



University  
Centre  
Somerset

DEGREES FOR REAL LIFE



# MINI GUIDE

2025/26



## DEGREES FOR REAL LIFE

Welcome to University Centre Somerset. We're an innovative institute with a proud history and a bright future.

We're about cultivating confidence, nurturing skills, and providing practical, real-world experiences that transform our students into professionals.

Employability is at the heart of everything we do, making us the perfect place for you to study. Your future career is in safe hands.



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for a full prospectus

## Small groups, big thinking

One of our strengths is that most of our programmes are taught in small groups. As a result, you'll foster a personal relationship with fellow course members and tutors, making class discussion more vibrant and giving an opportunity for tailored teaching and learning.

You'll be allocated a personal tutor, who will mentor you throughout your studies. You'll also have access to our full suite of student support, welfare and advice, including specialist assistance for learners with additional needs.



## Education for life

University Centre Somerset is the undergraduate offer of Bridgwater & Taunton College, where 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.

UCS is not just an institution; it's a community that supports, challenges, nurtures and inspires. It's hardly a surprise that we're firmly on the map as a university centre of the future, with an impressive legacy to build on.



# Employability

Through our strong partnerships with major employers, we provide our students with not just a qualification, but a toolbox of skills, knowledge, and experiences that translate seamlessly into their future careers.

We deliver technical and professional training in disciplines such as Nursing, Engineering, Business, Computing & Digital Technologies, Health & Care, Construction and Education & Training.

As the demand from industry for Higher and Degree Level Apprentices increases, we provide a growing number of opportunities, particularly for those roles that are competitive or hard to enter through the traditional university route.



## A caring community

We hope you'll love every minute of your time at University Centre Somerset. If the going gets tough, we're here to support you and can provide advice and guidance in a range of areas including:

- Learning support
- Study skills
- Financial guidance
- Emotional wellbeing
- Equality and diversity.



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The staff here have been excellent. When I was ill and ended up hospitalised they didn't put pressure on me to complete work and were more concerned for my wellbeing. When I was ready to continue, they offered as much help as I needed with extra one-to-one support.

Paul,  
Operations Manager Apprenticeship Level 5

# UCS Elevate

Real Life Skills for Real World Success

We want to see our students thrive, not just academically, but personally. That's why we've created UCS Elevate, a unique programme designed to ensure that our students are...

- INDUSTRY READY
- EMPOWERED
- HIGHLY SKILLED
- KNOWLEDGEABLE
- PROFESSIONAL
- COMMUNITY MINDED



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When I was awarded 'Student of the Year' I felt that my determination and resilience had been recognised. It made me realise what I can achieve.

Kiera Louise (she/her),  
Media Make-up BA (Hons)

**I AM EMPOWERED**



# British University & College Sports (BUCS)

Students from a wide range of courses have represented University Centre Somerset in rugby, football and netball. Our teams travel all over the region to compete in BUCS League fixtures against the likes of Bath Spa University and AECC in Bournemouth.



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# Our university partners

Our degree programmes are validated by some of the UK's most prestigious universities. We work closely with them on quality assurance, giving you the opportunity to garner a highly regarded qualification while enjoying the first-rate facilities and teaching of University Centre Somerset. Our university partners are:

- **The Open University (OU)**
- **University of Plymouth**
- **University of the West of England, Bristol (UWE).**

We deliver Nuclear Engineering Degree Apprenticeships through our partnership with the National College for Nuclear.



# Taunton campus

Our Taunton campus is an exciting place to study, with cutting-edge training facilities.

- **Clinical Skills and Simulation Centre**
- **Construction Industry Skills Centre**
- **Digital Hub**
- **High-tech Sports Science lab**
- **On-site gym**
- **Costa Coffee outlet.**



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# Bridgwater campus

Our Bridgwater campus is renowned for its world-class facilities and spaces where students get hands-on experience that sets them up perfectly for their future career.

