

SOMERSET COLLEGE

A Partnership Institution with
The Open University and Plymouth University

IN
PARTNERSHIP
WITH
PLYMOUTH
UNIVERSITY



UNDERGRADUATE PROSPECTUS 2016/17



Find out who you really are at Somerset College

At Somerset College, we have a proud history of delivering higher education that ensures our students go on to find excellent careers. We have strong links with employers, and understand what they are looking for in their staff. Moreover, our courses include internships, 'live projects' and work placements, so that our students are fully equipped for the world of work.

We have an achievement rate of 97% for university courses. What's more, many past students are employed by prestigious companies such as the BBC, Fat Face, Holmes and Marchant, Vivienne Westwood, Honda and Selfridges.

Somerset College has been a leader in education in Taunton for more than 155 years, working in partnership with Plymouth University for the last two decades to deliver degree programmes in Somerset.

Now, we are strengthening our relationship with The Open University, enabling us to develop bespoke courses that prepare students for particular careers, and are quality assured by one of the world's best-known universities.

To ensure the very best educational experience for our students, we provide high levels of tutor contact in a friendly and supportive environment. We believe this sets us apart from many other colleges. In addition, our staff have excellent first-hand experience in industry, as well as strong ongoing links. That is of great benefit when it comes to enhancing students' experience and understanding of the workplace.

Please come to visit us and find out more. There are details of open evenings and College events on our website, and we'd be pleased to welcome you to our wonderful campus at any time.

Rachel Davies / *Principal and Chief Executive*

OPEN DAY

The best way to find out whether Somerset College is for you is to come along to our Open Day. You can take a good look around and talk to our staff about the course you are interested in.

Saturday 14 November 2015

We also run a number of subject Open Days throughout the year. For further information visit www.somerset.ac.uk or call 01823 366 331.

GET IN TOUCH

Write, email or visit us - we're always happy to talk to you.

The Helpzone
Somerset College
Wellington Road
Taunton TA1 5AX

Calling from the UK 01823 366 331
Calling from outside the UK +44 1823 366 331

enquiries@somerset.ac.uk
www.somerset.ac.uk

THE COLLEGE

a unique offering

We offer an extensive range of degrees in a warm, friendly and welcoming environment. With an achievement rate of 97% our success speaks for itself. Our students go on to forge great careers in many different industry sectors, from advanced engineering to fashion.

High levels of tutor contact

You will have high levels of tutor contact and easy access to excellent facilities to maximise your success. Our welcoming environment offers less stress and more focus than large universities; it's a friendly, safe environment in which to learn.

Well established

We are a well-established college dating back over 160 years, and have been successfully providing university studies for over 20 years. We have a history of being highly responsive to industry trends and student needs; our courses fully equip students to meet the demands of the modern workplace.

Our students succeed

The College enjoys high retention rates and students achieve significant academic success. Our courses have a growing national and regional reputation for innovation and quality while excellent links with local, regional and national employers are an outstanding asset for students seeking to fulfil their ambitions. Our commitment to educate for sustainable development means you will also learn about the challenges faced by future generations.

Employability

Whatever your career ambitions, we will give you the support you need to become a successful graduate with the skills and experience employers are looking for. Our graduates are employable because:

- all of our courses have a vocational focus.
- we have strong links to industry.
- over 100% of our students undertake a work placement, engage in a live project with industry or are recruited into Internships.

Our students gain placements in highly innovative and dynamic companies in business, art and design, technologies, engineering, the health and caring professions, public services or research institutions.

A placement enhances your employment prospects in many ways:

- Improves team-working, decision-making and problem-solving
- Develops communication, planning and IT skills
- Applies what you have learnt during your programme of study

We encourage employers to offer paid placements. However, there are a number of unpaid placements each year. The length of placements varies and you can work in the UK or abroad. Placements in other European countries may be eligible for an Erasmus+ grant.

The College has staff dedicated to maintaining links with employers and helping students find a placement. Staff provide support while you are on placement, usually by telephone and email, however where reasonable face to face visits.

We cannot guarantee that a particular placement will be available or that you will be able to earn; applications for placements can be very competitive.

CONTENTS

Enjoy the best for less	2
Our university partners	3
The campus	4
Student destinations	8
Mature students and Mama Bear's Day Nursery	9
Halls of Residence	10
Flexible study options	13
Taunton	14
What will it cost?	18
Student services & support	20
How to find us	22

ENJOY THE BEST FOR LESS

We offer an excellent education at a lower cost than many universities.

Enjoy the best for less

Our degree courses are approved by either Plymouth University or The Open University so you get a university experience with all the benefits of studying at a more intimate and supportive college campus.

Competitive fees

We are a college university centre which means our costs are lower than the average university. This way, we offer competitive tuition fees for your benefit.

Earn before you pay

Many students don't realise they have to be earning £21,000 before any student loans need to be repaid (this threshold will be higher after 2017). How long it takes to repay the loan will depend on the amount borrowed and your earnings.

Lower costs of living

Students coming from other parts of the country will get good value for money in Taunton. Our Halls of Residence, set in tranquil parkland, are a great place to live with a lower cost of living than many large cities.

A degree on your doorstep

Studying for a degree whilst living at home has tremendous cost advantages. You can save on accommodation yet enjoy the full university experience in terms of education, friendships and social life.

Transport and accessibility

The campus is only a ten minute stroll from Taunton town centre. There is a cycle path into Taunton and cycle racks are located throughout the campus.

Numerous independent bus companies operate within the county and many drop you at the College's main entrance, including from the Park & Ride car park.

From the Halls of Residence it is a ten to 15 minute bus ride to College or a 20 minute cycle ride.

Grants

Non repayable mandatory grants are available for households with an income of £42,620 and below.

Please see full details on the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) website www.hefce.ac.uk or contact the Helpzone for more information.

