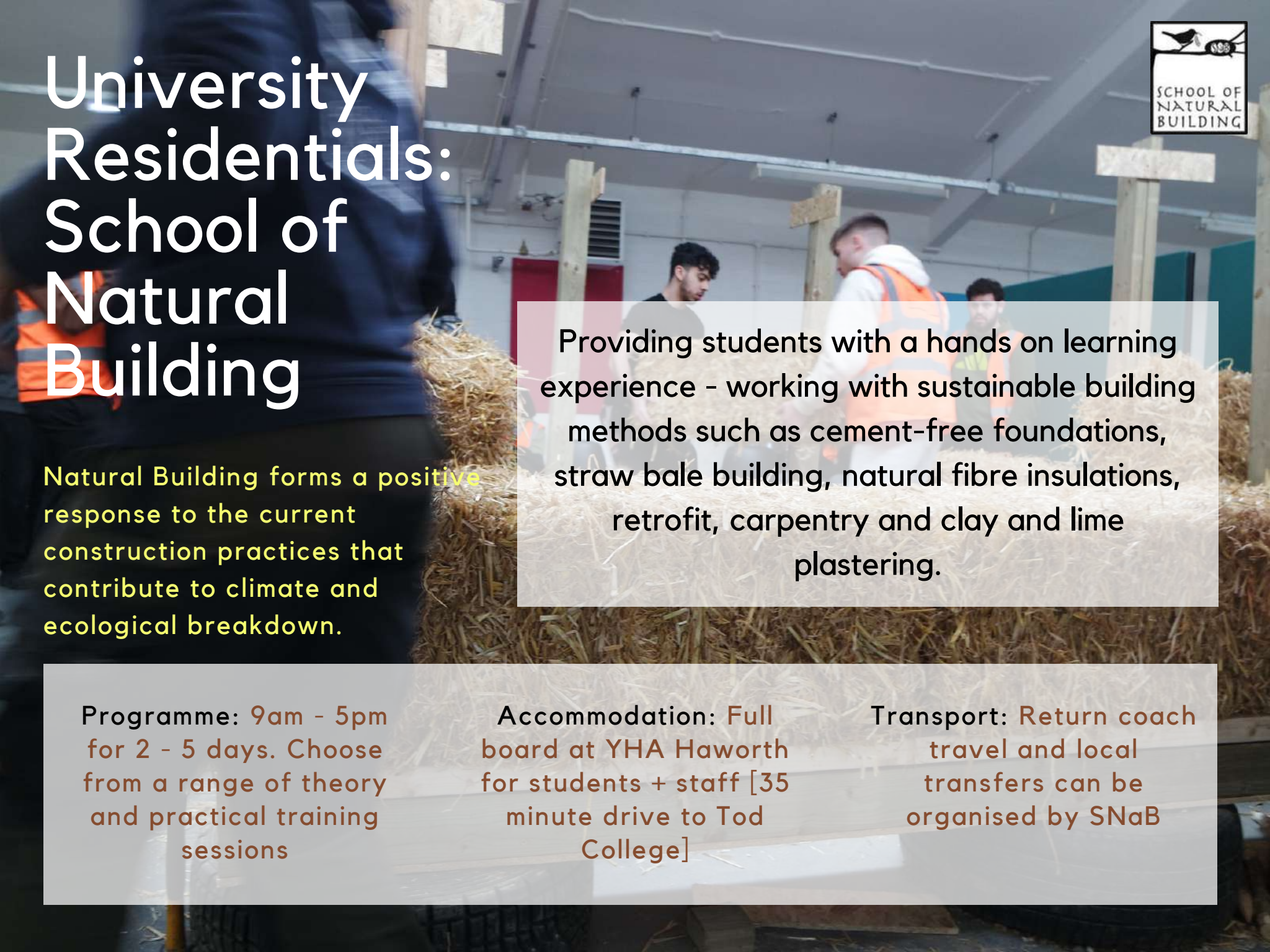
University Residentials: School of Natural Building

For students of built environment disciplines across architecture, engineering, planning, landscape and more.

