

BIMONTHLY

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NEWSLETTER



SUPPORTED BY
MAYOR OF LONDON



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

A warm welcome to our 157 new HNC learners and our returning HND cohorts of students. It is a shame we could not all meet in person but virtually. It is also great to have our first groups of Staffordshire University BA (Hons) Business Management top up degree undergraduates. The College is also now delivering excellent further education provision from Newcastle -upon-Tyne, London and Luton led by Bev Ball with a new dynamic team. So exciting times ahead for all.

We start the new academic session with the wonderful CECOS team back in the College in Edmonton Green. It has been good to hear laughter and banter bringing things more to life in these difficult Covid19 days. We have worked hard to ensure the College is Covid19 safe with screens at reception and lots of sanitiser points and social distancing. It has been great to have some learners in the College for occasional sessions. The hope is that if the pandemic improves, we may be able to have more groups in for tutorials and workshops in the New Year.

All teaching sessions are being delivered online via Zoom. Although not as good as face to face, we are delighted to report that attendance, engagement and participation is excellent. So a big thank you to all students and staff for all your hard work.

Though this academic learning experience has been different from any other, together we will continue to work towards returning to face to face classroom teaching with some virtual learning in the future. As your Principal, I am truly honoured to be leading us towards 2021 Academic Year.

Best wishes,

Mark Mabey

Principal CECOS College



Our Newcastle campus is open, ready and safe to welcome our first students to sit their English and Maths exams this week.



This is the fantastic view we have every morning walking into work. How lucky we are.



Since the success of our AEB contract with North of Tyne Combined Authority, we have expanded our brilliant team of functional skills tutors. The team have quickly adapted to online delivery, supporting each other in offering our students a flexible delivery model which compliments their family and work commitments.

The purpose of the AEB is to engage adults, aged 19 and over, in learning, and equip them with the skills needed to progress to employment, Apprenticeships or Higher National Diplomas in Business with CECOS College.

The AEB Devolution allows the NTCA to help deliver funds locally, to better meet the needs of the North of Tyne area and the residents. We have had some success in forging partnerships with local community groups which we aim to continue to grow, creating further opportunities to support local and rural residents North of Tyne.

The £23 million devolved funds are provided to the North of Tyne Combined Authority to boost the life chances and adult skills of people in Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland.

CECOS are proud to be involved in partnerships which will contribute to make those changes happen. We strive to deliver high quality skills which leads to a positive outcome for our students, giving opportunities for all, removing barriers which can make it difficult for people to gain employment and access training opportunities.

A big thank you to everyone involved in getting us off to a great start.

STAFFORDSHIRE UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP



Great News. in September 2021 we had our partnership with Staffordshire University approved. Now CECOS College are able to offer the BA (Hons) Business Management (Level 6). This means our successful Higher National Diploma Business students can now progress directly to BA (Hons) and continue their studies with CECOS college.

Staffordshire University is ranked 37th in the Guadian University League table, was awarded Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework and has been shortlisted for University of theYear for 2020 by the Times Higher Education Awards.

We will be offering year 1 of the new programme BA (Hons) Business Management & Sustainability from September 2021 as well as the level 6 top up degree and over the next two years offer the full undergraduate degree at the College. This is an fantastic development and gives us lots of opportunities including linking with the Student' Union, staff development and collaborative research links to enhance the learning and teaching we offer.

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staffs.ac.uk/partnerships



CECOS NEW TEAM MEMBERS

With our continued growth we would like to introduce our new staff members who have joined the CECOS Collage family. They have already started to make a big impact. Thank you for the great start you have already made and keep on changing the lives of learners. We salute you all.



Beverley Ball
AEB Contracts Manager



Mandy Hayward
Quality Lead



Sarah Nicolaou
MIS Manager



Elif Yildiz
Admissions Officer



Aniqah Uddin
Learner Engagement Officer



Masuma Hussain
Learner Engagement Officer



Nusrat Hossain
Learner Engagement Officer



Inga Olari
Admissions Officer



Afsheen Fazal
Academic Coordinator



Neelo Abrahimi
Academic Coordinator

THE DET TRAINEE TEACHER – LEARNING JOURNEY

Building on the success of the launch of the Level 5 Diploma in Education and Training (DET) teaching course, students are learning new skills, sorting out their work placements to gain teaching hours and completing assessments. This is all working towards “opening the door” for a career in teaching.

As a student on the DET, they are referred to as ‘trainee teachers’ and are eligible for FREE membership to the Society of Education and Training for free resources, training and information to their course.

Source: <https://set.et-foundation.co.uk/membership/free-student-membership-offer/>.

Now, the trainee teachers’ journey is starting where they learn about the ‘Theories, principles and models in education and training, to understand how to teach, how learners learn and how to include everyone in your teaching and learning.

