



Guide to SummitSkills'
Foundation degree
framework specification
for building services engineering





Introduction

What are Foundation degrees?

Foundation degrees are qualifications at a level equivalent to the first two years of a full time degree and may provide access to the final year of a degree. They should be designed in consultation with employers. The qualifications combine academic study with workplace learning to equip people with the relevant knowledge, understanding and skills to improve performance and productivity.

What is the framework specification?

The framework specification is a guidance document developed by SummitSkills to help universities and colleges to design and deliver Foundation degrees that meet the needs of employers in building services engineering.

Who contributed to its development?

Supported by Foundation degree forward (*fdf*), the framework specification was shaped in consultation with universities, colleges, students, employers, trade associations, professional bodies and training providers.

Employers

How can Foundation degrees help your business?

- Developing the knowledge and higher level skills of your existing workforce helps your business to remain competitive and responsive
- Workplace learning is a valuable way to connect theory to practical application
- Helping your staff to develop whether you need them to work with new technologies, adapt to changing regulations, or take on new responsibilities



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Employees



Why choose a Foundation degree?

Foundation degrees are designed and delivered in partnership with employers, universities and colleges to equip you with the knowledge, understanding and skills relevant to your employment.

They can help you to further your career by:

- Combining academic and work-based learning, allowing you to continue to work while developing your skills and knowledge
- Helping you to realise your potential in a supportive and flexible environment
- Enhancing your future prospects, particularly if you want to expand your current role or progress to a more senior/professional position

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Education providers



Why offer Foundation degrees?

Foundation degrees may help you to boost student numbers and improve links with local employers by:

- showing you are responsive to employer needs
- engaging more members of the existing workforce in learning
- providing a route for non-traditional students that allows progression to degrees and beyond

How can the framework specification help you?

It can help you to design and deliver Foundation degrees of maximum relevance to building services engineering employers.

The framework specification provides:

- guidance to help speed and shape development
- a model for a Foundation degree that has been benchmarked against industry standards
- confirmation of the structure, content and delivery that employers have said they want from Foundation degrees

The framework specification is designed to dovetail with:

- professional body recognition requirements that draw on UK-SPEC
- Foundation degree forward (*fdf*) guidance
- Quality Assurance Agency requirements
- HE validation and quality assurance procedures



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How can
you find out
more?

SummitSkills

- Website: www.summitskills.org.uk
- Foundation degree framework specification online: www.summitskills.org.uk/fds
- Telephone: Catherine Elliott at SummitSkills on 07725 202944
- Email: catherine.elliott@summitskills.org.uk

Foundation degree forward

- Website: www.fdf.ac.uk
- Telephone enquiries: 01543 301150
- Website email form: www.fdf.ac.uk/enquiries

UCAS

The organisation responsible for managing applications to higher education courses in the UK.

- Online course search: <http://fd.ucas.com>
- Website: www.ucas.com

*Discover what other
people have to say about
the benefits of
Foundation degrees*

summitskills.org.uk/fds

*See how Foundation
degrees can help building
services engineering*

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