

Prospectus for Higher Education 2017–18



BRIDGWATER
& TAUNTON
COLLEGE



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Principal's welcome



It's exciting times at Bridgwater & Taunton College. Particularly with regard to our increasing Higher Education provision. Following the merger between Bridgwater College and Somerset College we are offering more Higher Education opportunities than ever before, and developing a unique offering for Somerset.

We recognise that making a choice about a Higher Education course and finding the best place to study can be a challenge. The information in this prospectus will give you a feel for what it's like to study at Bridgwater & Taunton College and help you understand what the College can offer you.

An increasing number of students are attracted by Foundation Degrees, Higher National qualifications and professional programmes. These qualifications have employability embedded into them and aim to help students enter their chosen career at a higher level or progress within their existing employment. Our partnerships with highly respected universities make it possible for students to top-up their qualification to full honours degree level in a number of disciplines, either here with us, or with them directly in Bristol, Plymouth or Oxford.

We believe that choosing Bridgwater & Taunton College represents an excellent choice. As an award winning college with strong links with industry, a wide range of courses and an outstanding reputation for student achievement, we have much to offer people of all ages and backgrounds.

Our courses are equally suitable for young people leaving school in Year 13, employees hoping to progress their careers or enhance existing abilities, mature students considering re-training in order to return to work and people who, perhaps through redundancy or relocation, are seeking a new opportunity in life.

To help you find out more about what we can offer, I invite you to read this mini-prospectus. We are always happy to talk to prospective students, so feel free to contact us. Alternatively we hope to meet you at one of our open events.

I look forward to meeting you.

MIKE ROBBINS
PRINCIPAL

Fantastic Facilities – Bridgwater, Taunton & Cannington

You could look at a lot of colleges and not find a single one that matches our range of excellent facilities. We've teamed up with industry partners and the government to provide students with just what they need to succeed in their chosen field.

Our Bridgwater Centre is about to host an all new Advanced Engineering Centre (AEC), in addition to our Energy Skills Centre (ESC), and we have recently been named a partner for the National College for Nuclear (NCfN) – if you're a budding engineer there is nowhere better for you to be studying.

Meanwhile Taunton is home to the Arts House: the perfect creative environment to study any number of arts-related courses including fashion design, fine art, graphics and media make-up.

Cannington is home to our 200-hectare working farm and Agricultural Innovation Centre. If you're looking for a job in the outdoors then this is the place for you.

We have our own childcare centres providing unique training environments for our Early Years students, and links with healthcare providers across Somerset for our Health & Social Care students.

For us, the success of our students always comes first. By investing in our built environment we're investing in your future.

HE FACILITIES

We are proud of the continuing increase in student numbers for our HE courses and as a result have now developed dedicated HE areas at our Cannington and Taunton Centres. These provide exclusive areas for our HE students, with a combination of quiet areas for study as well as social corners to meet your friends and catch-up.

FOOD AND DRINK

Our award-winning catering team ensures you'll never want for choice when it comes to eating. Whether you want a nourishing home-cooked meal, a quick snack or slurp of coffee, there are plenty of cafes and restaurants across our centres to satisfy your hunger. Because we have a College-wide commitment to healthy eating, you'll never be short of opportunities to up your intake of vitamins and minerals.



CHILDCARE CENTRES

Our purpose-built Centres, at both Taunton and Bridgwater Centres, provide exceptional learning and care facilities for children from four months to five years old, and offers holiday play schemes for children up to eight years old. The Centres have purpose built accommodation where children can explore both indoor and outdoor environments. It's a unique training environment for Early Years students who can also apply for childcare places for their own children during work or study hours.

LEARNING RESOURCES CENTRES

With LRCs on all our main sites, we stock over 30,000 books, more than 3,000 e-books, and newspapers, magazines, journals, DVDs and CDs. As well as computers, students are welcome to take advantage of free Wi-Fi. Staff are on hand to support your studies and there is ample work space available.

SPORTS FACILITIES

Pick a sport, any sport. The chances are we have facilities that enable you to participate in it. Our campuses provide all manner of ways to get active, alongside the expected rugby, football and netball pitches, tennis courts and cricket squares, we can offer a golf course, stables and climbing centre. Which means there's every opportunity to pursue your sporting passion.



RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION

We've recently invested £3 million in brand new residential accommodation facilities at our Cannington Centre, taking the total number of rooms to 140.

We have a further 192 purpose-built rooms set in tranquil parkland for our Taunton Centre students.

Each bedroom is 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
- TV lounge
- Internet café
- Wi-Fi 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. Visitors may stay for up to 48 hours at a time.

THE MCMILLAN THEATRE

If all the world's a stage, you need to get practising. With our brand-new, multi-million pound facility at Bridgwater, you can learn theatre craft in an amazing space. Fancy performing in front of 350 people? Here's your opportunity to do so, while those who prefer to be backstage can perfect their skills with the latest lighting, sound and set-design equipment. It is the only theatre of this size in the local area: another great facility that puts Bridgwater & Taunton College firmly on the map. It also plays host to professional and community performances.

ENERGY SKILLS CENTRE

The £8m Energy Skills Centre, opened in January 2011, is the first of its kind in the South West and meets the growing demand for training in science and engineering from local employers. Facilities include engineering and welding workshops, the latest robotic and CAD/CAM equipment, dedicated PLC, electronics engineering technology and pneumatic/hydraulic laboratory facilities. The Centre has been funded by many high profile and interested parties; these include EDF Energy, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and the National Skills Academy (Nuclear).

With the Advanced Engineering Centre in Bridgwater and the National College for Nuclear in Cannington, both opening in the next year, there's no better place to study engineering in all its forms.

AUTOMOTIVE CENTRES

Our Automotive Centres have seen substantial investment over the last few

years and include a workshop dedicated to Motorsport Engineering. Inside the workshops you'll find the latest equipment and facilities, including a rolling road suite, wind tunnel and diagnostic laboratories. Our College Motorsport Race Team consists of Higher Education students studying Motorsport and competes regularly at race events around the country. They are current holders of the BRSCC OSS Championship – a national multi-make sportscar championship.

ART, DESIGN AND MEDIA CENTRES

Many regard the Arts House at our Taunton Centre as a local landmark. Eye catching from inside and out, it houses fantastic facilities that give creatives in a range of fields including art, graphic design, textiles and media every opportunity to explore their talents. It's a similar story at the Bridgwater Centre, where our facilities are equally impressive with an industry-standard TV studio complete with editing suites, and a photography studio with dark rooms. So, whatever you choose to study, you can be assured of the very best environment to lay foundations for your career.

SCIENCE LABORATORIES

As you'd expect, our science facilities are right up to date. They contain specialist equipment for your scientific discipline, ensuring you have everything needed to deepen your practical and conceptual knowledge. For students studying Forensic Science, we have a dedicated crime scene house where you can hone your skills in investigation and observation.





ANIMAL MANAGEMENT CENTRE

A £2 million investment has seen the construction of a bespoke Animal Management Centre, enabling the College's animal collection to be significantly enhanced. Recent additions include Greater Hairy Armadillos, Gambian Pouched Rats, Streaked Tenrecs and Pardine Genets. The Centre provides our students with a level of hands-on experience that we believe is unparalleled in the South West. The Centre is broken down into specialist animal areas including exotics, amphibians, fish, rodents and birds. There is also a paddock area for alpacas, goats, sheep and donkeys. Students also have access to the animals resident at Rodway Farm and our Equestrian Centre.



RODWAY FARM

The award-winning, 200-hectare College farm strives to be one of the region's foremost dairy farms as well as one of the leading providers of agricultural training and education. At the forefront of this is the milking parlour, showcasing the latest recording and computerised monitoring systems. Students have access to these excellent resources on a daily basis, participating in practical farm duties throughout the year in connection with the sheep flock and beef cattle enterprises. Students also have an opportunity to use modern farm machinery and participate in the overall management of College land, learning fencing, hedge laying, coppicing and dry stone walling. Rodway Farm provides students with an opportunity to learn a range of farming skills, enabling them to progress to successful careers within the agricultural industry. The new Agriculture Innovation Centre at the



Farm opened in 2015 and provides a fantastic new teaching and research facility for our students and industry.