- **Advanced Engineering Centre and Energy Skills Centre**
- **Industry-standard Motorsport workshop and race car**
- **McMillan Theatre**
- **On-site gym and sports pitches**
- **Costa Coffee outlet.**



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# Cannington campus

Our Cannington campus has some of the best land-based higher education facilities in the country, in a beautiful rural setting. It is also home to the flagship National College for Nuclear.

- **Animal Management Centre**
- **200-hectare working farm**
- **BHS equestrian facility**
- **On-site gym**
- **18-tee golf course**
- **National College for Nuclear.**



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## Accommodation

For some people, staying away from home is an important part of the university experience. We offer university accommodation in Taunton and Cannington.

If you prefer to live in a local shared house, or rent a room in a private home, our Residential Team can put you in touch with local estate agents to find suitable properties.



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## Entry requirements

To study a Higher Education course, you need to have completed a full Level 3 qualification such as A Levels, T Levels, BTEC, an Apprenticeship or Access to HE Diploma, and Level 2 qualifications such as GCSEs or a recognised equivalent.

Full-time degree and HNC/HND applications should be submitted via UCAS.

Applications to Level 4 Certificates, Level 5 Diplomas, Apprenticeships, or part-time degree programmes should be submitted directly on the University Centre Somerset website.



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## Paying your way

Studying for a higher education qualification can feel like a big financial commitment. We can offer support to apply for student loans and maintenance grants, and help you manage your money day by day.

Remember, you only start repaying student loans when you earn more than £25,000\*



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*\*correct at time of print, February 2024*



