



University  
Centre  
Somerset

PROSPECTUS 2022 - 23

## YOUR GUIDE TO UCS



[somerset.ac.uk](http://somerset.ac.uk)



BRIDGWATER  
& TAUNTON  
COLLEGE



# Welcome



At University Centre Somerset we specialise in vocational degree level qualifications, grounded in the real world and combined with academic rigour so that our students can achieve the highest standards set for their chosen industry sector.

Our aim is for our students to begin their careers with confidence, knowing they have been trained in the most advanced business methods and technology.

Somerset has a rich mix of industries and we work in partnership with major employers and organisations such as the NHS, EDF and the Ministry of Defence to ensure the courses we offer are not only academically rigorous but have been developed to meet the local and regional skill requirements.

You will find courses from sectors such as Health and Social Care, Early Years, Engineering, Animal Management, Land-based, Computing and Creative Arts. Each has been designed to lead to excellent career prospects and progression locally or further afield.

Degree courses at University Centre Somerset are validated by some of the UK's most prestigious universities, including University of Plymouth, Oxford Brookes University, The University of the West of England Bristol and The Open University. We work closely with them on quality assurance, giving you the opportunity to gain a highly regarded qualification while enjoying the first-rate facilities and teaching of University Centre Somerset.

Added to this, our small class sizes enable plenty of contact time with tutors who are dedicated to ensuring students not only achieve a first-class education but also have a great experience. What's more, our inclusive and welcoming atmosphere gives everyone an opportunity to flourish in a supportive environment where diversity is celebrated.

I look forward to welcoming you.

Andy Berry

Principal & Chief Executive  
University Centre Somerset  
Part of Bridgwater & Taunton College

## CONTENTS

- 3 Welcome
- 4 Reasons to study at University Centre Somerset
- 6 Studying at University Centre Somerset
- 8 A glimpse of the future: What students do next
- 10 OUR PARTNERS
  - 13 The Open University
  - 14 University of Plymouth
  - 17 Oxford Brookes University
  - 18 University of the West of England (UWE Bristol)
  - 21 The National College for Nuclear (NCFN)
- 22 Our campuses
- 25 Fantastic facilities
- 29 A place to call home
- 30 Heart of the South West
- 32 Entry requirements
- 34 Fees & finance
- 36 Access to HE
- 38 Higher & Degree Level Apprenticeships
- 40 British University & College sports (BUCS)
- 41 Where to find us
- 43 University Centre Somerset course list



# Reasons to study at University Centre Somerset

## University Centre Somerset: a unique place to study

The world of Higher Education is changing. As the cost of degree-level study increases, undergraduates seek a better return on their investment. They want to pursue courses that yield positive outcomes for their future career, enhancing employability and giving them hands-on experience in the world of work.

That's why University Centre Somerset has been established. We're enacting a fresh new model in university education, right here in Somerset. It's a model that has you at its heart – we understand your needs and are well-placed to meet them.

Building on our enviable heritage in delivering vocational degrees, our courses are focused on preparing you for the workplace, and we pride ourselves on the quality of our teaching.

## A long tradition in Higher Education

At UCS we broaden your horizons and inspire you to reach your maximum potential. It is the result of a long tradition of vocational higher education, with a heritage stretching back to the mid-19th century. In 2018 we were awarded a Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) silver award for our high quality teaching, learning and outcomes for students, in particular with regards to retention and progression to employment and further study.

## High levels of tutor contact

We offer small class sizes couple with tutors who are dedicated to supporting the student experience.

As a result, you'll have loads of contact with teaching staff, and ample opportunity for discussion and deliberation with your peers. What's more, our inclusive and welcoming atmosphere gives everyone an opportunity to flourish in a supportive environment where diversity is celebrated.

## A degree from a prestigious university partner

We work with The Open University, University of the West of England Bristol (UWE), University of Plymouth and Oxford Brookes University to validate our programmes, including Apprenticeships. We also offer a variety of HNCs and HNDs with Pearson, as well as professional qualifications with the likes of CIPD, CIM and AAT.

## Brilliant success rates

It is one thing to start a degree programme, but quite another to see it through to completion. Thanks to our commitment to supporting students, we enjoy completion rates of 95%. Even better, our staff give you the very best opportunity to succeed, by sharing responsibility for your learning while empowering you to find your place in the world.