IT FACILITIES

The College has a huge computer network of over 2,000 desktops running Windows 7 and Microsoft Office 2013, together with a substantial number of Apple Macs used within Art, Design, Media, Photography and Music Technology. Our centres are all interconnected, offering Internet, IPTV, video conferencing and remote access as well as Wi-Fi coverage. The College website offers online access to the College desktop, Outlook webmail, the library catalogue, Sharepoint and the Blackboard Community portal. The Technology Helpdesk provides advice and support for all students and staff in their use of our network, classroom technology, mobile devices, Wi-Fi, PCs, Apple Macs, Smartboards, AV and provides ID cards and photos, colour printing, video editing and events support.

EQUESTRIAN CENTRE

The College's Equestrian Centre is a well-resourced teaching facility and an approved BHS riding school. Our facilities include indoor and outdoor arenas, a range of show jumps, portable cross country fences, a solarium, a horse walker, two large stable blocks and a variety of well-schooled horses. All of our instructors are BHS qualified and we offer quality instruction in dressage and show jumping using either our horses or your own horse. Private and group lessons are available for riders of all abilities and students benefit from reduced lesson fees. Stables can be rented for the

day, or overnight. Students can also join the Cannington Equestrian Centre Riding Club and get involved in additional activities and represent the College in Riding Club competitions. For more information visit www.canningtonequestriancentre.co.uk

HAIR AND BEAUTY SALONS

The Hair and Beauty salons in the Taunton and Bridgwater Centres are open to the public and students for a variety of treatments, including: haircuts; colouring and perming; facials; manicures; pedicures; eyebrow shaping and eyelash tinting; waxing; massage and electrical body-toning treatments. All treatments are performed to a high standard by trainees, under the supervision of experienced, qualified staff, at highly competitive prices.

THE WALLED GARDENS AND TEA ROOM

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. Having undergone extensive redevelopment, the gardens were officially opened by HRH the Earl of Wessex, and are accredited as a 'quality assured visitor attraction' by VisitEngland, and a Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) recommended garden. The gardens provide a superb facility for students at Bridgwater College's Cannington Centre to gain essential hands-on experience of working with a whole range of plant groups. The state-of-the-art Botanical Glasshouse has been built to accommodate plants from seven different climate zones, all supported by a computer-controlled environment

system, and resulting in a superb facility for work-based learning. There is also a Tea Room, Plant Shop, and Gift Shop, which can all be visited without entry to the Gardens, and there are many events taking place throughout the year. For more information see www.canningtonwalledgardens.co.uk

CANNINGTON GOLF COURSE

This nine-hole, 18-tee golf course is considered to be one of the best in the South West. There is also a fully automated, floodlit Driving Range, and Clubhouse. Students are eligible to receive discounted membership at our golf club. Lessons are available for all levels of ability, and there is a Pro's Shop for all equipment needs. For more information visit www.canningtongolfcentre.co.uk



CANNINGTON ACTIVITY CENTRE

Cannington Activity Centre is a state-of-the-art high and low ropes course for both children and adults, offering team building and life skills as well as experiential management training programmes, and is used as part of students' induction programmes at the beginning of the year. Activities are carried out in a safe environment under the supervision of qualified instructors, and can be tailored to meet specific requirements. For more information visit www.canningtonactivitycentre.co.uk



University partners

We are proud of the strong links we have forged with our university partners. Each of them offer unique opportunities to our students and ensure we offer the best options for our courses. Working alongside prestigious universities reinforces our excellent reputation both nationally and regionally. Our examination and course results consistently place us among the best

of all education and training providers in the South West.

On the following pages you will find information that illustrates why we work with these universities: The Open University, Oxford Brookes University, Plymouth University, University of the West of England.



OXFORD
BROOKES
UNIVERSITY

IN
PARTNERSHIP
WITH
PLYMOUTH
UNIVERSITY

UWE
Bristol University
of the
West of
England



Open University

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY (OU)

We work closely with the OU to ensure that our programmes maintain the highest educational standards.