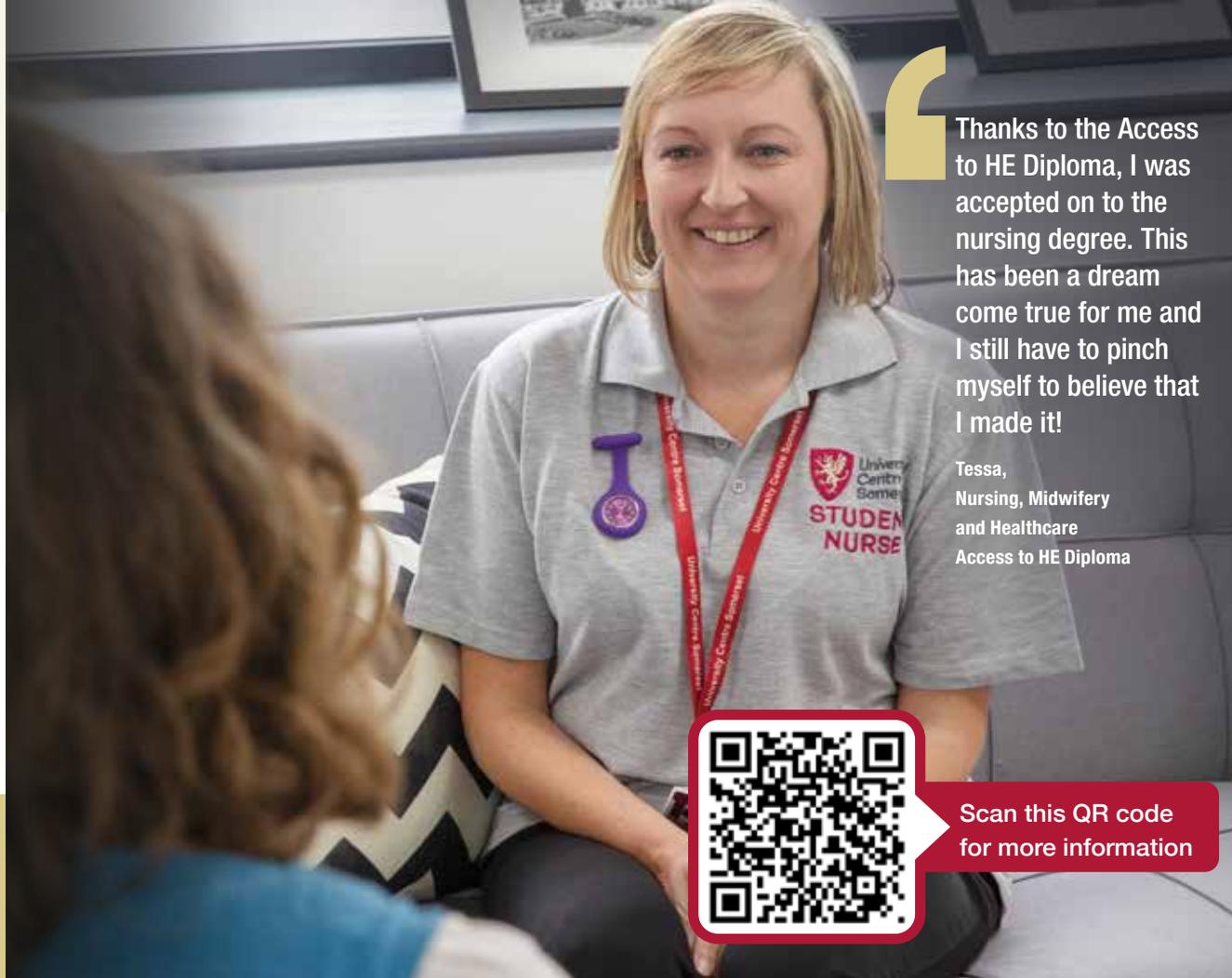
## Access to HE

An Access to Higher Education Diploma is designed to provide a route for learners aged 19 and 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.

We currently offer three routes, each with progression opportunities linked to them:

- **Nursing, Midwifery and Healthcare**
- **Science**
- **Nursing (online).**

If you complete an Access to HE Diploma 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 Diploma.



Thanks to the Access to HE Diploma, I was accepted on to the nursing degree. This has been a dream come true for me and I still have to pinch myself to believe that I made it!

Tessa,  
Nursing, Midwifery  
and Healthcare  
Access to HE Diploma



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## Higher and Degree Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships provide you with the chance to gain qualifications, skills and knowledge while working in your chosen industry.

**View the current Apprenticeships offered at UCS by scanning the QR code.**



Scan this QR code for more information



The course fits in well with my work at the Somerset NHS Foundation Trust. I have enjoyed learning about anatomy and physiology. Being able to use this knowledge within work has improved my understanding.

Emma,  
Healthcare Assistant Practitioner  
Apprenticeship Level 5

# AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT

Study on a 200-hectare working farm and at our pioneering Agriculture Innovation Centre. The resources at our Cannington campus are considered to be among the best in the country for land-based training.



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BRITISH FARMING PROVIDES  
**64%** OF THE FOOD EATEN IN THE UK.  
(countrysideonline.co.uk)

See page 60 for full course list



The staff at UCS are very supportive and want to push us to our best ability. The course covers a wide range of agricultural and business modules which will hugely benefit me in the future.

Alice,  
Agricultural Management  
BSc (Hons)

# ANIMAL MANAGEMENT, ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION

Take your love of animals and the environment further, and work towards turning it into a rewarding career.



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ANIMAL ECOLOGISTS STUDY THE RELATIONSHIP  
BETWEEN PLANTS, ANIMALS AND THE ENVIRONMENT,  
AND CAN EARN UP TO **£42,000** PER YEAR.

(gov.uk)

See page 60 for full course list

Studying at UCS meant I could stay living at home and work alongside my studies, so whilst gaining theoretical knowledge I was also gaining practical experience.

Tia,  
Animal Management and  
Wildlife Conservation  
BA (Hons)



# BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Leadership and management are transferable skills essential to businesses in every industry.



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THE SOUTH WEST HAS ONE OF THE HIGHEST BUSINESS DENSITY RATES IN THE UK, WITH **1,192** BUSINESSES PER **10,000** RESIDENTS.

(gradsouthwest.com)

See page 60 for full course list

The staff have been really helpful with the assignments, and I'm pleased with the feedback I've received. I feel I have adapted quickly to higher-level study and that has reflected in my results so far.

Adam,  
Business Management HND

# COMPUTING & DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

Our innovative, employer-led programmes mean our students are well placed when it comes to their future prospects within this increasingly important industry.