**Our student satisfaction score is above the national average**  
(NSS, Spring 2020)

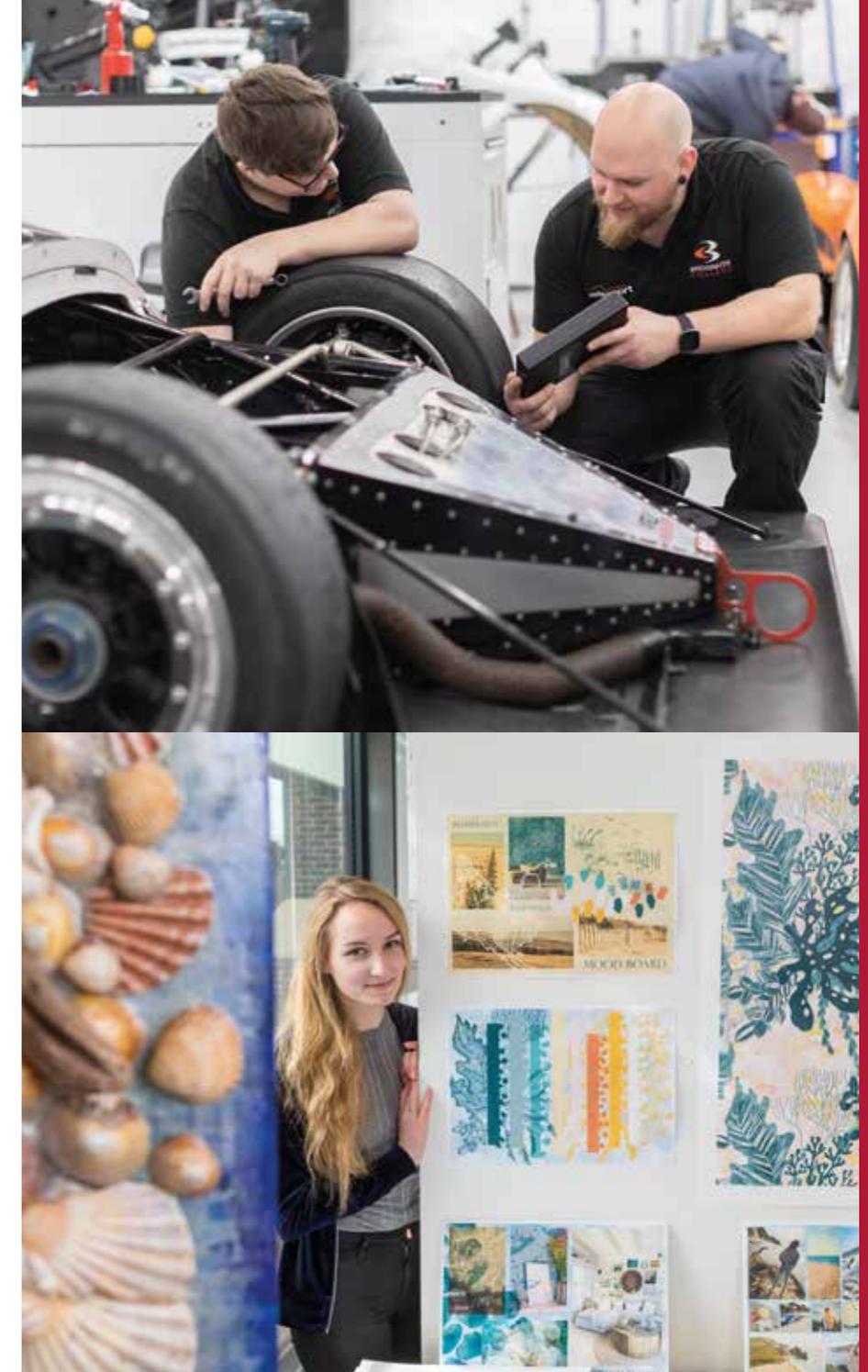


## Employability

What's the point of studying for a degree if it doesn't enhance your career prospects? At UCS, we believe success is measured by more than results. We also want to help maximise your chances of securing a job at the end of your course. That is why we provide opportunities for on-the-job learning, work experience and in some instances, professional mentoring. Because to us, your future is too important to waste on education that doesn't lead anywhere.

## A vibrant social life

Like any university centre, our three campuses are full of life. Whichever one you study at, you'll have opportunities to meet new people, make new friends, and get involved in worthwhile causes. Not only does this make student life more interesting, it enhances your CV, helping to ensure you are more attractive to prospective employers.



## Studying at University Centre Somerset

Higher Education is a significant investment, so you want to make the very best of it and pave the way to your future success. Key to this is the high-quality student support we offer at University Centre Somerset. Students are at the very heart of all we do and we'll support you to flourish and realise your potential.

### Flexible programmes of study

We know that life is rarely simple and that there may be competing demands on your time. UCS staff understand that the life of an undergraduate can be pressured, and have extensive experience of supporting students of all ages. We'll offer advice and assistance that helps you attain your ambitions at every stage of your studies.

With a range of part-time options and varied pathways, we can help you navigate a way through your degree programme, while creating space for home life, ongoing employment or other commitments.

### Personal tutors

Every single student at UCS has a personal tutor. This is usually a member of teaching staff, who meets students on a regular basis not only to help set and monitor targets but also to signpost to support services.

### Study skills support

We offer support in a variety of areas including Mathematics, English, IT, research skills and time management, as well as specialist support in mental health, the Autistic Spectrum and Specific Learning Difficulties.

You really are never alone when you study at UCS. Our ongoing support helps to give you the best possible chance of achieving your goals.



### Financial guidance

Managing your money can be a big challenge if you're doing it for the first time. We have specialist staff who can help you cope financially, as well as advising on student loan applications and tuition fees.

### Advice and Pastoral Care

Added to our personal tutor support we are also proud of the extensive wellbeing package on offer at UCS. Pastoral care is available to all students through our Wellbeing Team, so whatever challenges come your way, you'll never face them alone.



### Students' Union

As an undergraduate at a UK educational institution, you will be eligible to join the National Union of Students (NUS). Our own Students' Union is affiliated to the national body, and exists to represent everyone who studies with us.

Each year the student body elects reps, who serve in a variety of roles to enhance the educational experience we provide. In addition, the Union plays an active part in the UCS social calendar

### Equality and Diversity

If there's one aspect of life at UCS that we are especially proud of, it's our commitment to and celebration of equality and diversity. We are an open and inclusive community, which does not tolerate any form of harassment, discrimination or bullying.





## A glimpse of the future: What students do next

Study at University Centre Somerset and a whole world of possibilities opens before you. Thanks to our emphasis on employability, our students have gone on to pursue successful careers in a range of fields. At every turn, they have built upon the rich experience of their degree programme to establish themselves in a competitive jobs market.

UCS graduates have secured positions in high-profile organisations including Williams Formula One, Vivienne Westwood and Dreamworks. In addition, many start their own businesses, enter the Civil Service, or pursue further study at top universities such as Cambridge University, the University of Exeter and the University of Edinburgh.



## Our partners

To ensure the quality of our degree programmes, we work with some of the UK's most prestigious universities. They validate our courses, meaning that students can study in Somerset while receiving qualifications from leading institutions around the country.



In partnership  
with 5 leading  
institutions

Our courses are delivered by talented tutors with extensive professional experience and strong research and teaching skills. They are designed with your future career very much in mind, meaning they have a strong vocational focus in areas such as Creative Arts, Computing, Engineering, Health & Social Care, Construction, Nuclear, Sport, Public Services, Management and Land-based industries.

### Quality assured

University Centre Somerset is on the Register of Higher Education Providers and is subject to regulation by the Office for Students. Like any higher education provider, University Centre Somerset is subject to review by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA). This provides an objective measure of our standards, bringing peace of mind about the quality of our teaching and learning.

At our last review the QAA identified a number of areas of good practice.

These include the support we provide students in moving into higher education and then into the workplace, as well as the close links we have with employers and their engagement in the design of new programmes to meet professional and technical skills needs, and our emphasis on employability.

The findings of the QAA reviews identify the distinguishing feature of University Centre Somerset: our focus on preparing you for the future. Study here, and you'll receive a top- quality education from a leading UK institution, as well as enhancing your career prospects through extensive experience of your chosen professional environment.

In 2018 University Centre Somerset was awarded a Silver Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) award, which means that our provision is high quality and consistently exceeds the rigorous national quality requirements for UK higher education.

### Using university facilities

The nature of our validation arrangements with partner universities means that our students benefit from access to many of their facilities. In some cases, you can use their Virtual Learning Environments (VLEs) and access a rich variety of online resources, as well as visiting their careers services and utilising student support. Full guidance about the privileges available on your programme will be provided when you enroll, but please ask if you'd like to know more beforehand.

Additionally, as the centre of HE provision for the region, University Centre Somerset offers extensive facilities for students at all three of our campuses.





## The Open University

With over 168,000 students, The Open University is the largest university in the UK and is globally recognised as the expert in learning technologies, spearheading research that is driving innovations in teaching.

The University offers flexible part-time study, supported distance and open learning for undergraduate and postgraduate courses and qualifications. The Open University is the leading university for flexible, innovative teaching and world-leading research in the United Kingdom with alumni in 157 countries worldwide.



The Open University

**The Open University**  
Walton Hall  
Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA  
0300 303 0075  
[www.open.ac.uk](http://www.open.ac.uk)



# University of Plymouth

The University of Plymouth is renowned for high quality, internationally-leading education, research and innovation.

With a mission to Advance Knowledge and Transform Lives, Plymouth is a \*top 50 research university with clusters of world-class research across a wide range of disciplines including marine science and engineering, medicine, cybersecurity and psychology. A three-time winner of the The Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education, the University continues to grow in stature and reputation.

Plymouth has a strong track record for teaching and learning excellence, and has one of the highest numbers of National Teaching Fellows of any UK university.