In addition, they are working on a unit to create, develop resources to use in lessons. This helps the trainee teachers prepare for delivering their teaching and lesson observations using digital technology such as Zoom, Kahoot and Moodle for chat and discussions. Click on PADLET for more detail on what units.

https://padlet.com/cecos_college_london/ud88nqwr7kjk810

In addition, the next stage of their journey is gaining experience from their work placement, working with an experienced teacher who is the mentor to be given opportunities to teach and engage with learners to develop their knowledge, skills and use this in their assessments. It’s exciting times on the journey towards a professional skill and qualification for a new career in teaching. So if you want to #getintoteaching, sign up for the Teacher Taster Events @CECOS College London.

Sign up by clicking on **<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/teaching-events/training-provider-events/201110-cecos-college-london-teacher-training-taster-virtual-event>**.



STAFF IN THE SPOTLIGHT



NEELO ABRAHIMI
ACADEMIC COORDINATOR

What is your job role in CECOS College and what is a typical day for you?

My role at CECOS is split into two main parts; academic coordinator and EAP module leader. In my academic coordinator role, I help the rest of the HE team with HE related administration duties and these duties will vary depending on what is happening for the day. Outside of this role, I also I lead the English for Academic Purpose module and teach it every day. This module is a part Study Skills and aims towards bringing greater attention to grammar, widening lexical range and sharpening academic skills such as paraphrasing and referencing.

What is the one thing you cannot resist?

The things that I cannot resist doing are seasonal. In spring, I cannot resist admiring blossoms on trees and picking up flowers that have fallen to dry the petals and put them in white frames or, inside my journals. In the summer, I love to just be outside as much as I can be, especially early in the morning to do some grounding by simply walking barefoot on the Earth. I love the sunshine so I can meditate under the direct heat of the sunshine.

In autumn, I can't help but to admire the seasons because they teach me about the ongoing flow of change and the peace in the birth and death of all things.

What is your greatest fear?

My greatest fear is unmet potential.

Where is your favourite place to be?

My favourite place can be anywhere depending on the company I have around me.

Where is the best place you've travelled to and why?

I've been able to travel to over 20 countries at 26 years old and out of all my solo travels, my favourite places to date are: Medina Baye, Senegal, Morocco, Fes, Oakland California and Lake Lugano, Italy.

When I travelled to Sub-Saharan West Africa to visit Senegal, I stayed in a village 3 hours away from Dakar. I went to see prominent scholars of Islam both from Medina Baye and many that had travelled from Mauritania for their scholarly studies. I spent time observing the community, immersing myself in the culture and spoke with great world renowned scholars to seek answers for some existential questions that I had. The first leg of the journey to Senegal started in Morocco in the Old Medina of Fes, otherwise known as the City of Saints (of which the Arabic term would be awliya). Fes has a different atmosphere; the Old Medina is full of small cobbled streets with the smell of sweet tagines in the air and plenty of thriving little stalls selling soft silks, hooded Moroccan robes, spices that make your nose twitch and tea, all of which takes you back to a different time and space.

The polar, Another location I travelled to Oakland California. I was always so hesitant about visiting the states however, after touring through California and the state of Nevada, Oakland is definitely one of my favourite places. Oakland is a very urban and has a lot of diversity and culture. I am a big lover of artistic expression and you really felt that all over Oakland in the streets and in the buildings. Lastly, I went to Lake Lugano with my family which was different for me as I usually travel alone but it was really relaxing to wind down with my family present too, we did a lot of hiking and I swam in a few different lakes, which were all astonishing in their natural beauty.

What's the weirdest job you've ever had?

I wouldn't say weirdest but, the quirkiest job I ever had was when I worked for a start-up business in the cannabis industry with a focus on Hemp and CBD products. It was my first time working in a female-led environment with a female only team. I had an amazing time and made some wonderful friends but most importantly, I was able to learn about the benefits of using hemp and CBD and see firsthand how people were using this method of holistic plant based healing to treat diseases successfully.

What would you do (for a career) if you weren't doing this?

I would have been teaching.

Any favourite line from a movie?

My favourite movie is Apocalypso which was directed by Mel Gibson. My favourite line from the movie is: "Fear. Deep rotting fear. They were infected by it. Did you see? Fear is a sickness. It will crawl into the soul of anyone who engages it. It has tainted your peace already. I did not raise you to see you live with fear. Strike it from your heart. Do not bring it into our village".

Tell us something that might surprise us about you.

I am very into martial arts and watching UFC. I have done kickboxing for 6 years and I started doing Silat 1 year ago – Silat (Girek Ilham style) is my favourite form of martial arts, although Bruce Lee always said that the best form is formlessness (like water, which holds and moulds to any form – it is based in Islamic principles as it is a form of martial arts that came from Indonesia and is also practised in Malaysia by young and aged alike.

If you could choose anyone, who would you pick as your mentor?