SCHOOL OF NATURAL BUILDING



University Residentials: School of Natural Building

Natural Building forms a positive response to the current construction practices that contribute to climate and ecological breakdown.

Providing students with a hands on learning experience - working with sustainable building methods such as cement-free foundations, straw bale building, natural fibre insulations, retrofit, carpentry and clay and lime plastering.

Programme: 9am - 5pm for 2 - 5 days. Choose from a range of theory and practical training sessions

Accommodation: Full board at YHA Haworth for students + staff [35 minute drive to Tod College]

Transport: Return coach travel and local transfers can be organised by SNaB

Choose from a range of sessions

Running from Tod College, West Yorkshire

PRACTICAL

- Tool time + site H&S
- Cement-free foundations
- Retrofit + natural insulations
- Straw bale building
- Carpentry skills
- Prefabricated building with timber and straw
- Clay and lime plastering

THEORY

- Natural materials 101: Embodied and operational emissions in the built environment; Breathability
- Technical details: airtightness, design of cement-free foundations, straw bale methods (loadbearing / infill), compression and timber framing
- Scaling up straw: prefabricated EcoCocon panels - modular building
- Sustainable built environment certification schemes: The Living Building Challenge, building for health & wellbeing and Cuerden Valley Park case study
- UK Straw EPD and Technical Guide
- Site visit to local straw bale buildings

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A look at what we can offer...

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Cement-free foundations

- Designs to meet Building Regulations
- Limecrete
- Foamed glass rafts and plinths
- Gravel trenches
- Rammed car tyres
- Timber
- *Practical:* setting site lines and ramming tyres with pea shingle

Plastering theory

- Historical precedents – plasters that last. How and why lime works better than cement
- The natural cycle of lime
- Humidity regulation and healthy indoor air quality

Practical plastering

- How to make clay plaster from raw materials
- Use of different plastering tools
- Preparing the walls for plastering
- Applying the slip, dubbing and first coat
- Using jute mesh
- We can also learn to apply ready-mixed clay plaster

A look at what we can offer...

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Straw bale practical

- How to dress and customise bales
- Notching
- Loadbearing and infill techniques
- Associated carpentry - creating reveals around windows and doors; fixing posts
- Making the walls straight
- Compression of the wall

EcoCocon panels

- The challenges around scaling up straw & introducing prefabrication
- Qualities & standards
- How to design and build with panels
- Panel build-up including internal and external finishes
- Opportunity for students to get hands-on with panels

Retrofit + natural insulations

- Embodied and operational emissions
- Insulation is more than just u-value
- Understanding the qualities of different natural materials
- Where to source materials
- Practical applications for different building types
- Carpentry skills

Trainers & Facilities

Barbara Jones set up the School of Natural Building with her business partner Eileen Sutherland in 2014 and has been teaching on-site for over 20 years. She was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, manufacturing and commerce (FRSA) in 2009 and was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award from Women in Construction in 2011.

Barbara and the SNaB team have a wealth of experience in the construction and natural building sector and will ensure students have a positive, impactful learning experience.

Running from Tod college, theory sessions will have a direct practical application with opportunities to develop knowledge through hands on sessions across workshop and classroom facilities.


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to test, clean, evaluate, etc.
Theory lectures in a practical learning envrionment

Tool Orientation & Safety


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Reading
plans


Carpentry
skills
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Techniques for best practice


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NATURAL
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Car tyre
foundations

Straw bale building

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NATURAL
BUILDING
Clay &
lime
plastering


Prefabricated construction systems: EcoCocon straw panels
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eco cocon

Our courses facilitate the educational and personal development of students

Bringing fun to a dynamic learning environment

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Practical problem solving
- putting down the pen
and picking up the tools


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Handling and
understanding
materials in
practice


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Cross disciplinary thinking - engaging with peers across different specialisms


Building
confidence
COLLISION
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Communication skills


... and teamwork
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The chance to work alongside experts in construction and ask questions first-hand
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To develop a better understanding of the design, function and application of natural materials in the built environment
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Based around principles of the circular economy
to contribute to the future of sustainable construction
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Get in touch to discuss a bespoke programme for your students
We look forward to building with you!
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