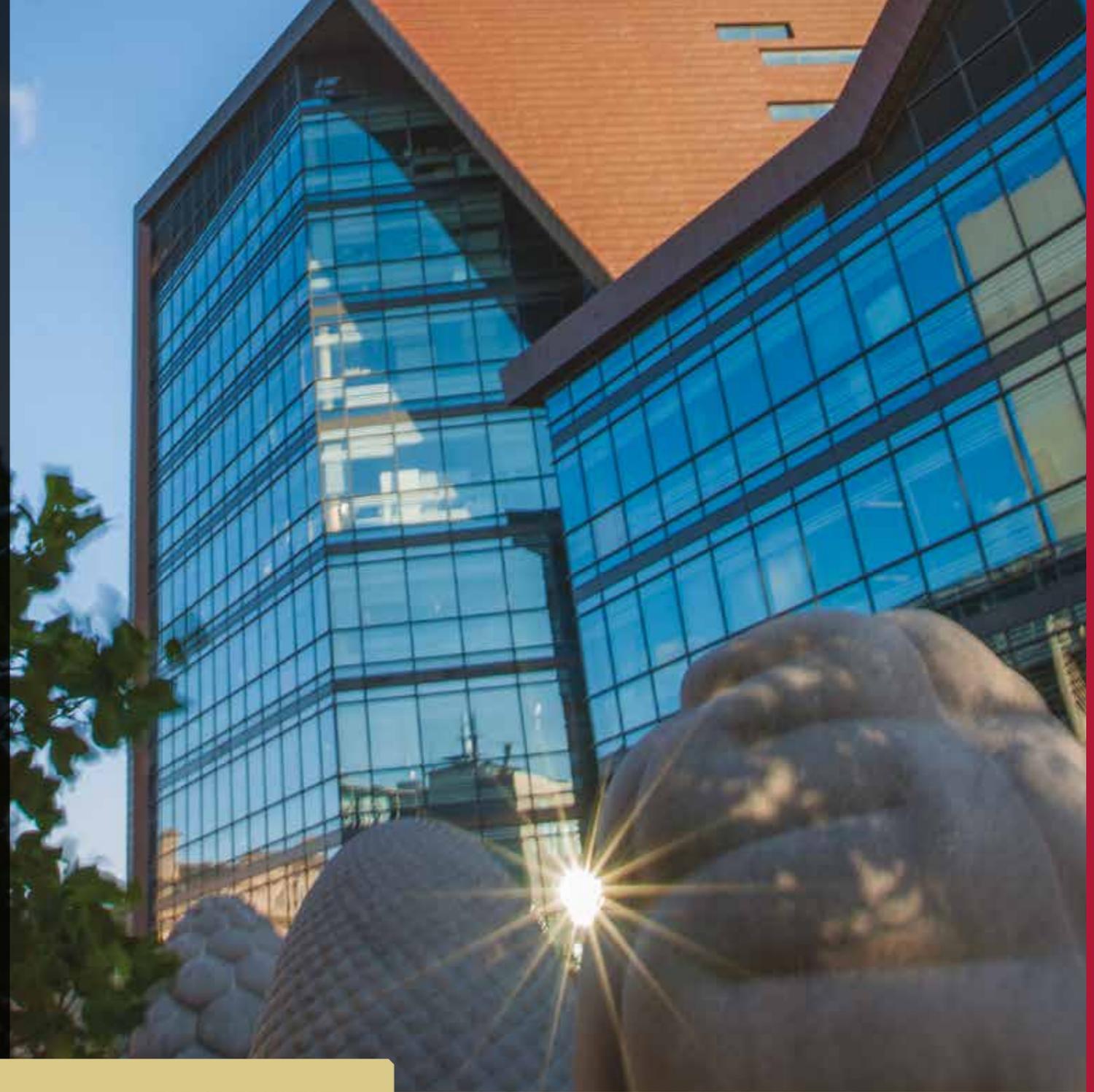
As a University Centre Somerset student studying on a partnership course with the University of Plymouth, you are part of a wider community of 7,500 Plymouth students studying off campus at one of 32 partner institutions. As a partner college student, you can access online University services, use its library, electronic resources and learning support materials through its web-based student portal (including access to the Careers Service online (MyCareer) portal and jobs board). You can link in with the Students' Union (UPSU) and access sports clubs, societies, the advice service, volunteering opportunities, student representation and University sports facilities.



## University of Plymouth

Drake Circus  
Plymouth  
Devon, PL4 8AA  
+44 (0)1752 585858  
admissions@plymouth.ac.uk  
plymouth.ac.uk  
facebook.com/plymouthuni  
twitter.com/plymuni

\* Research Fortnight Research Power League Table 2014





## Oxford Brookes University

Oxford Brookes is the only UK institution listed in the top global universities under 50 years old (QS World University Rankings Top 50 Under 50, 2021), and has an international reputation for teaching excellence and innovation.

As a leading modern university, Oxford Brookes has deep links with local business and industry ensuring at least 95% of our graduates are in work and/or further study 6 months after graduating (HESA, 2018).

### Empowering you to create your future

Our degrees enable you to graduate feeling confident that you can contribute to the community, to society and can achieve the career you are looking for.

Our teaching staff have 11 National Teaching Fellowships, an award recognising outstanding contributions to learning in higher education and 94% of our academic research is internationally recognised.

### Supporting and inspiring your learning

Studying on a partnership course with Oxford Brookes University you can benefit from access to both our online resources and our campuses in the city of Oxford.

If you visit us in Oxford you can explore and study in our inspiring learning spaces including the John Henry Brookes Building, Centre for Sport and the library. You can also take advantage of the Careers Service, support and well-being services and browse our extensive online library of resources.

**OXFORD  
BROOKES  
UNIVERSITY**

**Oxford Brookes University**  
Headington Campus  
Oxford, OX3 0BP  
01865 741111  
[www.brookes.ac.uk/college](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/college)



# University of the West of England (UWE Bristol)

Through our partnership with UWE Bristol, students can study a UWE degree as part of a Nuclear Engineering Apprenticeship.

As a UWE Bristol student studying at University Centre Somerset, you will benefit from the University's strong links with industry, and study a course that's designed to position you for the future you want. The University's focus on real-world learning experiences means that as a student there you'll graduate adaptable, enterprising and ready for work. Your degree will be quality assured by UWE Bristol, showing employers you have met high standards. On completion of a foundation degree you may also have the opportunity to progress to a full honours degree at UWE Bristol. UWE Bristol is a thriving, modern university, offering a wide range of highly respected degrees and employment-enhancing opportunities to around