OUR UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

Our degree programmes are designed by Somerset College to deliver bespoke training for key professions in Art & Design, Computing & IT, Engineering, Health & Care, Construction and Leadership & Management. We work closely with The Open University and Plymouth University, who validate our awards and provide quality assurance. So you can have confidence that a degree from Somerset College will prepare you for the next step in your vocational journey.

The Open University (OU)

The OU is our principal validation partner, and we work closely with it to ensure that our programmes maintain the highest educational standards.

If your degree programme is validated by the OU, your primary relationship is with Somerset College. That means you have access to our extensive resources, including the Higher Education library with its collections of printed and electronic resources, including books, e-books, online research databases, journals and referencing tools.

You also have round-the-clock access to the College's Student Portal, the VLE, containing course information and additional learning resources. When you enrol, you are automatically a member of Somerset College Students' Union and if you wish, you can join the National Union of Students.

In addition to the facilities provided at Somerset College, the OU offers a range of free online resources to our students, which are listed in the Students' Guide to Studying on a programme validated by The Open University. The guide, along with further information about the OU, can be found at www.open.ac.uk/validate.

Plymouth University

Plymouth University has been a long-standing partner of Somerset College, and approves many of our vocational courses. It was awarded a Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education in 2012 and has a strong record of excellence, enterprise and innovation.

We are a member of the University's partner college network, bringing university-level courses to students across the South West. The partnership works closely with employers to develop degrees and other higher-level qualifications designed to increase student employment and career progression prospects.

As a partner college student, you can access Somerset College resources and online Plymouth University services, including use of its library, electronic resources and learning support materials through its web-based student portal (including information and support from the Employability Service), and receive vacancies via its job website. As a member of its Students' Union (UPSU) you will have access to sports clubs, societies, the advice service, NUS Extra student discount card, volunteering opportunities, student representation and University sport facilities.

For further information please visit:

www.plymouth.ac.uk
www.facebook.com/plymouthuni
www.twitter.com/plymuni

THE CAMPUS

modern, friendly and compact

University Common Room

We have a dedicated common room where university students can relax and socialise. It has WiFi, computer games and a wide screen TV.

The Atrium

This College hub houses the Boulevard which offers a range of refreshments from cappuccinos and snacks to cooked meals throughout the day.

There are also a number of services open to students, staff and the public, managed by staff and run by students. These include Venture Travel, our travel agency; the Hair and Beauty Salon and professional Graduate Hair Salon; plus the Quantock Restaurant, which offers speciality coffees and delicious lunches and dinners.

Freshers' Fair

The Freshers' Fair is held at the start of term and is a great opportunity to meet new friends and enjoy all the activities on offer.

Clubs and activities

There are a huge number of student events, activities and clubs. On campus there is an excellent sports hall, sports field and athletics track, used for all kinds of activities including football, volleyball, basketball, netball, dance and trampolining.

In-house printing unit

Reprographics is Somerset College's in-house printing unit based in the Arts House. Services include photocopying, large format printing, a full range of finishing options including bookbinding, laminating and folding. It also stocks a large range of stationery to meet your needs.

HE Study Centre

The College has a designated HE Study Centre that contains a large number of both PC and Apple Mac computers, printers, photocopiers, reference books, e-books, a wide range of electronic resources, periodicals, DVDs, CDs and theses. It also has accessibility facilities, and electronic equipment for hire such as laptops, cameras, camcorders. The Centre includes a quiet working area, group working area and presentation room.

Students' Union

The College has a very active Students' Union with its own Higher Education President as well as a Welfare Officer, an Events Officer, and a Finance Officer. They strive to ensure students have a great experience at the College and are always keen to hear student views. The Students' Union organises many social and fundraising events for, and with, students throughout the year.

The Arts House

Our historic Art and Design centre has undergone a major refurbishment in order to enhance the support we provide to the creative industries in our region.

The Arts House offers state-of-the-art facilities, enabling Somerset College to deliver education and training that meet the needs of employers and give students every chance to shine. The Project is part of an ongoing programme of investment at Somerset College, helping to support our students as they prepare for the world of work.

Health and Social Care Centre

This area is specific to those studying Health and Social Care and Childhood Studies. Students are able to enjoy modern classrooms and the latest technology in the Health and Social Care building.

Technology Centre

The technology building is home to computing, and engineering students. Classrooms and workshops include industry-standard machinery and equipment. Students studying Automotive Engineering also have access to our Automotive Centre, giving them a fully functioning professional workshop equipped with the very latest tools and technology.

Industry Skills Centre

This recently refurbished, purpose-built facility houses a mixture of classrooms and workshops for the full range of construction courses on offer.

Students studying automotive courses are taught in large open workshops and supplied with equipment including the latest VOSA Spec testing equipment and chassis dynamometer. The workshop works in conjunction with the world leader in automotive equipment, Snap-on, which enables students to use the very latest diagnostic equipment and continue our research into hybrid vehicle systems, alternative fuels and engine performance enhancement.

Sports Centre

The College benefits from its own sports facilities, including an athletics track and outdoor education activities adjacent to the River Tone.

Genesis

The Genesis Centre is an award winning building that demonstrates sustainable construction techniques. It is used for the development and delivery of a wide range of sustainable and renewable technologies learning programmes for College students, industry and the public.



“The atmosphere at the College is extremely friendly and inviting, and I’ve made some very good friends while I’ve been here.”







STUDENT DESTINATIONS

our students really go places

Whether you are going on to further studies, employment or setting up your own business, Somerset College provides you with the best possible tools to succeed.

Great careers

Some of the best tutors in the country are to be found at Somerset College. They come with a wide array of excellent experience - bringing with them the industry knowledge, understanding and contacts that are of vital benefit to their students. They take the time to find out about their students, find out what they want to achieve, and work closely with them to make sure they succeed. In such an encouraging atmosphere you can find out who you really are.

Our graduates go on to work at many levels across a wide range of industry, commerce and the public sector. Some also branch out to become self-employed and work within small, entrepreneurial businesses.

