCSE	Edexcel 4BI1			x	x
Chemistry A level	Edexcel 8CH0/9CH0	x	x		x
Chemistry IGCSE	Edexcel 4CH1			x	x
Combined Science IGCSE	CAIE0653			x	x
Double Science Award IGCSE	Edexcel 4SD0			x	x
Physics A level	Edexcel 8PH0/9PH0	x	x		x
Physics IGCSE	Edexcel 4PH1			x	x
Further Maths A level	Edexcel 8FM0/9FM0	x	x		x
Maths A level	Edexcel 8MA0/9MA0	x	x		x
Maths GCSE	Edexcel 1MA1			x	x
Politics A level	Edexcel 8PL0/9PL0	x	x		x
Philosophy A level	AQA 7171/7172	x	x		
Psychology A level	AQA 7181/7182	x	x		
Psychology GCSE	AQA 8182			x	
Religious Studies A level	Edexcel 8RS0/9RS0	x	x		x
Sociology A level	AQA 7191/7192	x	x		
Sociology GCSE	AQA 8192			x	
Business A level	AQA 7131/7132	x	x		
Business IGCSE	Edexcel 4BS1			x	x
Economics A level	Edexcel 8EC0/9EC0	x	x		x
Law A level	AQA 7161/7162	x	x		

How else can we help?

Whilst flexibility of a distance learning course is ideal for many students, we know that sometimes more structure is needed, particularly for younger learners. In addition to NEC's high-quality support and benefits, we can offer additional support to younger students, and guide them through their course in a personal and more structured manner.

In a face-to-face environment the teacher provides structure, support and motivation, and will identify and deal with issues as soon as they arise. Our support for younger students includes Progress Portal access for one teacher or mentor (see page 6). Further additional services can be added if needed such as extra tutorials or help with revision.

For more information about the additional support we can offer to younger students see our website www.nec.ac.uk or phone **0800 389 2839**. There is an additional cost for this service.



Course spotlight

Critical Thinking

This short self-study course is aimed at A level students and those preparing for university entrance exams. By developing critical thinking skills, you will be able to judge the value, truth and basis of claims made in any debate. You will also learn to make your own convincing arguments.

Duration 6 months.





Course spotlight

Problem Solving

This short self-study course is aimed at A level students and those preparing for university entrance exams. It will help you to develop logical methods of handling numerical, graphical and pictorial data to solve problems. Such problem-solving skills are essential to lawyers, researchers, sociologists, geographers, historians and those in many other professions.

Duration 6 months.

We've got courses for staff too!

We can provide courses for staff as well as students! Details of all of our courses are available on our website www.nec.ac.uk. They include:

- **Childcare and Playwork courses** - to qualify you to work in settings such as after-school or holiday clubs and are accredited by NCFE CACHE.
- **Counselling and mentoring courses** - to help develop the skills critical for anyone in a teaching or support role.
- **A level History of Art** - to explore a subject that is omitted from most school curricula.
- **Management** - to build on leadership and management skills to help you progress to more senior roles.
- **Problem Solving and Critical Thinking**
- **Latin: A course for beginners** - a thorough introduction to Latin. No prior knowledge needed.

And of course, you could choose to take one of the A level courses in this guide to refresh your knowledge of a subject or gain an A level in something new.

Case study

Maintaining subject choice



Faced with the difficulty of recruiting a specialist psychology teacher at short notice, a school initially turned to NEC to help them continue to offer A level Psychology to their students and has since enrolled students on other NEC courses. *'As well as lacking a psychology teacher we were also looking to resolve some tricky timetable clashes for individual students and increase our range of subject choices,'* the Headteacher explains, *'For other schools considering distance learning I'd say "Go for it!" we know it works.'*

Why NEC?

For students who need a flexible route to those essential GCSE and A level qualification, the National Extension College is a hidden treasure and a superb option.

Mary Curnock Cook, Former Chief Executive, UCAS

NEC's approach [...] means we don't have to give a thought to timetabling, teaching time, marking pupils' work or preparing them for exams. Pupils choosing NEC courses have to be self-disciplined. Independent study fits very well with the school's ethos of individual endeavour for collaborative creation.

Director of Studies at a specialist music school

Get in touch

marcelle.durand@nec.ac.uk