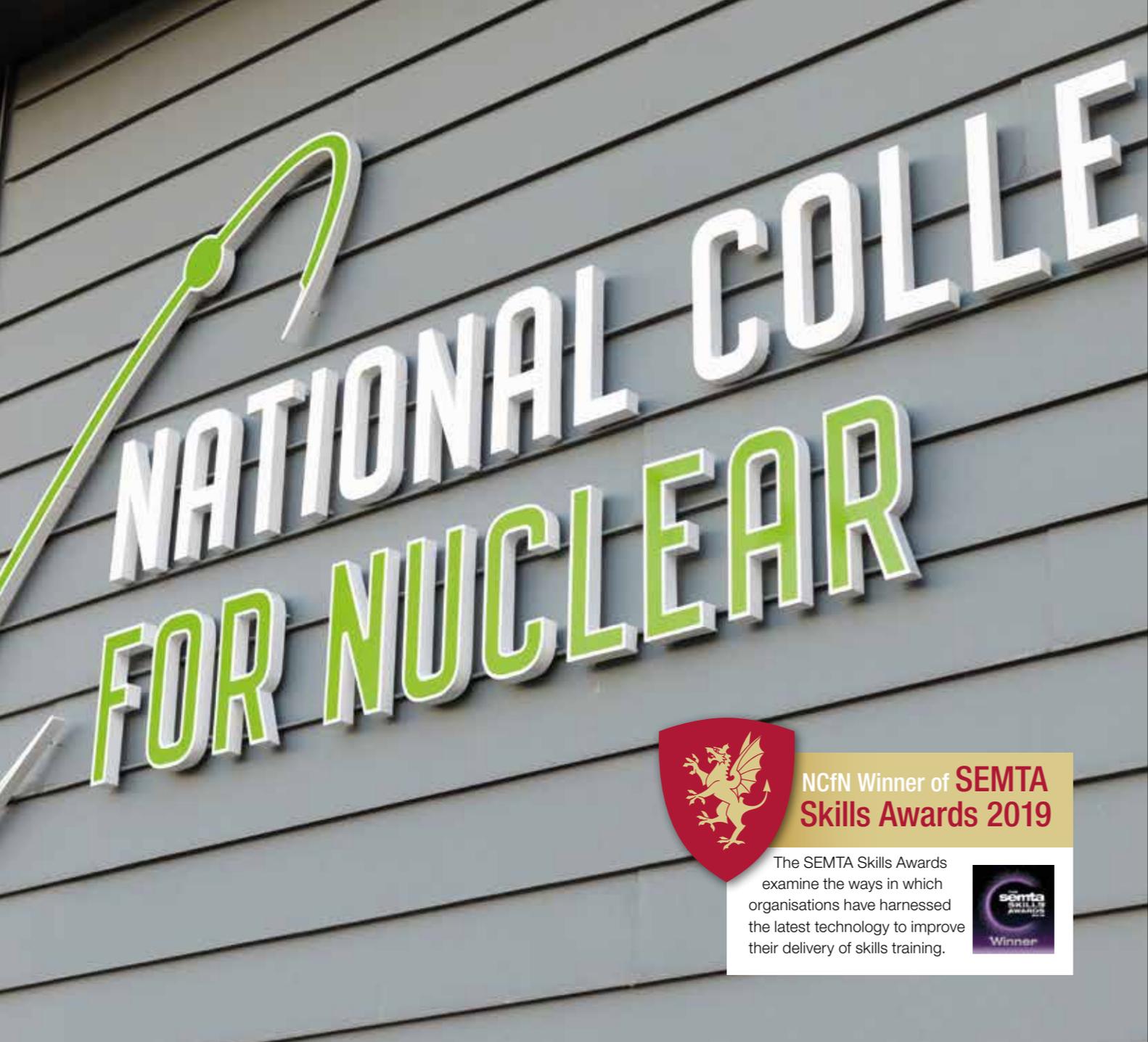
30,000 students. Its first-class learning facilities, vibrant student life and inspiring courses have led to consistently high performances in national league tables, including a Top 40 rating in the Guardian League Table 2019. Choosing a course that's been quality-assured by UWE Bristol not only means you can be certain of its academic standard, but also guarantees you access to the university's campus facilities. Join the Students' Union and get stuck in to student life, build your fitness at the sports centre, and enhance your learning through the extensive library and online resources. You'll join a diverse community of students who are loving life and learning across the world.



## University of the West of England (UWE Bristol)

Frenchay Campus  
Coldharbour Lane  
Bristol BS16 1QY  
+44(0)117 32 83333  
uwe.ac.uk





### NCfN Winner of SEMTA Skills Awards 2019

The SEMTA Skills Awards examine the ways in which organisations have harnessed the latest technology to improve their delivery of skills training.



## The National College for Nuclear (NCfN)

The UK is entering a new stage in its nuclear history. Worldwide investment in new nuclear is set to hit a staggering £930 billion across the next 20 years, with 12 new reactors planned for the UK alone – the first at Hinkley Point in Somerset and Oldbury in South Gloucestershire.

Add to this a growing decommissioning portfolio, plus the delivery of the Successor class nuclear deterrent, and the result is a huge surge of nuclear investment that will create thousands of jobs, drive regional growth and build the UK's supply chain capability. The National College for Nuclear is a partnership between education, industry, national regulators and training providers and is set to revolutionise the way training for the nuclear sector is delivered. The College is designing and developing the UK's nuclear curriculum; delivering industry-trusted qualifications to meet the demand for highly skilled workers in the nuclear sector. Using cutting-edge technology and virtual reality

simulators to replicate the nuclear environment, students work on 'live' projects related to nuclear disciplines. The experience they gain from being totally immersed in practical assignments gives them a far greater understanding of the subject matter than classroom-based learning alone could ever do. By enabling students to see, do and understand, NCfN produces technical professionals who are already 'up to speed' with industry processes, behaviours and protocols, and therefore highly employable within the sector. There is a wide range of courses available at NCfN, from Degrees and Higher & Degree Level Apprenticeships validated by UWE Bristol, to bespoke training courses.



**NCfN Southern Hub**  
Rodway, Cannington  
Somerset TA5 2LS  
01278 655106



## Our campuses

### 1 Taunton

Our Taunton campus is an exciting place to study, with plenty of space to inspire your imagination and help you unwind. Our resources are second to none, with cutting-edge teaching facilities, a well-stocked library and a dedicated common room.

### 2 Bridgwater

Our Bridgwater campus is renowned for its world-class facilities, where industry specialists frequently visit to make use of the very latest equipment and technology. We provide spaces where students get hands-on with the tools of their chosen trade, gaining experience that sets them up perfectly for their future career.

### 3 Cannington

If you want to work on the land or with animals, it makes sense to learn in a real-world environment where you gain practical experience alongside your studies. That is precisely what our Cannington campus provides, with a working farm and large animal management facility. It is also home to our new state-of-the-art National College for Nuclear. Study here and, you'll gain hands-on experience in your chosen field that is hard to rival.



Locations





## Fantastic facilities

Whatever you choose to study with us, you'll have access to fantastic facilities to enrich your studies and make the most of your time on campus.

### Learning Resource Centres

As a Higher Education (HE) student, you will have access to Learning Resource Centres at all of the campuses. They provide specialist printed, electronic and audio-visual library resources; access to computing and printing/photocopying facilities; bookable study rooms and various areas for quiet or group work. A team of professionally trained staff are available to support you with research, referencing, academic writing and other study skills. They provide one-to-one and group training sessions on using the centre and finding high quality academic resources.

### IT facilities

Wherever you are at UCS, you'll find it easy to stay in touch with free Wi-Fi across our campuses and thousands of desktop computers for student use, including Apple Macs and PCs. Classroom learning is complemented by our Virtual

Learning Environment (VLE) which makes supplementary materials available online, and robust systems are in place to ensure that learning can be supported on and off campus. Every student is given their own email and Microsoft Teams account, accessible anywhere, any time.

### Social areas

We provide all that you need to make the most of your leisure time. University is about learning and challenging yourself academically but it is also about friendship building and making lifelong memories. We provide vibrant common rooms and Students' Union hubs across our campuses giving you ample opportunity to catch up with friends and relax between teaching sessions.