Here is a short but varied list of the kinds of organisations our graduates have worked for:

Agent Provocateur	Arcadia group
All Saints	Amdac Carmichael
BBC	Design Bridge
Design at Debenhams	Designers Guild
Fat Face	Dreamworks
Honda	Jigsaw
Holmes & Marchant	Howies
Matsui Babcock	B Studio
NHS	Pentagram
Sassi Holford	Selfridges
The Partners	Timorous Beasties
Vivienne Westwood	

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics subjects are integral to the UK's success: the UK is the world's seventh largest manufacturer, engineering turnover was around £1 trillion in 2013.

Even though STEM graduates have the potential to earn amongst the highest salaries of all new recruits, employers are finding it difficult to recruit STEM skilled staff. The UK has an increasing need for a skilled STEM workforce and by studying a STEM related subject at Somerset College you are opening up a wealth of employment opportunities.

Somerset College offers many courses which come under the umbrella of STEM and all these programmes will enhance your opportunities in the employment market and lead to excellent careers.

These are the courses currently on offer at Somerset College which are STEM related:

- Computing & Internet Technologies
- Computer Games Technology
- Mechanical Engineering (Automotive Engineering)
- Mechanical Engineering (Design & Manufacture)
- Electronic Systems Engineering
- Construction and the Built Environment
- Construction and the Built Environment (Civil Engineering)
- Pre-Degree Access Diploma in Science Professions, Nursing and Health Professions

The best progression

Our Access and Foundation Degree courses provide a gateway for students wishing to go on and study other university courses.

Below is a short list of some of the universities and courses our students have progressed on to:

- BA (Hons) Landscape Architecture
University of Edinburgh
- BA (Hons) Animation Production
University of Bath
- BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy
University of York
- BSc (Hons) Biochemistry
University of Exeter
- BA (Hons) English Language and Linguistics
University of West of England
- BSc (Hons) Paramedic Science
University of West of England

The Work Academy

The Academy is a job vacancy and career development service to help individuals find full or part-time jobs. We have extensive links with employers and can help secure your dream position by assisting you with CV writing, presentation skills and interview techniques. We intend to make sure we are the first call for all recruitment needs whether it is permanent, temporary or apprenticeship positions.

A GREAT PLACE FOR MATURE STUDENTS

Whatever you have been doing with your life up to now, if you are interested in returning to college to study for a degree, we can help you achieve your goal.

If you are enthusiastic and determined to succeed, we are interested in hearing from you. We consider each person on individual merit as well as qualifications and work experience, so we sometimes accept mature students who don't meet the specified entry requirements.

Degree courses

Many of our courses can be studied either full or part-time. Full-time study normally means attending for between three and five days a week, whilst a part-time course may involve coming into College for only one or two days a week. You will need to ensure you have time available for independent research, reading and project work - this is an essential part of studying for a degree.

Access Diploma

An Access Diploma is a one-year course that will prepare you for study at degree level. It is a well-established qualification that will give you the study skills, subject knowledge and confidence to progress to a Foundation Degree or Honours Degree. No formal qualifications are required.

Mama Bear's Nursery

If you have young children and are thinking about returning to study we may be able to help. There is a purpose-built nursery located on the main campus. This fantastic facility is fully equipped for children from babies through to children aged five.

Mama Bear's is a family-run childcare organisation based in the West Country. Established in 2002 their aim is to provide high-quality childcare for

families living, working or studying in the South West. Management at the Nursery are passionate about what they do and work diligently to ensure that this results in safe and happy children in their care.

Full-time students with children may qualify for extra financial help. Depending on your circumstances, you may be able to get:

- Childcare Grant which could cover up to 85% of your childcare costs during term time and holidays Up to a maximum of £150.23 per week if you have one child, or £257.55 per week if you have two or more children.
- Parents' Learning Allowance (to help towards course costs - like books, materials and travel) which could provide between £50 and £1,508.
- You may also qualify for Child Tax Credit.

How much financial help you get depends on your household income and, for the Childcare Grant, the actual costs of your childcare.

Any help you get is paid on top of the standard student finance package, and doesn't have to be paid back.

Applying for help with costs

Childcare Grant and Parents' Learning Allowance
You will need to complete the relevant sections on your main student finance application - the one you use to apply for Student Loans and grants.

All information and figures are based on amounts available for academic year 2014/15. For up-to-date information about amounts for 2016, and further information about eligibility for support for your childcare costs and how to apply please visit www.gov.uk/studentfinance

CONTACT US

For more information or to book your child's place please contact the Centre Manager.

Kerry Sturme

01823 276 261

wemanager@mamabear.co.uk

Please note these figures are subject to change

HALLS OF RESIDENCE

Our Halls provide purpose-built student accommodation, built to suit your needs.

The accommodation

Set in tranquil parkland, there are 192 study bedrooms grouped into clusters of six or seven, each sharing a well-equipped kitchen/diner. Each bedroom is en-suite and furnished with a single bed, bedside table, wardrobe, desk, chair, curtains, shelf and pin board. Every room has broadband wireless connection for your laptop (PC or Mac).

Facilities available include:

- 24 hour laundrette
- Communal lounge
- Bar run in conjunction with the Students' Union
- Pool table
- Sports hall with various student-led activities
- TV lounge
- Outdoor BBQ area
- Internet café
- WiFi internet connection in every room

A team of staff and student wardens ensure that the Halls are well maintained and provide a safe environment for you to live. A security company carries out patrols of the site. Visitors may stay for up to 48 hours at a time.

Location

The Halls are situated in Staplehay, on the edge of Taunton and just over two miles from the College.

Transport

Spaces are available for cars and motorcycles. There is a bus stop directly outside the Halls of Residence. Buses run regularly throughout the day, to the College and town centre. It is a ten to 15 minute bus ride to College or a 20 minute cycle ride.

There are cycle racks available at Halls and on campus. Alternatively, taxis from Halls to the town centre range from approximately £7 during the day and £10 at night.

