



## Media Release

For immediate release

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### TGI engaging with community to establish demand for on-island studies

Last week, The Guernsey Institute started surveying students to see whether they would be interested in continuing their studies on-island next year, instead of going to university.

This comes as an increasing number of students began to express concerns about starting university as the Covid-19 pandemic continues.

The Guernsey Institute may be able to offer Higher National Diplomas and Higher National Certificates on island, which would be Level 4 and Level 5 equivalent to a foundation degree.

While not all, some universities will offer credit for the completion of these courses and allow students to start straight into their second year. The courses would also give those planning to go straight into employment access to work placements and experience, while they continue their higher education.

Leaders from The Guernsey Institute have been engaging with industry leaders while the survey of students is carried out, to establish what demand there would be from employers, and for what subjects.

The student survey has so far had 190 responses, and is open to those in Year 13 or equivalent at the Grant Aided Colleges, the Sixth Form Centre and the Guernsey College of Further Education. The prevailing response has been that students are not sure what they are going to do.

Jacki Hughes, Executive Principal of The Guernsey Institute, said:

“Understandably, some students are concerned about relocating to the UK in the midst of this pandemic, but also want to ensure they continue their studies. If the demand is there, we have the opportunity to offer some foundation level courses on island, which may allow students to spend the first 12 months of their studies in Guernsey, and then jump into university in their second year of studies without

having had a 12 month break. Some universities will recognise these courses as an equivalent to the first year and some will offer a level of credit, but for other students this will be an opportunity to continue studying at a higher level, rather than having a year out before their university studies begin.”

Deputy Andrea Dudley-Owen, President of the Committee *for* Education, Sport & Culture, said:

“If the demand is there, The Guernsey Institute has the opportunity to offer peace of mind to island students worried about both moving to the UK during the pandemic, and letting their studies slip. Similarly, many will be concerned about finding employment during these tumultuous times. These courses would help to give students critical work experience on placements while they study, which can often be key to them securing employment.”

The Guernsey Institute continues to invite views on this matter, if you would like to get in touch, email [TheGuernseyInstitute@gov.gg](mailto:TheGuernseyInstitute@gov.gg).

**Ends**