



**Take your next steps  
with Free Thinking**  
a course for new communities

**14th January – 6th March 2022**  
**13th May – 17th July 2022**



[www.fircroft.ac.uk](http://www.fircroft.ac.uk)



## Fircroft College

Fircroft is the only adult residential further education college (19+) in the Midlands, situated in Selly Oak, Birmingham, close to the city centre and easily accessible by train, bus and road. The college was established in 1909 when George Cadbury Jr. transformed his family home into a place of learning for his workers, encouraging them to increase their knowledge and skills to help them to meet their potential and pass their learning on to their colleagues.

Today Fircroft is a vibrant college welcoming students across the West Midlands county and offering a wide range of short and longer residential courses. Courses include personal and social development, skills for work, social justice themed courses, outdoor learning and sustainability courses and functional skills. The college is seen as a place of sanctuary for its students who are able to escape from their every-day lives for a short time and focus on their learning. In addition to the picturesque setting and tranquil grounds, the college offers extra support to students who may find learning challenging and are perhaps going through a period of change in their lives. Students coming to Fircroft may be eligible for fully funded or subsidised courses.

The landscaped gardens at Fircroft offer spaces for thinking, studying, conversation, teaching and reflection and act as an extension to the college building. They are available to all students, forming part of the transformational learning experience.

### About the Course

Getting back into mainstream education and employment after surviving trauma, torture or modern slavery can feel unachievable. But learning and working in the right environment are safe ways for refugees and asylum seekers to take those first steps.

The course includes topics such as:

- **Sharing stories in a safe and supportive environment**
- **ESOL - taught separately and embedded in many of the lessons**
- **Employability skills and advice**
- **Your rights and responsibilities**
- **Wellbeing and confidence building skills**
- **IT and presentation skills development**
- **Team building and problem solving skills**

We offer:

- **An immersive residential learning experience with clear opportunities for practical learning and experienced support staff to provide pastoral care**
- **Peer support from smaller classroom sizes to improve outcomes and build on social capital**
- **Opportunities for integration at your own pace as we're a mainstream college with a diverse student body**
- **Information, advice and guidance on identifying strengths, career aspirations, skills and abilities**



## Dates:

### Dates:

14th January – 6th March 2022 (Friday to Sunday)

13th May – 17th July 2022 (Friday to Sunday)

### Entry Requirements:

- Students need to have refugee status, leave to remain or have been in the country for more than 6 months as an asylum seeker.
- Students will also need to be eligible under funding rules.
- This course is funded by the West Midlands Combined Authority and is available to people living within the West Midlands county including Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell, Dudley, Solihull and Coventry.

Other eligibility criteria applies – please contact our Admissions team to find out more on telephone number **0121 472 0116** or email [admissions@fircroft.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@fircroft.ac.uk)

### Fees:

This course could be free depending on financial circumstances and other eligibility criteria. Contact our Admissions team for more information.

### Health and Safety:

Health and safety at the college is very important to us and we ensure we adhere to government guidelines as well as having our own measures in place to ensure Fircroft is a safe place to study and stay.

### Open Days:

Open Days are a great way to find out more about the college and our courses. To register to attend an Open Day, go to [www.fircroft.ac.uk/open-days](http://www.fircroft.ac.uk/open-days)

Please note that our Open Days may be subject to change, depending on government guidance at the time. You will be notified if any changes need to be made.

### How to Apply:

To find out more about this course and to apply go to [www.fircroft.ac.uk/free-thinking](http://www.fircroft.ac.uk/free-thinking) and apply online or contact our Admissions team on **0121 472 0116** or email [admissions@fircroft.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@fircroft.ac.uk) for further information.

*Please note: Course details may be subject to change*



We were awarded College of Sanctuary status in 2021 by the City of Sanctuary which confirms our commitment to providing education to adults from all parts of society including new communities.

T: 0121 472 0116 | E: [Admissions@fircroft.ac.uk](mailto:Admissions@fircroft.ac.uk) | W: [www.fircroft.ac.uk](http://www.fircroft.ac.uk)

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