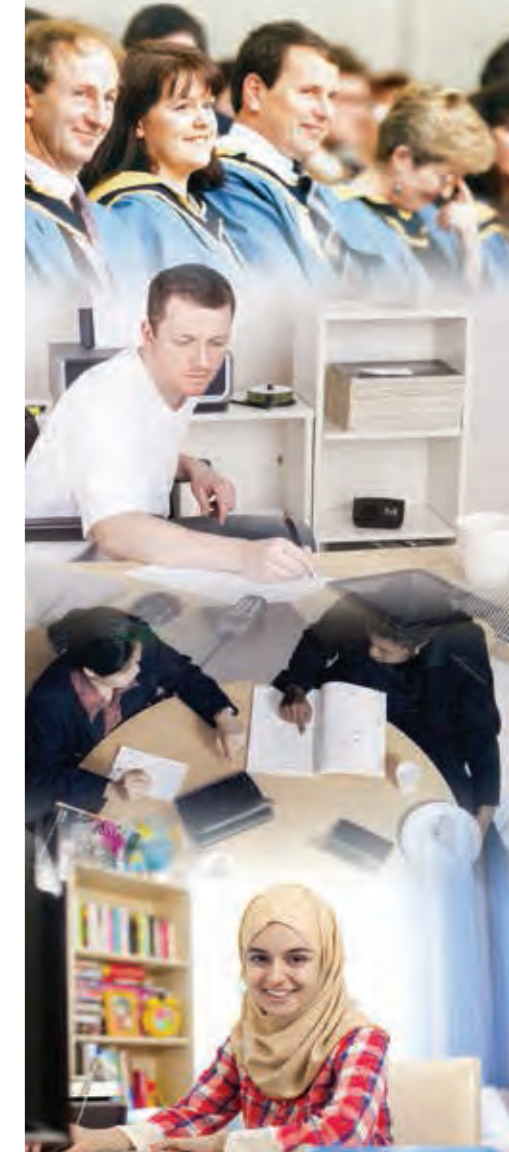
If your degree programme is validated by the OU, your primary relationship is with Bridgwater & Taunton College. That means you have access to our extensive resources, including the Higher Education library with its collections of printed and electronic resources, including books, e-books, online research 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 Bridgwater & Taunton College Students' Union and if you wish, you can join the National Union of Students.

In addition to the facilities provided at Bridgwater & Taunton 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/cicp.

**The Open University
Walton Hall
Milton Keynes
MK7 6AA**

**0300 303 0075
www.open.ac.uk**



Oxford Brookes University

Oxford Brookes courses, taught in partnership with Bridgwater & Taunton College, suit many people's needs and enable you to study locally for degree-level qualifications.

If you want to study alongside a career, in between family commitments, or simply learn more about a subject you have always been interested in, these courses may be right for you.

You may not need traditional qualifications to get onto a course. Work experience, previous learning and a desire to study all count when your application is considered.

With a Oxford Brookes course you are safe in the knowledge that you are studying for a well-recognised qualification taught to the highest standards expected in higher education.

HIGH CALIBRE LEARNING AND TEACHING

All Oxford Brookes courses are carefully designed by experienced academics to meet the needs of students. They work in partnership with knowledgeable, industry-informed college teaching staff to ensure delivery of degree-level learning. All are passionate about their subject and making it accessible to others.

Oxford Brookes prides itself on inspiring students to expand the way they think and explore their subject. Many of its academics are internationally recognised trailblazers in their subject area – whether it be in the sciences, humanities, technology or other fields.

BENEFITS +

When you enrol you become a student of both Bridgwater & Taunton College and Oxford Brookes University, and can enjoy the benefits of both. As a Oxford Brookes student you will be able to take advantage of its university resources and services – both online and, if you are able to visit, on campus.

You can enjoy access to the extensive online library and membership of the students union. And, if you come on campus, facilities such as the sports centre, the social learning spaces, eateries and library in the award-winning John Henry Brookes Building.