Cost

Rental charges vary between £96.50 and £121 per week (2014/15 rates) depending on the room size. This charge is based on a 40-week year and is inclusive of all bills (gas, electricity and water rates) and personal possessions insurance. Students living in Halls are exempt from paying Council Tax.

Private rental

We can provide up-to-date information about private rented accommodation including shared housing, lodgings and host families.

There is high demand for student housing in Taunton. If you know you will need somewhere local to live and would like support, please email accommodation@somerset.ac.uk as soon as possible.



“There’s a fantastic social life at Halls where many lifelong friendships are formed.”





FLEXIBLE STUDY OPTIONS

We believe Higher Education should be as accessible as possible. That's why we structure our programmes to offer the maximum flexibility – giving you a variety of options when it comes to furthering your education and enhancing your employability. This includes part-time options available, during the day or evening, to help improve your job or career prospects. We also offer a range of business-focussed modules as 'stand alone' courses worth up to 60 credits that could be used towards gaining a full Foundation Degree.

Certificate of Higher Education - Cert HE

These are equivalent to the first year of a Foundation or Honours Degree. They can show you are capable of studying at university level or help progress your career.

Foundation Degrees - FdA / FdSc / FD

These degrees last two years full-time or three years part-time. They provide a firm grounding in your chosen discipline, laying the foundations for further study or professional development.

Honours Degrees - BA (Hons) / BSc (Hons) Top-up

These offer Foundation Degree graduates the chance to top up their qualification to an Honours Degree – the standard qualification for people leaving university after three or four years. The courses build on the work completed in a Foundation Degree, helping to advance understanding and encourage critical thinking.

Honours Degrees - BA (Hons) / BSc (Hons)

If you know from the outset that you'd like to study for a full Honours Degree, you can enrol onto one of these three year full-time or five year part-time courses straightaway. Then you'll know exactly what's in store, and be able to plan for your future.

Higher National Certificate (HNC)

With two years part-time study you can achieve an HNC qualification and then decide whether to continue your studies to a Higher National Diploma (HND), Foundation Degree or Honours Degree level either on completion or at a later date. Our HNCs are Higher Education courses that can help provide career progression if you are already in employment or looking to change career. An HNC is linked to professional body requirements and National Occupational Standards, where appropriate, and has a strong work-related emphasis.

Other accredited courses

If you are looking to enhance your career prospects by updating your skills, or want to gain a Higher Education qualification in a new subject, we have a wide range of courses to choose from. We also offer high quality, online Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM) courses including:

- ILM Level 5 Award in Management
 - ILM Level 5 Certificate in Management
 - BTEC Level 7 in Strategic Management & Leadership
- Please contact us for more information.

What does studying part-time involve?

It is important to realise that you will be expected to undertake additional independent study in order to succeed. Typically this time would be spent reading, researching and writing reports, essays or other project work. You need to be sure you have the time available to meet the requirements of the course.

Some of our programmes may require you to be observed in your workplace, or you may find that your work experience can count towards the credits you need to gain the qualification.

Part-time courses

The fees for Foundation and Honours Degree courses studied on a part-time basis are generally proportionate to the number of modules/credits studied and can be a very cost-effective way to study.

Part-time Higher National Certificate (HNC)

Please contact us for up-to-date fee information. The College's fee payment plan gives the opportunity for you to pay by instalments via direct debit. You may also need to pay for course materials, studio fees, visits and trips, and in some cases, examination or registration fees.

Financial Support

New part-time students can apply for a tuition fee loan. This will not be dependent on your household income, but is repayable when you start to earn above £21,000.

Eligibility depends on the 'intensity' of your part-time course being at least 25% of a full-time course. For example, if your course takes six years to complete and the full-time equivalent takes three, the intensity will be 50%. Contact the College if you're not sure. If you are continuing on a part-time course that started before 2013/14 you may not need to apply for a loan. Instead, you may qualify for a Fee Grant and Study Grant if your household income is under £41,000 (interest will be applied at RPI plus 3%). For more information contact Somerset College on 01823 366 331.

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.direct.gov.uk

www.somerset.ac.uk/student-services

TAUNTON

Taunton is the largest town in Somerset with Somerset College only ten minutes walk from the lively town centre.

You won't find a more convenient, safe and welcoming destination anywhere in the South West with such a fantastic mix of shops, restaurants and leisure facilities.

Nightlife

Taunton comes to life at night boasting an array of cafés, bars and restaurants. There is a great atmosphere in the town centre in the evening.

The club scene is well supported by students, with a number of clubs to choose from. Resident and guest DJ's bring their musical influences to the town's venues with each nightclub attracting a dedicated crowd.

Culture

The Tacchi-Morris Centre hosts a range of drama and dance performances, classical music and jazz. There is an Odeon cinema and two local film clubs showing the best in world cinema and classic films.

Festivals

Glastonbury is right on our doorstep, so if festivals are your scene, you are definitely in the right place.

Shopping

From big High Street names to small specialist retailers, there is a wide range throughout Taunton, offering fantastic shopping facilities for all tastes and budgets.

Sport

Taunton is home to Somerset County Cricket ground. There is also a racecourse for a special day out. There are plenty of leisure centres and gyms to choose from as well as football, rugby, netball, hockey and other clubs outside of the College.

Beyond Somerset

The buzz of a big city is less than an hour away with Bristol and Exeter within easy reach. If you prefer the outdoor life there are two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty nearby, the Quantock Hills and Blackdown Hills, as well as Dartmoor National Park and Exmoor National Park. Taunton is within an hour's reach of the coast, so don't forget to bring your surfboard!



“...I can walk around, shop and go out at night with friends; even the cinema or bowling isn't too far away.”