### Cafes and shops

We operate professional restaurants along with a variety of coffee bars and cafés at each campus. There's even a hair and beauty salon.



## Fantastic facilities

### Sports facilities

No university environment is complete without its own sports facilities, and UCS doesn't disappoint. Across our campuses, we have a range of facilities including a floodlit 3G FIFA approved artificial pitch, five football pitches, a rugby pitch, sports halls, gymnasiums, sports rehabilitation rooms and a studio cycling facility. We also host a stunning 9 Hole Golf Course in the beautiful Cannington countryside and an Activity Centre to cater for outdoor adventurous activities.

### Childcare Centres

We have childcare centres at our Bridgwater and Taunton campuses, meaning you can leave your little ones in safe hands during your time here. The centres also provide a training environment for our students, giving them practical experience of an Early Years setting.

### The McMillan Theatre

Drive onto our Bridgwater campus and the first thing you'll notice is our multi-million pound creative arts centre – The McMillan Theatre. If you want to learn how to develop

your skills as a performer or backstage specialist in a professional theatre, this is the place to do it.

With seating for 350 people and state-of-the-art facilities for streaming events, the theatre is one of the largest in the local area, and hosts a full programme of shows from stand-up comedy and pantomime to plays and concerts.

### The Walled Gardens of Cannington

The Walled Gardens of Cannington are set within the grounds of a medieval priory and many of its fine buildings, including the walls of the garden, remain. They are accredited as a 'quality assured visitor attraction' by VisitEngland, and a Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) recommended garden.

### Equestrian Centre

The Equestrian Centre at our Cannington campus is an approved British Horse Society (BHS) riding school. Private and group lessons are available for riders of all abilities and it has indoor and outdoor arenas, two large stable blocks and a variety of well-schooled horses.





## A place to call home

For many undergraduate students, living away from home is an essential part of the university experience. University Centre Somerset offers attractive purpose-built accommodation in Cannington, providing a welcoming place to live where you can form friendships and stand on your own two feet. You are welcome to come for a personal tour of the accommodation whenever you wish, just contact the Residential Team.

### Halls of Residence

Recently refurbished, Cannington Halls are located in the picturesque village of Cannington. All rooms are single occupancy, with catered and self-catering rooms available. Here, you'll become part of a vibrant residential community where people share interests and a love for the beautiful countryside that is right on the doorstep. Facilities include free Wi-Fi, common room, bar, restaurants and cafes, free on-site parking and a launderette. The accommodation is overseen by the 24 hour Residential Team, who put on activities every evening for all students, most of which are free to take part.

### Living out

For students who are looking to live in shared accommodation, or to rent a room in a private house,

there are local estate agents who can help. These are not managed by University Centre Somerset, and students are responsible for agreeing terms with landlords.

### Accommodation costs

Fees vary depending on your choice of accommodation. You should budget a maximum of £150 per week to stay in halls, based on a 34 week year. Please remember this cost includes Residential Team support (24 hours a day), the running of activities, provision of furnishings and activity equipment, cleaning services, and much more. Rental fees include all bills and personal possessions insurance. Students living in halls of residence do not pay council tax. However, they will need to purchase a TV licence if they have a television in their bedroom.



## Heart of the South West

For many, the South West is associated with holidays and leisure time: a place of character and charm, of quaint villages and stunning scenery: a place where time passes slowly. Whilst that is true, the region is also an area of growth, with vibrant, flourishing local industries including nuclear energy, science and engineering, media and creative industries, and professional services.

As a result, Somerset is an exciting county to live and study in. Boasting no less than three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and 40 miles of coastline offering everything from golden-sand beaches to soaring cliffs and serene wetlands, it's a place of opportunity and ambition which hasn't lost its rural appeal in the pursuit of economic growth.

### Taunton

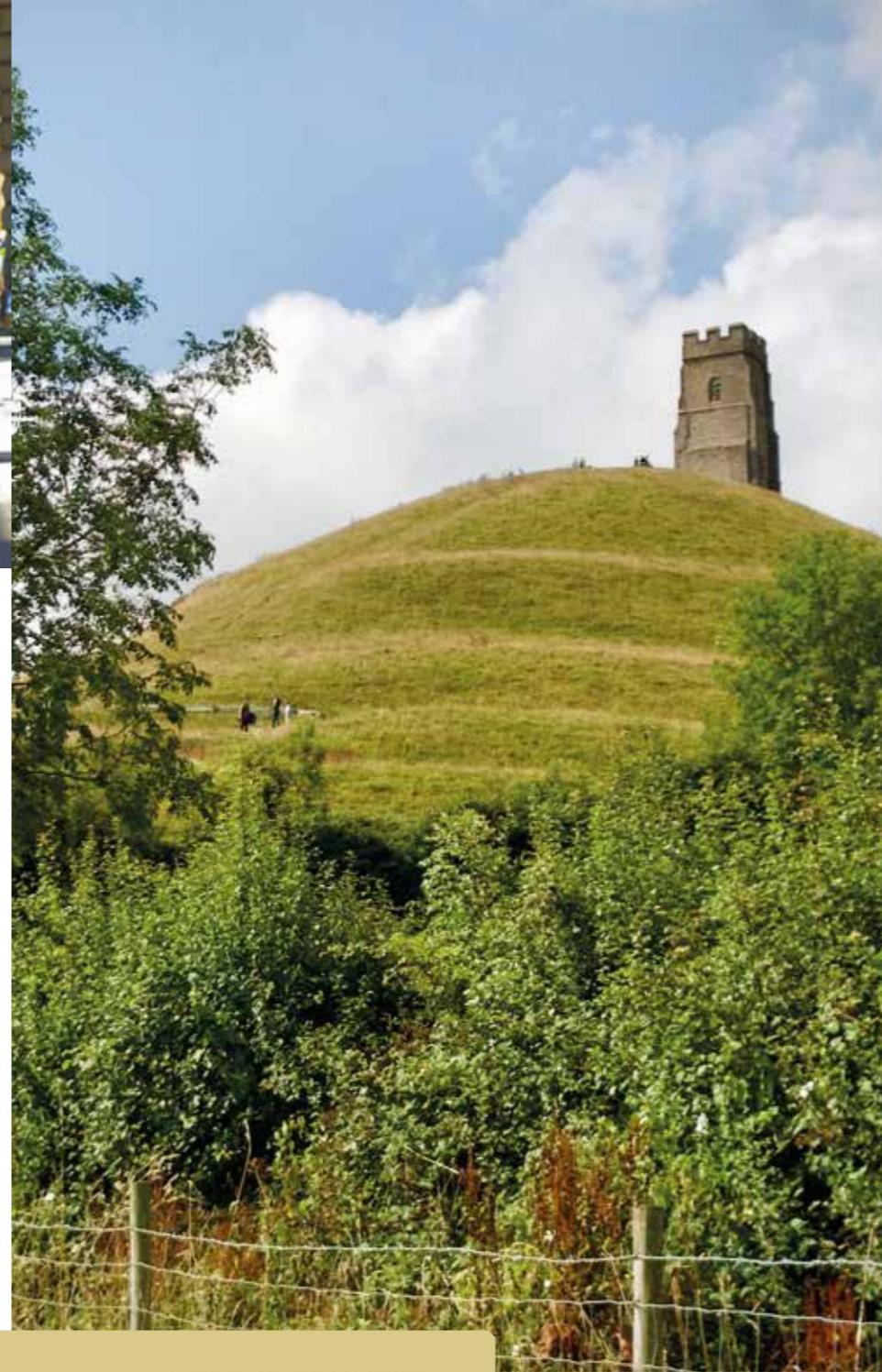
Our county town, Taunton, has a mix of shops, bars and restaurants, and great leisure facilities. It is an attractive garden town, with a vibrant local culture and easy access to wonderful countryside and buzzing cities. Bristol and Exeter are within easy reach, while the delights of Exmoor and the Devon, Dorset and Somerset coastlines are also a short hop away in the car, or by bus or train. Sport lovers are well catered for here, with Somerset County Cricket Club located in the heart of town, and the Premiership rugby clubs of Exeter, Bath and Bristol all within easy reach.