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AN EXPERIENCED SOFTWARE DEVELOPER  
CAN EARN UP TO **£70,000.**

(nationalcareers.service.gov.uk)

See page 60 for full course list



My favourite moment at UCS was how welcome I felt when I started; I joined a little late and didn't know what to expect, however I was welcomed by both staff and students with open arms.

Thomas,  
Computing & Digital Technologies  
BSc (Hons)

# CONSTRUCTION

UCS has invested significantly in BIM software, Trimble Total Station and GNSS technology to support your learning in refurbished facilities at our Taunton campus.



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THE SOUTH WEST CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY  
NEEDS TO RECRUIT **38,200** WORKERS BY **2027**  
IN ORDER FOR THE SECTOR TO KEEP UP WITH DEMAND.

(citb.co.uk)

See page 60 for full course list



I enjoy learning about the construction environment and the technical aspects of carrying out a project.

Oscar,  
Construction Design and Build Technician  
Apprenticeship Level 4

## COUNSELLING

Demand for counsellors is increasing; deepen your knowledge and achieve professional status with a part-time course at UCS.



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## EMPLOYMENT GROWTH

IN THE COUNSELLING SECTOR IS PREDICTED TO

**KEEP RISING** STRONGLY OVER THE COMING YEARS.

(studentjob.co.uk)

See page 60 for full course list

Since completing my course, I now work as a lecturer in Counselling at BTC. It's great to see the level of engagement and commitment of learners starting out on their own journeys in this area.

Will,  
Counselling Level 4 Diploma

## CREATIVE ARTS

UCS has built on a rich foundation of arts education in Taunton and offers an environment where innovation, experimentation and ideas flourish.



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ALMOST **1 IN 8** UK BUSINESSES  
ARE CREATIVE BUSINESSES.

([creativeindustriesfederation.com/statistics](https://creativeindustriesfederation.com/statistics))

See page 60 for full course list



I'd always wanted to study Media Make-up. However, my life took me on a different pathway. It is quite a niche degree and not many universities offer the subject, so having UCS offering it right on my doorstep felt like destiny!

Natasha,  
Media Make-up BA (Hons)

# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & CARE

High-quality childcare, play opportunities and early education are crucial for young children to get the best possible start in life.



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OVERALL, IN **2022, 70%** OF **FAMILIES** IN ENGLAND USED CHILDCARE PROVISION.

See page 60 for full course list



As a mature student coming back to education, I needed to learn how to write academically. Thanks to the supportive staff I have achieved this and I am proud of having my research published in a journal.

Donna,  
Early Childhood Studies  
BA (Hons)

# ENGINEERING

Creative problem solving and hands-on learning combine to ensure that students who graduate from our engineering programmes are work-ready.



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THE AVERAGE SALARY FOR AN ENGINEER  
IN THE SOUTH WEST IS **£52,919.**

(reed.co.uk)

See page 60 for full course list



# MOTORSPORT

The UCS Motorsport team is a bonus aspect of the course. We have purpose-built workshops equipped with state-of-the-art tools and diagnostic equipment.



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**4,300** UK BUSINESSES OPERATE  
IN THE MOTORSPORT SECTOR, SUSTAINING  
NEARLY **41,000 JOBS.**

(theengineer.co.uk)

See page 60 for full course list

Since completing the course, I have been working as a trackside support engineer at race events, most recently in Portugal.

Roland,  
Motorsport Engineering  
Foundation Degree

## NUCLEAR

The nuclear sector in Somerset has entered an exciting phase of investment with the construction of Hinkley Point C. Therefore, opportunities for skilled and qualified professionals are growing.



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THE FIRST NEW NUCLEAR POWER STATION TO  
BE BUILT IN THE UK IN OVER 20 YEARS IS RIGHT ON  
OUR DOORSTEP, AND WILL CREATE **25,000**  
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

([edfenergy.com/energy/nuclear-new-build-projects](https://edfenergy.com/energy/nuclear-new-build-projects))

See page 60 for full course list

My proudest moment was completing my work-related dissertation, which drew together aspects of my degree knowledge and industry experience.