USEFUL WEBSITES

- www.orchardtaunton.co.uk
- www.tauntondeanegov.uk
- www.tacchi-morris.com
- www.somersetcountycc.com
- www.glastonburyfestivals.co.uk
- www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk
- www.exeternorthcott.co.uk
- www.exeterphoenix.org.uk
- www.tauntontowncentre.co.uk
- www.visitsouthwest.co.uk
- www.galmington-netball.co.uk
- www.somersetartworks.org.uk
- www.tauntonvale.com





WHAT WILL IT COST?

When you decide to start a full-time degree course, it is important that you think about how much it will cost and the financial help you may be able to get. Essentially you will have two main types of expenses: tuition fees and living expenses.

Tuition fees

The Tuition Fee is the amount paid per year to meet the cost of providing your course. The 2016/17 Somerset College University Tuition Fees have not yet been set but current 2015/16 fees depend on your chosen course and study mode.* Please visit www.somerset.ac.uk for fees or call us on 01823 366 331.

Rest assured, our fees reflect good value for money and you may be eligible for additional financial support.

Students paying their own fees rather than through Student Finance England can pay these by direct debit instalments over the course of the academic year. This arrangement is on an individual basis and can be discussed prior to enrolment.

Finances explained

Full-time students who are studying for their first degree or other higher education course can benefit from a range of financial support:

- You don't have to pay for your course yourself in advance.
- You can get a loan to cover the cost of your tuition which you only start to pay back when you are earning over £21,000 a year.

* Correct at time of printing

National policies are subject to change and applicants are advised to visit the relevant websites or contact the Helpzone Team on 01823 366 667.

Non-repayable grants (Mandatory Maintenance Grant)

- Available to help with living costs such as food, accommodation and travel.
- If your household income is less than £25,000 you will be entitled to a full grant, of £3,387 per year, which you won't have to pay back. Payments are made into your bank account at the start of each term.
- If your household income is between £25,000 and £42,620 you would be entitled to a grant of between £50 and £3,387 which you won't have to pay back.

Loans for living costs (Maintenance Loan)

- Available to help with living costs such as food, accommodation and travel.
- A loan of up to £5,555 will be available if you live away from home and study outside London.
- A loan of up to £4,418 will be available if you live with your parents.

Package of support

Visit www.gov.uk/studentfinance to find the kind of support on offer to students living away from home and studying outside London. Figures are based on household income.

How loan repayments are expected to work

- You only start to pay back when you are earning over £21,000 a year.
- You repay 9% of your income above £21,000, so for example, if your salary was £25,000, the 9% would only apply to £4,000, meaning you would repay £30 per month.
- To find a table showing typical repayments, please visit www.gov.uk/studentfinancecalculator
- If your salary falls below £21,000 your repayments stop, for example if you take a career break or are unemployed. Repayments only start again when you earn over £21,000.

- Loan repayments will be deducted from your salary, normally through the tax system.
- If you have not repaid your loan after 30 years it is written off.

Rates of interest

The government's plans are that:

- Interest on your loan will be applied at inflation (RPI - Retail Price Index) plus 3% while you are studying, and up until the April after you leave university or college.
- From the April after you leave university or college if you are earning below £21,000, interest will be applied at the rate of inflation.
- For graduates earning between £21,000 and £41,000 interest will be applied between RPI and RPI + 3% on a gradual scale depending on income.
- For graduates earning above £41,000, interest will be applied at RPI + 3%.

If you do not live in England, please visit one of the following websites for financial advice:

- Wales www.studentfinancewales.co.uk
- Northern Ireland www.studentfinanceneni.co.uk
- Scotland www.saas.gov.uk
- EU Nationals www.gov.uk/studentfinance-EU

I can't afford to go to university because it's too expensive.

FACT

There are no up-front costs to go to university or college and there's a lot of financial help available. All eligible students, no matter what their household income is, can apply for either of the following:

- a Tuition Fee Loan to cover the full cost of fees
- a Maintenance Loan to help with living costs

If your household income is less than £42,620 a year you may be able to get a Maintenance Grant, which doesn't have to be paid back.

All colleges and universities are charging £9,000.

FACT

At Somerset College, we are able to keep our costs lower than many universities, with the average cost at £7,000. Many universities and colleges are charging less than £9,000 - but check their websites for course fees information. Even if they charge the full £9,000, students may qualify for fee waivers, reductions or other benefits, so discuss this with the university or college. No student will have to pay for tuition fees up front. Every new student is entitled to a Tuition Fee Loan that will cover their fees and this won't have to be paid back until they are earning over £21,000 a year.

The loan repayments will be a huge burden and hold me back.

FACT

Repayments start when you start earning more than £21,000 a year. You will only repay 9% of any earnings over this figure, ie if you earn £25,000 that works out at £30 a month (9% of £4,000, divided by 12 months). Repayments stop if you stop working or earn below £21,000 a year.

The amount you repay each month will only increase with your earnings (similar to tax) and repayments are based on how much you earn after you've finished at university or college, not how much you borrow while

you're there. Loans are written off by the government after 30 years, so you won't necessarily repay your loans in full. Studies show that only graduates with high earnings during their career will pay everything off.

Student debt will stop me getting a mortgage or other loans.

FACT

Student Loans are unsecured lending from the government and are very different to credit cards or commercial loans. They don't go on credit files and don't show up on credit checks. According to The Council for Mortgage Lenders, "a student loan is unlikely to impact materially on an individual's ability to get a mortgage". Like all mortgage holders, the amount of mortgage you can get will depend on your income.

If I can't afford to repay the loan then my parents will have to foot the bill.

FACT

Any student loans are the sole responsibility of the student who takes them out. Liability for the loans cannot be transferred to parents or anyone else.

If my parents have high earnings, I won't get any support.

FACT

It doesn't matter how well off your parents are, you can still apply for:

- a Tuition Fee Loan to cover the full cost of fees and
- a Maintenance Loan to help with living costs

The amount of Maintenance Loan you can get will depend on household income and where you're studying.

I'm 21 years old and have left home so am classed as an independent student.