### Bridgwater

Home to the largest illuminated carnival in Europe, Bridgwater is a close-knit community with bags of history and character. The town hosts a selection of shops and cafés, and provides easy access to cities like Bath, Wells, Bristol, Exeter and Cardiff. It is only a short distance to the mystical splendour of Glastonbury, famous for the music festival, while the tranquil Somerset Levels and Quantock Hills are quite literally on the doorstep. Local sports clubs offer opportunities to play rugby, football, netball, hockey, tennis and even good old-fashioned West Country skittles.

### Cannington

Cannington is located on the edge of the Quantock Hills, just a short journey from Bridgwater and Taunton. Because of its rural setting, the campus is relatively self-contained, offering plenty of activities to keep students busy. Although it is a relatively small village, Cannington's amenities include pubs, restaurants and shops. The biggest appeal here though is the breath-taking surrounding scenery and sense of rural charm. Students at Cannington are usually drawn here by a love of the countryside, and the campus provides a perfect place from which to find new ways of enjoying the great outdoors.



## Entry requirements

In order to study a Higher Education course you need to have completed a full Level 3 qualification such as A Levels, vocational studies or an Apprenticeship, and Level 2 qualifications such as GCSEs or a recognised equivalent qualification. Some courses will require specific subjects and, in some cases, we may ask for specific grades in these subjects.

Entry requirements for the majority of our courses are expressed in UCAS Tariff Points. Tariff Points can be found on the course pages and the website however we recommend that you use the online UCAS Tariff Calculator.

Whichever course you choose to study, you will be expected to demonstrate the skills necessary to fulfil the demands of the course, including an understanding of written English basic maths. We generally ask for four GCSEs, or equivalent, at Grade 4 or above, to include English language and maths. Creative Arts courses require English, while maths is desirable but not necessary. We accept any combination of old and new GCSE grades and recognised equivalent subjects such as Functional Skills. Applicants with English as their second language must have a minimum IELTS Level 6 or equivalent.



### HOW TO APPLY

Full instructions and help on completing a UCAS application can be found at:

[www.ucas.com/apply](http://www.ucas.com/apply)

#### HOW TO APPLY

##### Full-time study

If you intend to study full-time for your degree, you must apply for your place at University Centre Somerset through UCAS, using the website [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com).

For entry in September 2022 you can submit your application any time from 1 October 2021. However, we would advise you to submit your application as soon as possible to maximise your chances of securing a place and, where possible, before the UCAS equal consideration deadline in January 2022.

Mature students who do not meet these formal entry requirements are welcome to apply if they can evidence their interest, relevant experience and knowledge in the field of study. A formal interview will be required. If an applicant has been out of education for more than five years an Access to Higher Education Diploma, or similar, in a relevant subject may be required. Please use the UCAS Tariff Points Calculator to identify your predicted grades at [www.ucas.com/ucas/tariff-calculator](http://www.ucas.com/ucas/tariff-calculator), or speak to the Progression and HE Admissions Manager to discuss your application in more detail.

**TIP** A good personal statement is relevant and focused (4,000 characters)

#### Part-time study

If you would like to study on a part-time basis, please apply directly to University Centre Somerset via our website. For help with this process you can contact us on 01278 441234 or email [info@somerset.ac.uk](mailto:info@somerset.ac.uk).

#### Personal statements

The personal statement is an important part of your application. It is your opportunity to tell us about yourself, what motivates you, what your ambitions are, what transferable skills you have, your experiences and how they will help you to achieve your goal. The personal statement must be yours but please seek advice from your tutors and careers teams who will steer you in the right direction. More details on personal statements can be found at [www.ucas.com/personalstatement](http://www.ucas.com/personalstatement).

#### When your application arrives at UCAS

Once you are happy with your application, you have paid the fee and submitted it to UCAS, you cannot change your personal statement nor can your referee change your reference. UCAS will send your application to your chosen universities or colleges. UCAS will advise you to use UCAS TRACK, which will enable you to view the status of your application online at any time. We will also contact

you via email at each stage of your application, including your invitation to interview, your offer and details regarding induction and enrolment.

#### Interviews

For the majority of our courses, applicants will be invited to interview, where you will need to display the relevant skills and enthusiasm for the course and we will confirm your suitability to study on your chosen course. For art-based subjects, you will be expected to bring a portfolio displaying pieces of your original work along with evidence of drawing ability and creativity, please be prepared to talk about these at your interview.

Please note that entry to some of our programmes is subject to a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

Please check individual course pages for information about additional interview requirements.

#### Open events

Attending an on-campus or virtual open event provides you with an excellent opportunity to get a sense of studying at UCS. Our staff, will be available to answer any questions you may have regarding university life and your application. Check the website for event dates.



## Fees & finance

University Centre Somerset prides itself in offering top quality Higher Education at a lower cost than other universities, without diminishing quality.



### STUDENT LOANS

Are available to cover tuition fees and living costs.

We offer the chance to earn a qualification awarded by a top university or training provider while enjoying the many benefits of studying at our campuses. These include our industry-standard facilities, lower living costs than larger towns and cities, and the opportunity to learn in smaller groups, with employability built into every phase of your programme.

#### Funding your future

While it can seem a big step to take on a student loan, the system is set up to the advantage of students. That explains why the number of undergraduates enrolling at UK universities has risen since the introduction of the current fee structure: it is now easier than ever to study for a degree, without taking on any up-front costs.

#### Repayment

It's important to remember that you won't have to repay any of your student loan until you earn at least £27,295 (correct as at April 2021) per year. If your earnings subsequently

drop below that level, your loan repayments stop. If you have not cleared the balance after 30 years, it is written off. Even when you do start repaying it, it is only at a rate of 9% of your income over and above £27,295. Check the Student Finance England website for the latest information on income thresholds and repayments.

If you have any further queries about student finances and fees, please contact our Information and Guidance team on **01278 441234** or email **info@somerset.ac.uk**



## Access to HE

An Access to Higher Education Diploma is designed to provide a route for learners aged 19 or over who possess few or no formal qualifications to progress to university-level study. It can lead to a wide range of career and Higher Education opportunities here at University Centre Somerset or at another university of your choice.

We currently offer seven different routes, each with particular progression opportunities linked to them.

