

Student FAQs

Highbury College and Portsmouth College believe that Portsmouth and surrounding areas deserve high-quality teaching and learning for all ages.

Our commitment to your education and college experience after the proposed merger:

You will

- ▶ keep the same teacher wherever possible, but some changes may occur on certain courses, e.g. some two-year A Levels or if a teacher has left or for a specialist topic
- ▶ continue your learning on almost all learning programmes on the same campus
- ▶ have more opportunities e.g. for enrichment activities or a wider range of progression pathways
- ▶ still be able to access the strong student support at each site
- ▶ have opportunities to collaborate on projects across the campuses, e.g. linking Student Unions and curriculum projects.

How will the merger impact on me as I am a current student part way through my course?


After the point of merger, you will not experience a significant change to your college experience as the vast majority of students are remaining at the same campus with the same staff. Your tutors and support staff will continue to work and support you in achieving your qualifications and progression routes.

As a current student, would I have to go across different campuses for my studies?

The vast majority of students are remaining at the same campus with the same staff. For the minority of students that are moving campuses, we are working with them separately to support the move. There are no plans to have students going between campuses at this stage to access their courses and learning.

As a current student I make use of the student support services at my current college. Will this change from September 2021 when the colleges merge?

As the vast majority of students are remaining at their existing campus, then they will still be able to access the student support functions that they do now. For new students who join the College in September 2021, they will be able to access student support services at each campus in the same way as existing students.



How will the proposed merger affect students applying for courses starting in September 2021?

Please apply in the usual way to the college campus that has the course that you want to study and follow that college's application guidance and procedures. The vast majority of courses will continue to be delivered on the campus site you are expecting to attend. Enrolment will be carried out at each campus in the normal way.

What would the changes mean for students?

It would be an exciting time for all our students. The proposed merger will give a greater choice of courses, flexibility and resources for students to enjoy. We are also bidding for funding for significant upgrades to student facilities and work areas which, if successful, will be start operation in phases from 2023.

Will it affect my qualification(s)?

No. Virtually all of our awards and qualifications are certified by external bodies and these will not be affected in any way. If you are studying for a degree or post-graduate award, then you will still receive your degree from the awarding partner.

Will there be any cancellation of courses?

There will be no changes arising from the merger process. However, it is normal practice that college courses are constantly reviewed to make sure that they are meeting the needs of both the student and employers. We will communicate with you about any such changes if they should arise.

Will universities, employers and training providers be aware of the merger for progression reasons?

Yes, we are communicating with all our stakeholders as part of the consultation about the proposed changes. Your progression routes will not change because of the merger.

What happens next?

The College's governing bodies have set up a Shadow Board to oversee the implementation of the merger and the necessary legal and financial procedures. Both Colleges will work closely together over the next few months.

How can I keep up to date with developments?

As the merger discussion progress, we will keep applicants up to date with the latest news and will update the merger website at each college so everyone can access the information. Our priority throughout the process is to ensure that new applicants and students studying with us continue to have the high-quality education and training they expect.