Shams e Tabriz, Jalal ad-Din Balkhi, Malcom X and Rabia al-Adawiyya.

If you could learn to do anything, what would it be?

I would learn how best to learn other languages / I would learn to learn better.

What are 3 words you'd use to describe CECOS College?

Humour, family, honesty.

If you won the lottery, what is the first thing you would do?

Build an off grid self sufficient community.

When you have 30 minutes of free-time, how do you pass the time?

I usually read my book or listen to a short podcast.

What is something you learned in the last week?

Last week I learned about SARS in Nigeria and educated myself further on global police brutality.

What's your favorite indoor/outdoor activity?

My favourite outdoor activities are practising silat forms, archery and horse riding. My favourite indoor activities includes painting, reading and baking.

What is the first concert you attended?

The first concert I attended was a J Cole concert.

What music is on your iPhone/Android phone?

My music is a HUGE mix between melancholic acoustics to soft rap/drill.

What chore do you absolutely hate doing?

I hate vacuuming.

If you could meet anyone, living or dead, who would it be?

Shams e Tabriz, Jalal ad-Din Balkhi, Malcom X, Rabia al-Adawiyya. Of the living, I would like to meet Dr Dre, Steve Harvey, David Attenborough, and Omar Sulaiman.

How do you balance your career and family?

It's pretty simple because I don't have a partner or children. I spend Sundays with my parents, we usually get a Turkish breakfast together and generally in the evenings or later in the night, I relax at home with them.

COVID-19 ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 20/21 ACADEMIC YEAR



ADMISSIONS

We continued to recruit students for our September intake and used the virtual admissions system in recruiting throughout lockdown. We have devised a robust 3 step online process in order to ensure that at the admissions stage the student is being vetted and enrolled in a virtual campus. When students are signposted to our admissions team we ensure that all documents have been uploaded and that the information is mirrored to the online form that they have completed. The student then completes our English and Maths initial assessment under the normal exam conditions, which are monitored in the virtual campus. The final step is a one to one academic interview via 'Google Hangout Meet' which not only gives an excellent indication of the applicants academic levels but gives the college the opportunity to provide that personal touch with the video link set up.

TEACHING & LEARNING THROUGH ONLINE PLATFORM

We will be adopting a blended learning approach with students attending 50% of the time in the campus and the other 50% with online lectures so we can maintain social distancing. The lectures will be carried out online using the Zoom platform, which will be plugged in with our Moodle. The presentation slides covering the assessment criteria and full scopes of the course have already been uploaded on Moodle. Online lectures have been used in the current term, which have proved successful. Lectures will be delivered virtually through 'zoom' video link and will be interactive with two-way communication. Detailed SOW has already been prepared specially focused on the students' centric learning methodology. The main objectives include making lectures interesting & engaging learners, covering all the course material and polishing students' skills in achieving their maximum potential. Study skills have been embedded within the course and have also designed different group activities around the LOs helping students to improve their knowledge of the module and their employability skills.

In addition, students have also been enrolled for other online resources like HN global, online library and Pearson have released a number of online support materials for students.

For monitoring the quality of teaching and learning, teaching observations will be done online; one peer observation and one external observation. A detailed de-brief will be shared with the lecturers highlighting their strengths and weaknesses.

Lecturers will be scheduled to meet at least once in a fortnight to share their ideas and good practices. All other academic meetings will be carried out through zoom as per schedule including Programme management committee, assessment board, standardisation meeting, progression board etc.

The above are measures that have now been in place for 3 months and have proved extremely successful with students who have all commented on the support that has been provided and the quality of lectures which has maintained the student experience.

MONITORING OF ATTENDANCE:

Attendance will be monitored online with our virtual platform generating reports when a student enters and leaves the classroom. Any non attendance will be dealt with accordingly to our normal practices in line with our attendance policy.

Individual Learning Plans:

Student's targets will be set on the third lecture, an online form will be sent to all students with detailed guidelines to fill in the form. Lecturers and student support teams will see these forms and discuss with the students on a one-to-one basis. These targets will be monitored in the next term as per normal practice.

ONLINE EXTERNAL SPEAKERS:

At CECOS, we have been actively arranging lectures from industry experts and academicians in almost every semester. In the next semester, we are also planning to deliver some online lecturers to our students enabling them to share success stories and get motivation from them besides improving their own skills.

ASSIGNMENTS SUBMISSION & FEEDBACK:

Students will be submitting their work on Turnitin through Moodle and will get their feedback through email; there is no change on this. The formative feedback will be given by the lecturers as per normal practice through one to one seminars and email.

STUDENTS' INPUT:

With the student experience being the most crucial aspect for us, students input is a must and has been incorporated whilst undertaking online teaching. The end of semester feedback will be collected through online Google form and will be compiled. The compiled data will be fed into different committees. Further, student council meetings will be convened online where feedback will be used to highlight important changes.