Courses include:

- **Nursing & Midwifery**
- **Health & Social Care**
- **Science**
- **Social Science**
- **Sport Science\***
- **Physio and Sports Therapy\***
- **Computing\***

In addition, the Access to HE course includes core study skills sessions to support learning and progression. These include:

- **Research and Study Skills**
- **Digital Skills**
- **English**
- **Maths**
- **UCAS application support**
- **Tutorial.**

*\*Subject to approval*



### Teaching & Assessment

The majority of modules are taught via lectures; other teaching methods include seminars, tutorials, workshops and guided learning/independent activities. The Access to HE course utilises a blended learning approach, and some sessions will be delivered online. There is one exam unit and you will also produce a portfolio of work over the year, from which you will accumulate credits towards the Diploma.

### Where does it lead?

Successful completion of this course will provide you with a qualification that will allow you to apply to study a university-level course. In recent years, students have gone on to study a wide range of subjects including Biomedical Science, Medicine, and Nursing degrees at UWE Bristol; Nursing, Midwifery, and Occupation

Therapy degrees at the University of Plymouth; Occupational Therapy at Liverpool University; Marine Biology at Portsmouth University; Social Work at the University of Bath; or Health & Social Care degrees here at University Centre Somerset (Taunton).

**Duration:** 30 weeks

**Location:** Taunton

### Entry requirements:

Whilst there are no specific academic entry requirements, candidates will need a sound grasp of basic skills in English and maths. Given the course is an intensive and demanding one-year programme, students will require determination and resilience, and evidence of this will be asked for at interview.

You are required to be aged 19 or over and may be eligible for a loan to cover your course fees.



**If you complete an Access to HE course and then go on and complete a degree or other recognised higher education course, you will not have to repay the remaining loan for the Access to HE course.**



## Higher & Degree Level Apprenticeships

With the introduction of the Apprenticeship Levy in April 2017, employers are offering more Apprenticeships at various levels. Our expertise and partnerships with industry enables us to facilitate opportunities that address the increasing demand for higher-level skills in Somerset and beyond. Higher and degree level Apprenticeships are a popular choice and provide you the chance to gain applicable skills and knowledge about an industry. Please see our list of courses opposite, check our website or call for more information on the types of Apprenticeships we offer and our employer partners.

### What is an Apprenticeship?

Apprenticeships are an effective way of studying, enabling you to gain a nationally recognised qualification whilst obtaining practical on-the-job experience. In our recent Ofsted inspection our Apprenticeship provision was rated

Outstanding with Ofsted inspectors stating that “Apprentices develop an extensive range of skills and knowledge and many extend and deepen specialist skills beyond the requirements of their qualifications.”

Higher Apprenticeships refers to Apprenticeships that may include the achievement of academic/vocational qualifications at Level 4 and 5 such as HNCs, HNDs and Foundation Degrees, while degree level Apprenticeships can provide qualifications up to Level 6 or 7, such as a full BA, BSc or BEng Honours Degree, or in some cases even a Masters Degree.

Increasingly, you may hear Apprenticeships referred to as standards. These were introduced by the government as part of ongoing Apprenticeship reforms to meet the needs of employers. Standards are occupation-focused, they are not qualification-led and the content is decided by each employer, depending on their business requirements.

### Why choose an Apprenticeship?

They are a great option for anyone looking for a fast track into a career. A Higher or Degree Level Apprenticeship brings together the best of higher and vocational training and enables higher education study plus invaluable on-the-job training without having to cover the cost of tuition. Fees for Apprenticeships are subsidised by employers and the government, and a salary is then paid to the individual undertaking the Apprenticeship programme – meaning that doing a Degree Apprenticeship can leave you debt-free and provide you with many years’ industry experience.

### What can I study on an Apprenticeship?

Today you can study anything from human resources to mechanical engineering, health & social care to cyber security, and much more. We have more than 20 on offer and are continually updating our portfolio to support industry demand.

### How long is an Apprenticeship?

A Higher or Degree Level Apprenticeship will likely last as long as 3 years, but could take as long as 5-6 years. As an apprentice, you would be employed full-time, although the combination of work and study can vary from one employer to another. Generally, you’ll be required to work 30 hours per week, to leave you time to study, but that could take one of several forms - options include:

### Day release

Studying at UCS one day per week

### Block learning

Studying for 1-2 weeks at a time

### Blended Learning

A mixture of online learning and traditional face-to-face

### Full-time education

For some employers apprentices will study full-time for the first year of their Apprenticeship, working with the employer during UCS holidays, and starting full-time employment after that first year.

### What should I do next?

If you feel that an Apprenticeship may be for you, get in touch with our dedicated team who can talk through your options and what to do next. Call 01278 655111 or email apprenticeshiphelp@btc.ac.uk.

## Higher Education Apprenticeship Courses

### BUSINESS

Professional Accountant Level 4  
Project Manager Level 4  
Chartered Manager Level 6 Degree  
HR Consultant/Partner Level 5  
Operations/Departmental Manager Level 5

### COMPUTING & DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

Cyber Security Technologist Level 4 (subject to approval)  
Network Engineer Level 4 (subject to approval)  
Software Developer Level (subject to approval)  
Digital Technology Solutions Level 6 Degree (subject to approval)

### CONSTRUCTION

Construction Quantity Surveying Technician Level 4  
Construction Design and Build Technician Level 4  
Construction Site Engineering Technician Level 4  
Construction Site Supervisor Level 4

### CREATIVE ARTS

Fashion & Textiles Product Technologist Level 4

### ENGINEERING AND NUCLEAR

Engineering Manufacturing Technician Level 4  
Process Leader Level 4  
Aerospace Engineer Level 6 Degree  
Nuclear Engineer Level 6 Degree

### HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Lead Practitioner in Adult Care Level 4  
Leader in Adult Care Level 5  
Healthcare Assistant Practitioner Level 5  
Leadership and Management for Adult Care Level 5  
Adult Care Level 4  
Nursing Associate Level 5 (subject to approval)

### LAND-BASED

Agriculture Level 4

*Our Apprenticeship offer is continually developing and changing due to business demands and changes to the Apprenticeship structure. Therefore, this list should only be considered as a guide.*



## British University & College sports (BUCS)

Students from a wide range of courses represent University Centre Somerset in football in the British University & College Sports (BUCS) League. In addition, by 2022 we aim to have a UCS netball team playing in the league.



## Where to find us

One of the benefits of University Centre Somerset is our accessibility. So however you're travelling, you will find us easy to get to.

