General Enquiries
Tel: 0300 300 0090
Email: enquiries@stockport.tscg.ac.uk Website: stockport.tscg.ac.uk

HND Computing for England (HTQ) - General Pathway

Location	Stockport College
Course Type	University level
Department	Computing
Start Date	Monday 14th September 2026
Duration	Full-time, 2 Years
Time	-
Fee	£ 8000.00
Course Code	SFQ-HI5H-1400

Course Overview

This higher technical qualification is designed to provide a broad and practical foundation in computing and prepares students for employment in the digital and technology sector or progression to a Level 6 top-up degree. It will appeal to those who do not wish to specialise in one particular field, and who wish to acquire a broad knowledge-base and develop a wide range of skills.

This programme combines theory with hands-on practical learning, ensuring students develop both technical competence and professional skills. You will study a range of core and specialist computing areas that reflect current industry needs, including programming, networking, cyber security, databases, project management, and emerging digital technologies.
Teaching is delivered through a mix of lectures, practical workshops, supervised labs, group work, and project-based learning. The qualification is industry-informed and employer-focused, mapped to national occupational standards and designed to enhance employability in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

Course Requirements

Whilst applications are considered on an individual basis, they are usually based on a requirement to have 64 UCAS points from either:

A level 3 vocational qualification, GCE A levels or an Access to Higher Education Diploma

GCSE English Language and Maths at grade C/4 or above.

Mature students with relevant experience and/or professional qualifications are welcome to apply, and may be invited to interview.

What You Will Learn

You will develop a strong foundation in core computing principles and practical technical skills. You will learn how to design, write and test programs, gaining confidence in problem-solving and logical thinking while using industry-relevant tools and techniques.

You will build a solid understanding of computer networks, databases, and operating systems, exploring how modern computing systems are designed, managed, and secured. This includes learning how data is stored and managed, how networks support communication, and how operating systems enable hardware and software to work effectively together.

Cyber security is a key theme of the course, and you will develop knowledge of security threats, risks, and protection methods. You will learn how to safeguard systems, data, and networks, and understand the importance of security in both organisational and societal contexts.

The course also focuses on professional and project-based skills. You will learn how to plan, manage, and deliver computing projects, conduct research, and support business processes using digital solutions. These skills are reinforced through practical assignments and a substantial research project at Level 5.
In addition, you will explore emerging and innovative technologies that are shaping the digital world. This includes studying the fundamentals of artificial intelligence and intelligent systems, the Internet of Things, and the principles of digital sustainability, helping you understand how technology can be used responsibly and effectively.

Alongside technical knowledge, you will develop essential professional skills such as communication, teamwork, presentation, and reflective practice. By the end of the course, you will have a portfolio of applied work and the confidence to progress into employment within the computing sector or continue your studies at degree level.

Assessment

Students are continuously assessed using a variety of methods including reports, presentations, practical workshops, labs, portfolios and evidence.

Progression

On completion, you may progress a Level 6 top up degree including those that we offer, validated by Sheffield Hallam University:

BSc (Hons) Computing (Software Engineering) top up
BSc (Hons) Computing (Cyber Security) top up
BSc (Hons) Artificial Intelligence top-up

Career Options

On completion, you may consider roles such as:

Data analyst
Software tester
Junior software developer
Cyber security analyst
Junior network engineer
Application support analyst

Mandatory Units

At level 4 you study:

Programming
Networking
Professional Practice
Database Design & Development
Security
Planning a Computing Project
Software Development Lifecycles
Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Intelligent Systems

At level 5:

Computing Research Project
Business Process Support
Network Management
Client/Server Computing Systems
Internet of Things
Operating Systems
Digital Sustainability

Extra Costs Involved

There are no essential additional costs to this course, however, you will need access to a suitable laptop or similar for work outside of teaching hours.

Exam Validation Body

Pearson Education Ltd

Exam Validation Body

Pearson Education Ltd

Hours Per Week

12 hours per week

How Long To Complete

2 years

Programme Structure

The Higher National Diploma (HND) is a Level 5 qualification made up of 240 credits studied over two years

Contact Details

For further information please email HEenquiries@tcg.ac.uk

Disclaimer

Although every care has been taken to ensure that the information contained within this document is accurate, there may be changes to this programme and provision. We will endeavour to keep prospective and current students updated where appropriate and when the information becomes available.