

SEARCH TIPS

The discover HE database is designed to allow access to a wide range of HE provision offered in Higher Education Institutions and Further Education Colleges in the North West. Rather than accessing different institutional websites, it is now possible to search courses from various providers in one single place.

At this stage it will be possible to search the database by keyword and refine the search by further criteria such as *sector*, *course type*, *course mode*, *supplier*, and *district*. A combination of any or all of these options may be used.

For example, you may choose to search the database with the keyword 'management' and the search results will show 996 courses which contain the word 'Management'. You can refine the search further and select 'Construction sector' – now you have 65 courses that match those selected criteria. If you are only interested in courses offered in Bolton area, this will show 12 courses from this location.

The search results are organised as follows:

- The returned search results will be displayed in a table and contain the institution name, course name, course type, course mode and district where the course is taught.
- An URL link from the course name will direct you to the corresponding page containing further details about the course (e.g. contact details, institutional course code, relevant page on the institutional website, etc).
- The result table will display 20 records per page. If there are more results, they can be accessed by clicking on the other page numbers (at the bottom of the table).
- You can sort the search results by clicking on the headings to see them displayed by name, by course type, by course mode, by district or by supplier.
- Export to Excel button only shows after you have made a search and you can save the search results as an excel table to share with others. When data is exported to excel file, the file name is automatically generated using the current date and time. This acts as a timestamp search result and may help you locate files you have previously exported. (e.g. Courses_03062008_1045)

Keyword Search

To get better results, modify the keyword you're using to search. Try both '*nurse*' and '*nursing*', '*computer*' and '*computing*', '*accounting*' and '*accountancy*', '*legal*' and '*law*', '*physical*' and '*physics*' or change '*surveyor*' to '*surveying*' or simply '*survey*'.

Course Sector Search

Here you can refine the search by selecting the sector you are interested in. All sectors are listed alphabetically. Multiple selection option is not available at this point.

Course Type Search

This search option allows you to select the type of qualification you are looking for. The data has been collated to include a range of HE provision in the region - HND/HNC, Foundation Degree, Honours Degree, Postgraduate Degree, CPD and short courses.

Course Mode Search

This further search option allows you to refine your search for course mode (e.g. part-time, full-time).

District Search

You can choose courses that are offered in your local area by selecting the district from the dropdown list. Some courses are offered as online or work-based; you can select these options if relevant. Multiple selection option is not available at this point.

Course Supplier Search

You can browse all suppliers in alphabetic order and choose the one you are interested in. At present we have data from 15 HEIs and 29 FECs in the North West.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The database will be further developed to allow a variety of user-friendly options. It will be developed to allow access by designated users, such as course administrators, who will be able to manage course information (add, edit, remove) on the database. The aim of this is to ensure accuracy of course details to be updated in a timely manner. There would be one course administrator who would be responsible to update courses offered by their institution.

Some ideas are being tested at the moment and if successful they will be added to the database at a later stage. In the meantime, we would like to request your suggestions of how we can enhance the search and make this database easy to use. All ideas are very welcome!