### Rail

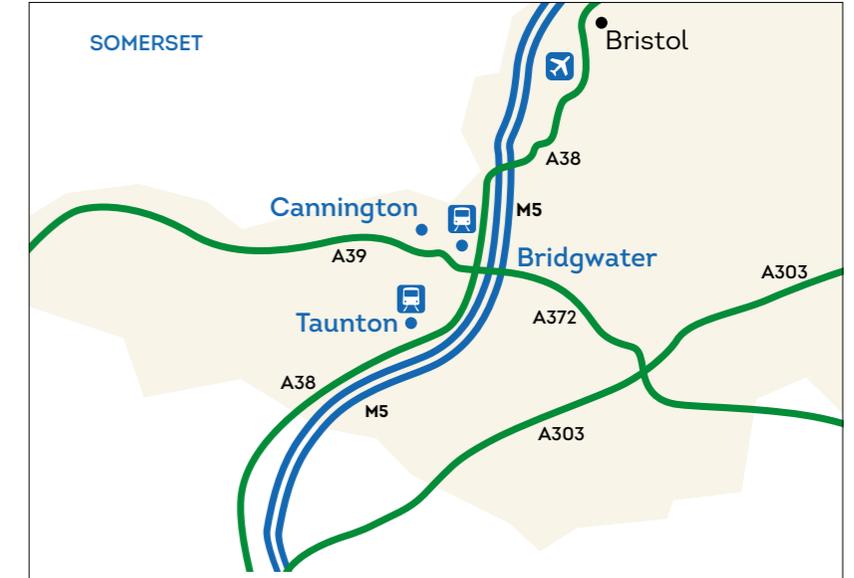
Our Taunton and Bridgwater campuses are easily accessible by train. Both towns are on the main line from Bristol to Exeter, and our campuses are within an easy walk or taxi ride of the station.

### Bus

We have bus stops on each of our campuses, served by many local bus routes. A regular connection runs between the Bridgwater and Cannington campuses.

### Car

All three campuses are easily accessible from the M5 motorway. Each campus offers limited parking, including designated areas for disabled parking, mopeds and bicycles. You will be charged **£1 per day to park at our Taunton campus**, while parking is free at the Bridgwater and Cannington campuses.



### Taunton campus

Wellington Road  
Taunton  
Somerset  
TA1 5AX

01278 455464  
info@somerset.ac.uk



### Bridgwater campus

Bath Road  
Bridgwater  
Somerset  
TA6 4PZ

### Cannington campus

Rodway  
Cannington  
Somerset  
TA5 2LS





## UCS course list

### COMPUTING AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

**Computing and Digital Technologies**  
BSc (Hons)

**Computing and Digital Technologies**  
Foundation Degree

**Computing and Digital Technologies**  
BSc (Hons) Top-up

**Business Management**  
HNC/HND

**Accounting**  
AAT Level 4 Professional Diploma

**Management and Leadership**  
Level 5 Award / Certificate / Diploma

**People Management (CIPD) Associate Diploma**  
Level 5 Diploma

**CIPD Human Resources Management**  
Level 5 Certificate

**Education & Training**  
Level 4 Certificate

**Education & Training**  
Level 5 Diploma

**Certificate in Education**  
Level 4 Certificate

**Certificate in Education**  
Level 5 Certificate

**PGCE**  
Level 6 Diploma

**Counselling Practice**  
Level 4 Diploma

**Psychotherapeutic Counselling**  
Level 5 Diploma

**Apprenticeships Professional Accountant**  
Level 4

**Project Manager**  
Level 4

**Chartered Manager**  
Level 6 Degree

**Operations/Departmental Manager**  
Level 5

**HR Consultant/Partner**  
Level 5

**Cyber Security Technologist**  
Level 4 (subject to approval)

**Software Developer**  
Level 4 (subject to approval)

**Network Engineer**  
Level 4 (subject to approval)

**Digital Technology Solutions**  
Level 6 Degree (subject to approval)

### LAND-BASED

**Agricultural Management**  
Foundation Degree

**Agricultural Management**  
BSc (Hons) Top-up

**Animal Management/ Wildlife Conservation**  
BSc (Hons)

**Animal Management and Wildlife Conservation**  
Foundation Degree

**Animal Management and Wildlife Conservation**  
BSc (Hons) Top-up

**Animal Management**  
Level 4 Professional Certificate

**Wildlife Conservation**  
Level 4 Professional Certificate

### Apprenticeships

**Agriculture**  
Level 4

Level 4

*For information about all of our courses visit [www.somerset.ac.uk](http://www.somerset.ac.uk) where you can also request prospectuses for each subject area.*



## CONSTRUCTION, ENGINEERING, NUCLEAR & MOTORSPORT

Construction & the Built Environment  
HNC Level 4

Construction & the Built Environment (Civil Engineering)  
HNC Level 4

Construction & the Built Environment (Civil Engineering)  
HND Level 5

Aeronautical Engineering  
HNC Level 4

Electrical & Electronic Engineering  
HNC Level 4

Manufacturing Engineering  
HNC Level 4

Mechanical Engineering  
HNC Level 4

General Engineering  
HNC Level 4

General Engineering  
HND Level 5

Motorsport Engineering  
Foundation Degree

Motorsport Technology  
BEng (Hons) Top-up

## Apprenticeships

Nuclear Engineering  
Higher & Degree Level  
Apprenticeships

Construction Quantity Surveying Technician  
Level 4

Construction Design and Build Technician  
Level 4

Construction Site Engineering Technician  
Level 4

Construction Site Supervisor  
Level 4

Engineering Manufacturing Technician  
Level 4

Process Leader  
Level 4

Aerospace Engineer  
Level 6 Degree

Nuclear Engineer  
Level 6 Degree

## HEALTH, CHILDHOOD STUDIES, SPORT AND PUBLIC SERVICES

Early Childhood Studies  
BA (Hons)

Early Childhood Studies  
Foundation Degree

Early Childhood Studies  
BA (Hons) Top-up

Early Years Senior Practitioner  
Level 5 Diploma

Health & Social Care  
BA (Hons)

Health & Social Care  
Foundation Degree

Health & Social Care  
BA (Hons) Top-up

Adult Care  
Level 4 Diploma

Leadership & Management for Adult Care  
Level 5 Diploma

Assistant Practitioner (Health)  
Level 5 Diploma

Primary Care and Health Management  
Level 5 Certificate/Diploma

Sports Science with Sports Coaching Education  
Foundation Degree

Applied Sports Science and Coaching  
BSc (Hons) Top-up

Public Services and Criminology  
Foundation Degree

Children, Young People and Families Practitioner  
Level 4

Apprenticeships  
Lead Practitioner in Adult Care  
Level 4

Leader in Adult Care  
Level 5

Healthcare Assistant Practitioner  
Level 5

Leadership and Management for Adult Care  
Level 5

Adult Care  
Level 4

Nursing Associate  
Level 5 (subject to approval)

## CREATIVE ARTS

Art & Design  
Foundation Diploma

Creative Fashion & Textiles  
BA (Hons)

Creative Fashion & Textiles  
Foundation Degree

Creative Fashion & Textiles  
BA (Hons) Top up

Fine Art  
BA (Hons)

Fine Art  
Foundation Degree

Fine Art  
BA (Hons) Top-up

Creative Digital Design and Communication  
BA (Hons)

Creative Digital Design and Communication  
Foundation Degree

Creative Digital Design and Communication  
BA (Hons) Top up

Media Make-up  
BA (Hons)

Media Make-up  
Foundation Degree

Media Make-up  
BA (Hons) Top-up

Media Production  
Foundation Degree

Music Production  
HND

Performance Arts  
Level 4

Apprenticeships  
Fashion & Textiles  
Product Technologist  
Level 4

## ACCESS TO HE

Nursing & Midwifery  
Health & Social Care  
Science

Social Science

Sport Science  
(subject to approval)

Physio and Sports Therapy  
(subject to approval)

Computing  
(subject to approval)

For information about all of our courses visit [www.somerset.ac.uk](http://www.somerset.ac.uk) where you can also request prospectuses for each subject area.