FACT

To be classed as independent, students have to fall into one of these categories:

- is aged 25 or older
 - has left the parental home and supported themselves financially for at least three years
 - is permanently estranged from their parents
 - has been in the care of their local authority.
- Student Finance England will need evidence to prove each of these.

If I move abroad I won't have to repay my student loan.

FACT

Part of the agreement that you make when you take out a loan is that you'll make any payments that are due. If you move abroad you must tell the Student Loans Company so that they can make arrangements for you to continuing paying off the loan.

For more information please visit the repayment website www.studentloanrepayment.co.uk

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.gov.uk/studentfinance
www.gov.uk/studentfinancecalculator
www.ucas.com
www.nusonline.co.uk
www.skill.org.uk
www.studentloanrepayment.co.uk

CONTACT US

The Helpzone

Monday to Thursday | 8am - 8pm
 Friday | 8am - 6pm
 01823 366 331
www.somerset.ac.uk

STUDENT SERVICES & SUPPORT

The Helpzone

Whether you are studying here for one, two or three years, there will be times when you may need help, advice or support.

The Helpzone is designed to ensure you get the advice and guidance you need so you can concentrate on your studies and enjoy student life to the full. It provides a central point of contact for advice on issues that might concern you.

We can offer you information, advice and guidance on a wide range of services including:

- Applications
- Enrolments
- Course information
- Financial support
- Transport advice
- Accommodation, including Halls of Residence
- The Contraceptive and Sexual Health Clinic
- A Money Mentoring service

College information

The team can provide you with general advice on courses and events as well as make appointments with other student services.

Student financial guidance

You can contact us for advice on sources of financial support to help with tuition fees, living costs and course-related costs including emergency funds.

Accommodation

We have places available in our Halls of Residence that are allocated on a first-come-first-served basis or we can help you find private-rented accommodation or lodgings with a family in the Taunton area.

Contraceptive and Sexual Health (CASH Clinic)

Staffed by a family planning doctor or nurse offering a free and confidential service to students.

International students

In most cases we require students to have GCSE grade C (or equivalent) in English Language. If English is not your first language, you need to obtain IELTS Level 6 in all skills (reading, writing, speaking and listening).

To find out which tuition fee you need to pay, contact us and ask for a Fee Status Questionnaire. This will enable us to decide whether you will pay fees as a 'home' or 'overseas' student.

For full-time degree courses you will need to apply through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). Please visit www.ucas.com for more information.

Somerset College Student Union (SCSU)

The Students' Union is here to represent you. Whether it be assistance with academic representation on an individual or collective basis or campaigning for your rights, the Union is here to make sure your voice is heard.

Programme and Curriculum Area Reps are elected at the start of each year and trained by the SCSU to represent the views of the student body. This enables the College to make positive changes for current and future students.

These Reps enjoy team building days with the Students' Union and gain a lot of experience from working within a team to speaking confidently in a large formal meeting.

The Students' Union also makes sure you have the best time when studying at Somerset College including meeting lots of new people. Activities and events the Students' Union have organised recently include: Thorpe Park day trip, paintballing, go-karting, a trip to the Clothes Show Live and lots of different enrichment activities such as salsa classes, yoga, a knitting club, DJ club, the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and singing and music clubs.

There are also lots of events and activities organised at our Halls which all students can get involved in, including theme nights, BBQs, sports events and much more.

There is also a chance to get a part-time job within the SCSU and earn money alongside your college course. If you have a passion to lead the Student Voice the role as HE President might be right up your street.

We also have lots of volunteering opportunities in and around Taunton - it's your chance to get involved and really make a difference. This looks great on your CV and could enhance future job prospects.

For more information contact Keira Pound on 01823 366 402.

Learning resources

Students benefit from the HE Study Centre which is fully equipped with resources and study facilities. Many of our resources can be accessed remotely from home. A Learning Resource Centre and the HE Study Centre have WiFi and PCs, Apple Macs and laptops for your use. You are also welcome to bring in your own laptop.

The range of resources includes:

- Books, ebooks, periodicals, DVDs, CDs, theses
- The VLE - Virtual Learning Environment
- Hearing loops, a text enlarger, specialist software
- Ebooks, databases, ejournals, enewspapers
- Scanning, copying, printing, laminating and binding services
- In-house printing unit

Mama Bear's Nursery

Located on the College campus, Mama Bear's Nursery is a purpose-built facility which offers parents and carers the peace of mind that comes from knowing their child is being cared for in a safe, stimulating and happy environment. All staff members have the required qualifications and disclosure checks as required by Ofsted and DBS.

Careers and education

Our Advisers are on hand to help you make the right choices through one-to-one advice sessions or through tutorial group work.

Equality and diversity

Somerset College promotes equality. We recognise, celebrate and value the diversity of all members of our community.

We have a published Equality Scheme and action plans which are all available on the College website.

We do not accept any form of harassment, bullying or discrimination. This means discrimination of any kind or any other form of abuse or hurtful behaviour is not accepted and we have measures in place to address complaints.

We seek to safeguard everyone's equality and diversity in different ways and our aim is to create a positive, inclusive experience for everyone who comes through our doors.

We are a large and diverse community with students from over 50 countries studying here ranging in age from 14 to 100. We are continually introducing curriculum activities that promote equality of opportunity.

We encourage you to tell us about any additional needs, learning difficulties or disabilities you have so that we can take positive action to assist you. Our dedicated Learning Support Team is available to discuss your requirements, as well as providing information and advice on the Disabled Student's Allowance and other support. For further information, please contact the Learning Support Team on 01823 366 501.

Learning Support and Disabled Students Allowance

Please tell us as soon as you can if you have, or think you might have, a learning difficulty or disability or any other condition that may impact upon your learning.

This will help us to ensure you get the most out of your time at Somerset College. Support for learning may be available in or outside of your classes and we work with you to provide the support you need when you want it. Our Learning Support Team will ensure that you are treated with respect and that confidentiality is safeguarded.