STUDENT SUPPORT CENTRE

Our student support team is available both by telephone and online for students from 0900–2100. We have already helped many students who simply require someone to talk. We have set up a daily coffee and lunch meet up which allows students and staff to meet up online and talk to each other, this we feel helps with social anxiety and helps people to keep in touch with each other.



MARKS CORNER

September saw a return to some normality and working back in the office as I travelled from sunny Stoke-on-Trent to London adorned with face covering of course. It has been so great to see the wonderful CECOS team all be it socially distanced



My office at home continues to have additions to my desk and workstation- see if you can spot the addition!!



Finally an up-date as you may recall from previous additions we had two new additions to the CECOS family that were named by the student Council 'Hends and Hents' they have settled in well and are laying every day beautiful brown eggs!



Whilst at home we are continuing our Zoom sessions and my Thursday Coffee sessions started in October



AND IN OTHER COVID 19 NEWS.....

We continued our 'Safe Six Training' in CECOS College as our learners had another fantastic week in their bubble.
#bubble #safesix #covid19

Introducing your Covid-19 Compliance Officer- Hariss Pervez. If you need any advice and guidance regarding the pandemic then please contact your Covid-19 Compliance Officer.
#covid19 #safety #complianceofficer

October marks Black History Month in the UK, the annual celebration and acknowledgement of the history, achievements and contributions that people of African and Caribbean backgrounds have made to this country over many generations. We at CECOS College will be embedding this in our lessons throughout October to give our students and learners a greater understanding.

A Covid-19 message from the Principal, Mark Mabey.
Wash your hands
Don't touch your face
Keep your distance
If you feel ill, then stay at home
#covid19 #principal #cecos

The start of the FE academic year in August and HE academic year in September has seen the CECOS family working around the clock to ensure learner lives are changing for the better. The CECOS Team have ensured that 105 learners started on Level 2 and below qualifications in August with English, Maths and IT Professional. In September 191 students will be starting Level 4,5 & 6 programmes in Business and DET.

This is truly amazing work and If you have an amazing team you can achieve amazing things.
#AdultLearning #HNCHND #University





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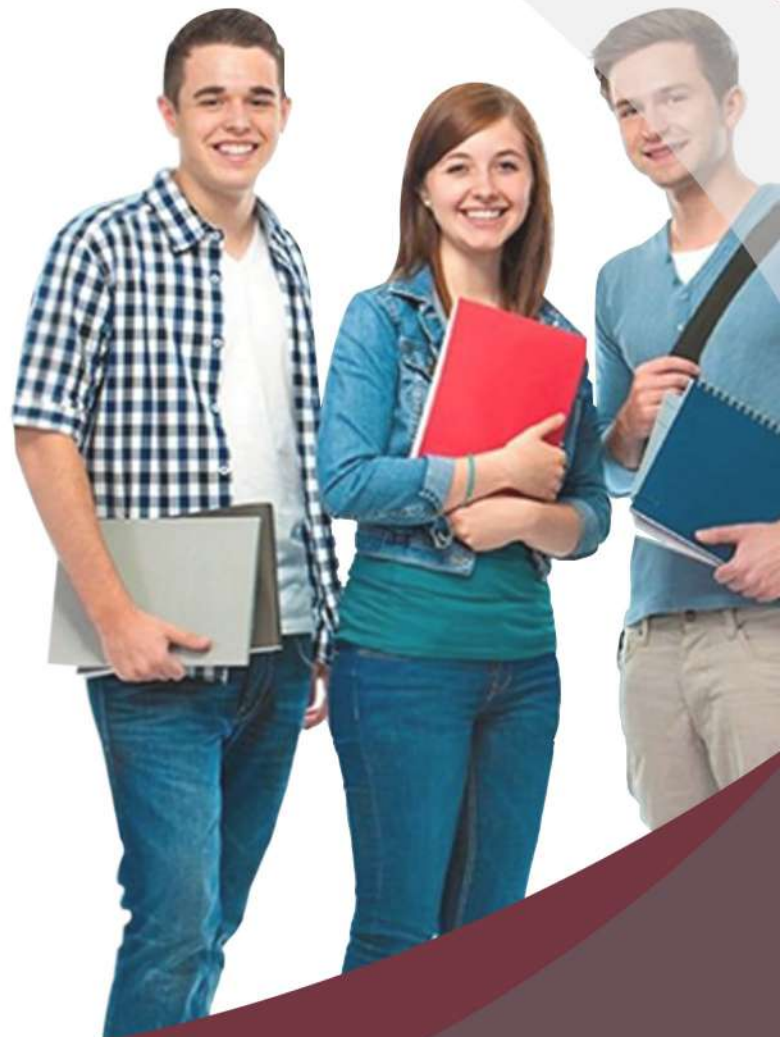
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