Genevieve,  
Mechanical Engineering with Nuclear  
BEng (Hons)



## NURSING & HEALTH

The Clinical Skills and Simulation Centre immerses students in real clinical practice and gives a safe and supported environment in which to learn.



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The Queen's Anniversary Prizes

2023

WINNER

THERE WERE **6,828** NHS NURSING VACANCIES IN THE UK AT THE END OF **2023.**

(nurses.co.uk)



I was very impressed with the facilities at UCS; there are three virtual wards where we replicate real-life situations and apply our practical skills.

Maddie,  
Nursing (Adult)  
BSc (Hons)

See page 60 for full course list

## PUBLIC SERVICES & CRIMINOLOGY

Understand how society functions, how criminals are conditioned to behave and the role of public services in a changing society.



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PROTECTIVE SERVICE OCCUPATIONS SUCH AS PRISON OFFICER, FIREFIGHTER OR PARAMEDIC ARE THE MOST COMMON DESTINATIONS FOR CRIMINOLOGY GRADUATES.

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

See page 60 for full course list

On completion of my Foundation Degree I am going to do a Top-up year which will enable me to enter the police force via the Degree Holder Programme.

Rebecca,  
Public Services and Criminology  
Foundation Degree



## SPORTS SCIENCE & COACHING

Your passion for sport, together with the skills and experience these programmes equip you with, could lead to a great way to earn a living.



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FORECASTS SUGGEST

### SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH

IN HEALTH AND FITNESS, SPORT AND RECREATION AND  
OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES IN THE SOUTH WEST.

(careerpilot – health & social care and sport & leisure key facts)

See page 60 for full course list



The amazing sports provision here has meant that I have been able to keep playing football at a very high level alongside my studies. As a result, I have just signed a professional contract with Aberdeen FC!

Keeley,  
Applied Sports Science with Coaching  
BSc (Hons)

## TEACHING & TRAINING

Use your expertise in your chosen subject or industry and get qualified to teach the next generation of Further Education students.



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THE NUMBER OF TEACHER VACANCIES  
IN FURTHER EDUCATION INCREASED  
TO **1,600** IN **2021/22.**

([explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/](https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/))

See page 60 for full course list

I worked as an English lecturer whilst studying for my PGCE part-time. I am proud that my Record of Professional Development portfolio was shared with other students as an example of best practice.

Tegan,  
PGCE



# Destinations

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 studies to establish themselves in a competitive jobs market.

UCS graduates have secured positions in high-profile organisations including Williams Formula One, EDF Energy and Dreamworks.