You may be entitled to apply for Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) which is a package of support tailored to meet your individual needs.

There are significant changes regarding the DSA process for students starting to study in 2016. Please keep up-to-date with these changes by visiting www.direct.gov.uk or contact us for further information about learning support services.

To discuss your needs, confidentially, with a member of our team, please contact our Learning Support team on 01823 366 501.

Stonewall

In a sign of its on-going commitment to diversity, the College has retained a place in Stonewall's Top 100 Workplace Equality Index. The index is developed by the LGB campaigning charity to highlight the most gay-friendly employers in the country.

The College is committed to working constructively with staff and students to raise awareness of equality, and to promote a positive and mature attitude to diversity within the institution.

CONTACT US

The Helpzone

Monday to Thursday | 8am - 8pm

Friday | 8am - 6pm

01823 366 331

www.somerset.ac.uk

HOW TO FIND US

We're situated on Wellington Road in Taunton, close to the town centre and Taunton bus station, a short twenty minute walk from the train station - or a quick bus ride.

By car to the Park and Rides

There are two park and ride sites in Taunton. Coming from the South on the M5, exit at Junction 26 (Taunton A38) and follow the road to Taunton. After passing the Stonegallows Pub on the left, signs will direct you to go left at the upcoming roundabout for the Silk Mills Park and Ride. Coming from the North on the M5, exit at Junction 25 and park at the Taunton Gateway Park and Ride. The cost to students is approximately 90p return. The Silk Mills site is very close to the College so you can park for free and walk ten minutes to the College, if preferred.

Parking at College

There is limited pay and display parking on campus at £1 per day. You will need to collect a permit from reception and clearly display it with your ticket in your car. Wherever possible please use the Park & Ride facility.

By bus

The College is a ten minute walk from the main bus station and many of the buses stop outside Somerset College.

By train

Taunton has a busy mainline station with direct trains from London, Bristol, Bath, Birmingham and Plymouth. The station is approximately a twenty minute walk from the College or you can catch a bus directly to the College.

By bike

There are designated areas for parking bicycles and motorbikes. We recommend that students use public transport to get to College or walk or cycle where possible. All travel information is correct at time of publication but please check your travel arrangements with the transport provider before you travel.

KEY

TAUNTON

- 1 Somerset College
- 2 Halls of Residence
- 3 Bus station
- 4 Train station
- P&R Park & Ride

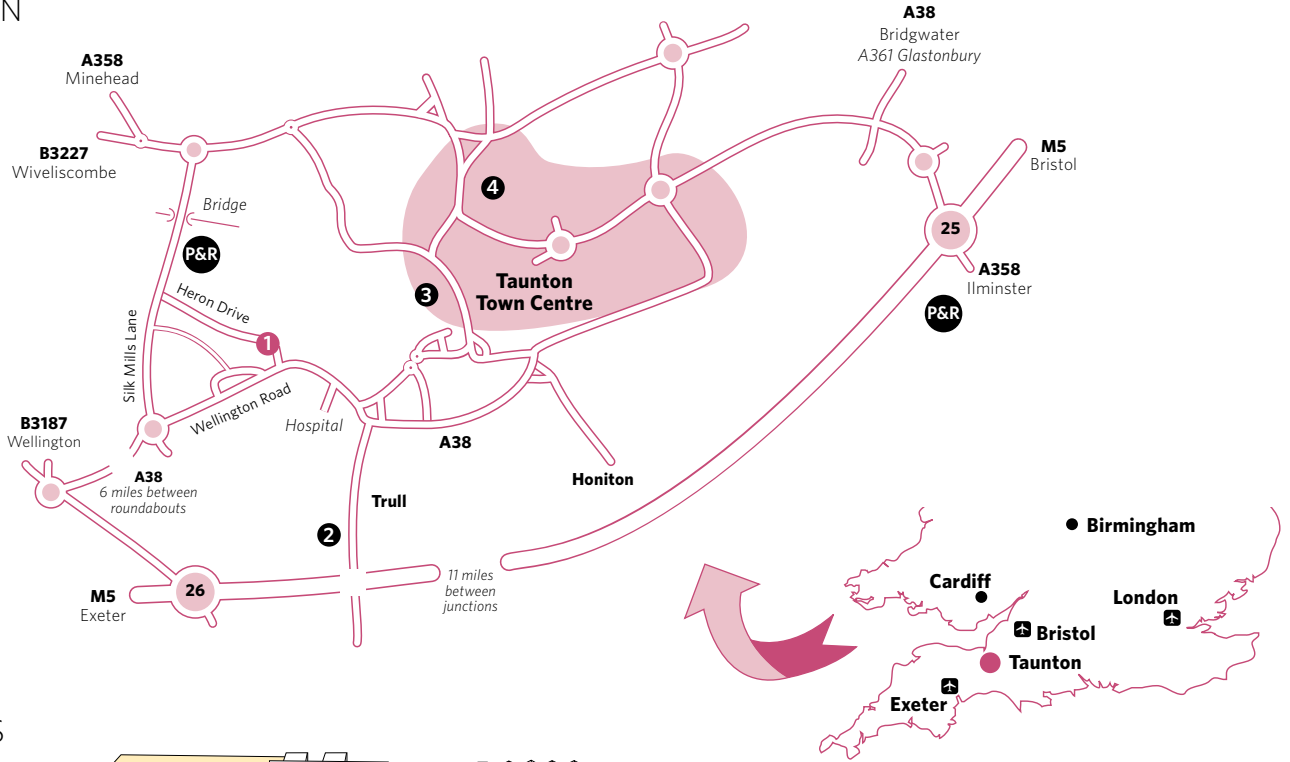
WELLINGTON ROAD CAMPUS

- 1 The Atrium and Main Reception
- 2 Health & Social Care Centre
- 3 The Arts House
- 4 Advanced Centre for Engineering (ACE)
- 5 Engineering Workshops
- 6 Industry Skills Centre (ISC)
- 7 Sports Hall
- 8 Mama Bear's Nursery
- 9 Taunton Conference Centre
- 10 Genesis
- P Car Park
- P&R Park & Ride bus stop