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TIMOROUS BEASTIES



# Course List

## AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND ECOLOGY

**Agricultural Management**  
Foundation Degree

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

**Animal Management,  
Ecology and  
Conservation**  
BSc (Hons)

**Animal Management,  
Ecology and  
Conservation**  
Foundation Degree

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

**Animal Management**  
Level 4 Professional  
Certificate

**Apprenticeships  
Countryside Ranger**  
Level 4

## DIGITAL INNOVATION, ENGINEERING AND CLEAN ENERGY

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

**Computing and Digital  
Technologies**  
Foundation Degree

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

**Computing and Digital  
Technologies**  
Level 4 Professional  
Certificate

**Construction  
Management for England**  
HNC Level 4

**Quantity Surveying  
for England**  
HNC Level 4

**Civil Engineering  
for England**  
HNC Level 4

**Electrical & Electronic  
Engineering for England**  
HNC Level 4

**Manufacturing  
Engineering for England**  
HNC Level 4

**Mechanical Engineering  
for England**  
HNC Level 4

**Motorsport Engineering**  
HND

**Mechanical Engineering  
with Nuclear**  
BEng (Hons)

**Electrical, Electronic  
and Control Engineering  
with Nuclear**  
BEng (Hons)

**Apprenticeships  
Construction Design  
and Build Technician**  
Level 4

**Construction Quantity  
Surveying Technician**  
Level

**Construction Site  
Engineering Technician**  
Level 4

**Construction Site  
Supervisor**  
Level 4

**Engineering  
Manufacturing Technician**  
Level 4

**Nuclear Engineer**  
Level 6 Degree

## HEALTH, WELLBEING AND EDUCATION

**Early Childhood  
Education and Care**  
BA (Hons)

**Early Childhood  
Education and Care**  
Foundation Degree

**Early Childhood  
Education and Care**  
BA (Hons) Top-up

**Nursing (Adult)**  
BSc (Hons)

**Nursing (Mental Health)**  
BSc (Hons)

**Nursing Associate**  
Foundation Degree

**Assistant Practitioner  
(Health and Social Care)**  
Foundation Degree

**Assistant Practitioner  
(Mental Health)**  
Foundation Degree

**Adult Care**  
Level 4 Diploma

**Leadership &  
Management for  
Adult Care**  
Level 5 Diploma

**Counselling Practice**  
Level 4 Diploma

**Psychotherapeutic  
Counselling**  
Level 5 Diploma

**Sport & Exercise Science  
(Coaching Science)**  
HND Level 5

**Public Services  
and Criminology**  
Foundation Degree

**Certificate in Education**  
Level 5 Certificate

**PGCE**  
Level 6 / 7 Diploma

*This course list is correct at time of print (April 2024). 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.*

## Apprenticeships

Registered Nurse  
Level 6

Nursing Associate  
Level 5

Lead Practitioner  
in Adult Care  
Level 5

Leader in Adult Care  
Level 4

Healthcare Assistant  
Practitioner  
Level 5

Leadership and  
Management for  
Adult Care  
Level 5

Sports Coach  
Level 4

## BUSINESS AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Business Management  
HNC/HND

Management and  
Leadership  
Level 5 Award /  
Certificate / Diploma

Operations/  
Departmental Manager  
Level 5

Art & Design  
Foundation Diploma

Creative Digital and  
Graphic Design  
BA (Hons)

Creative Digital and  
Graphic Design  
Foundation Degree

Creative Digital and  
Graphic Design  
BA (Hons) Top up

Creative Practitioner  
Foundation Degree

Creative Practitioner  
BA (Hons)

Makeup Artistry,  
Prosthetic FX and  
Wig Making  
BA (Hons)

Makeup Artistry,  
Prosthetic FX and  
Wig Making  
Foundation Degree

Media Makeup  
BA (Hons) Top-up

Music Production  
HND

### Access to HE

Nursing, Midwifery  
and Healthcare

Science

Nursing (online)

## 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

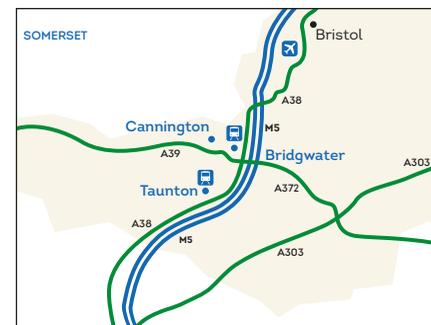
Our Taunton and Bridgwater campuses are easily accessible by train. Both towns are on the main line from Bristol to Exeter, and our campuses are within an easy walk or taxi ride of the station.

### Bus

We have bus stops on each of our campuses, served by 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

### Cannington campus

Rodway, Cannington  
Somerset TA5 2LS

### Bridgwater campus

Bath Road, Bridgwater  
Somerset TA6 4PZ

01278 441234

info@somerset.ac.uk



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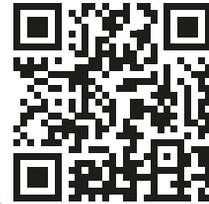
# Come and see for yourself

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## Open Events

Visit and see what makes  
University Centre Somerset the  
perfect place to start your journey.

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Scan this QR  
code for more  
information  
about our events



Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this prospectus is fair and accurate at the time of print (February 2024). Bridgwater & Taunton College reserves the right to amend information at any time.

**Wellington Road, Taunton, Somerset TA1 5AX**

**01278 455464 | [info@somerset.ac.uk](mailto:info@somerset.ac.uk) | [somerset.ac.uk](http://somerset.ac.uk)**