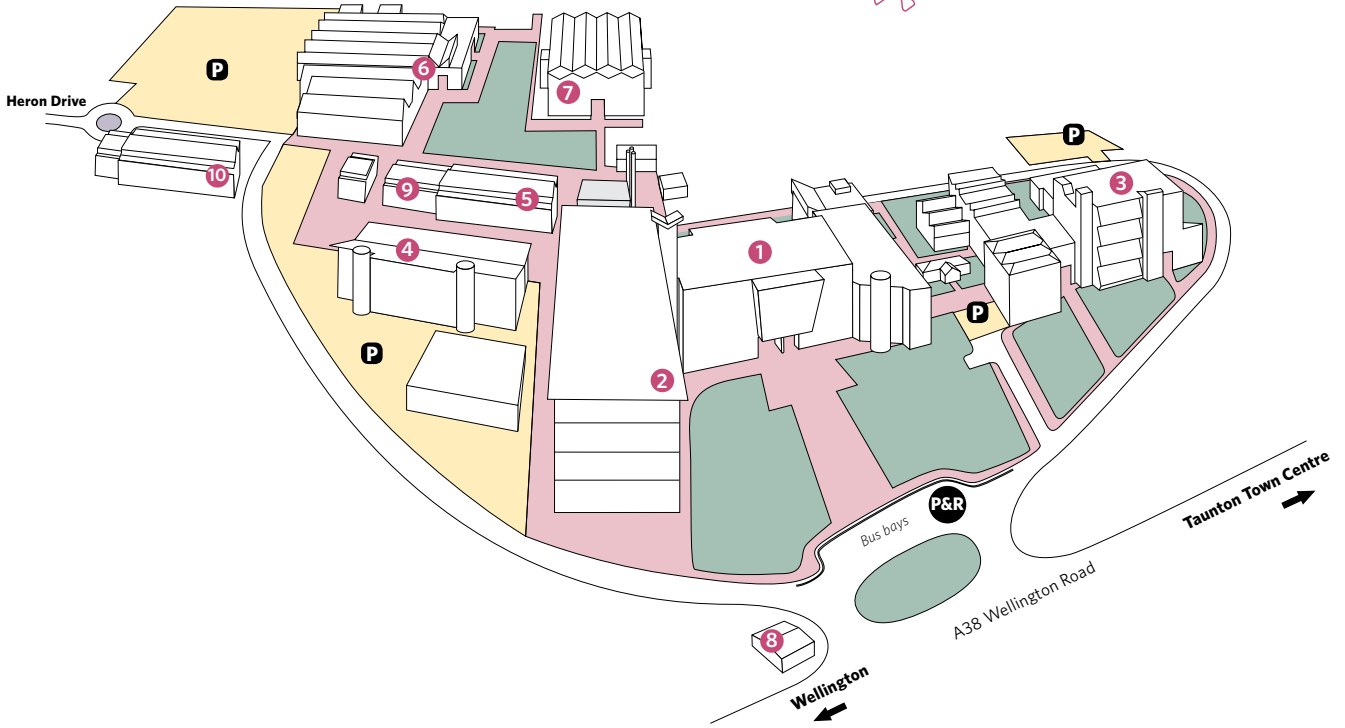
FURTHER INFORMATION

Call Traveline's information line on 0871 200 22 33 or visit www.traveline.info or contact the College Information team on 01832 366 331

TAUNTON



CAMPUS





COURSE LIST

Pre-degree Access Diploma

ART & DESIGN

Foundation Diploma in Art & Design

Fine Art

Graphic Media & Communication

Fashion Design

Textiles & Surface Design

Media Make-up

BUSINESS

Business Management

ENGINEERING

Mechanical Engineering (Design & Manufacture)

Mechanical Engineering (Automotive Engineering)

Electronic Systems Engineering

CONSTRUCTION

Construction and the Built Environment (Civil Engineering)

Construction and the Built Environment

COMPUTING

Computing & Internet Technologies

Computer Games Technology

HEALTH & EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDIES

Early Childhood Studies

Health and Social Care Studies

Health and Social Care Management

Healthcare Practice

TEACHING

Certificate in Education

Post Graduate Certificate in Education

SPORT

Sport (Health, Fitness and Exercise)

SOMERSET COLLEGE

Wellington Road, Taunton

Somerset TA1 5AX

enquiries@somerset.ac.uk | 01823 366 331

www.somerset.ac.uk



Somerset College produces the University Courses Prospectus 2016/17 in 2015, which may be over a year before you start your studies. We endeavour to ensure that all the information provided is correct at time of printing, but courses are regularly reviewed and updated so details may change. We make every effort to publish up-to-date information on our website, www.somerset.ac.uk. If a particular service or facility described in this prospectus is of great importance to you, please contact us to ensure its continued availability before you apply.

Occasionally a course listed in the prospectus may be withdrawn or replaced after the prospectus has been printed. Please contact us to check the status of your course before you apply.

All financial information provided relates to academic year 2015/16 and is correct at time of publication. Tuition fees are subject to change each year, so if you are planning to start your course in 2016 you should visit our website for up-to-date information. Certain courses may incur additional charges for examination fees, activities or specialist materials. Please contact us to check the fees required for the course you have chosen, before you apply.

Available financial support is also subject to change each year. Up-to-date information about Student Loans and Government Grants can be obtained from www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance

Details of our tuition fees for full-time university courses will be published on our website. Please visit www.somerset.ac.uk for details. All students are responsible for researching and applying for their own financial support package. Advice can be obtained from www.direct.gov.co.uk or you can contact our Financial Guidance Team for information.

Please note that this prospectus does not form part of any contract between you and Somerset College.



If you would like this publication in an alternative format please ring 01823 366 331