Oxford Brookes University
Headington Campus
Oxford, OX3 0BP.
01865 741111
www.brookes.ac.uk/college

OXFORD
BROOKES
UNIVERSITY



Plymouth University

Bridgwater & Taunton College works in partnership with Plymouth University to widen participation in Higher Education and deliver first-class degrees and Higher Education awards to communities it serves. For more information, please visit www.plymouth.ac.uk/business-partners/partnerships/academic-partnerships

Plymouth is a dynamic and distinctive university that strives for the highest quality in all that it does.

It is a top 50* research institution with genuine clusters of world class research across areas as diverse as marine science and engineering, medicine, robotics and psychology – all supported by investment in leading facilities.

With more than 26,000 students benefiting from a Plymouth education, the University has a strong track record in teaching excellence and has one of the highest numbers of National Teaching Fellows of any UK university.

Plymouth is a truly global university, with a vibrant international student base and with partnerships in 30 countries. It continues to grow in stature and influence - a twice

winner of the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education, the first modern university in the UK to launch its own medical and dental school and the first university in the world to be awarded the Social Enterprise Mark.

As a partner student, you can access online University services, use its library, electronic resources and learning support materials through its web-based student portal (including information and support from its 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 sports facilities

**Plymouth University, Drake Circus
Plymouth, Devon
PL4 8AA.
01752 585858**

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

* Research Fortnight Research Power League Table 2014

**IN
PARTNERSHIP
WITH
PLYMOUTH
UNIVERSITY**



University of the West of England

Through our partnership with UWE Bristol, you can choose to do Foundation Degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Mechatronics through the University but be based here at Bridgwater & Taunton College.

As a UWE Bristol student studying at the college, you will benefit from the University's strong links with business and professions, as well as ours, and study a course that's designed to prepare and equip you for going out into the workplace.

Your degree will be quality assured by the University, showing employers you have met their high academic 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 large and popular university, with a diverse student population studying a wide range of degrees locally,



nationally and even internationally. Although you will be based at the College, you will be joining the UWE Bristol student body.

You will have access to all of UWE Bristol's facilities, including their large library at the Frenchay Campus, extensive online library resources, social and learning spaces and sports centre. You will also have full access to the Students' Union at UWE Bristol who offer a wide range of support in a new purpose-built building.

**University of the West of England
Frenchay Campus, Coldharbour Lane
Bristol. BS16 1QY.
0117 32 83333 www.uwe.ac.uk**



Why Bridgwater & Taunton College

Bridgwater & Taunton College offers degree-level courses in conjunction with some of the UK's leading universities, which means you don't have to leave home to study for a degree. We work with top universities to offer their Foundation Degrees and, in many cases, Honours Degree Top-ups. Our university partners ensure that the content and the quality of the tuition you receive at the College is consistent with the content and quality that is offered at the universities themselves. The degrees are then awarded by the individual universities. In 2016 we won the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education.

There are many benefits associated with studying a Higher Education course with us...

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.

UNIVERSITY COURSES BUT NOT UNIVERSITY PRICES

We generally do not charge full fees on any of our Higher Education courses; we have negotiated with our university partners to charge lower fees than they will be charging. As an example, a university may charge up to £9,000 a year and we may charge from £7,500.

While you need to pay to study Higher Education there are a number of loans and grants available to assist you. Money needn't be a barrier to your future education. And student loans don't need to be repaid until you're earning over £21,000.

STRONG PARTNERSHIPS WITH PRESTIGIOUS UNIVERSITIES

We have strong links with the following partner universities: Oxford Brookes University, Plymouth University, the University of the West of England and the Open University. This allows us to give many of our students a clear progression route to top-up their College qualification to Honours Degree level, in most cases within



one year, and in some cases two years at Bridgwater & Taunton College. Working alongside prestigious universities reinforces our excellent reputation both nationally and regionally. Our examination and course results consistently place us among the best of all education and training providers in the South West.

SMALL CLASS SIZES AND HIGH QUALITY TEACHING

An advantage of studying in a college environment is the fact that class sizes are significantly reduced, meaning that students receive a high level of academic and personal support from lecturers and personal tutors, many of whom have postgraduate qualifications and extensive teaching and industry experience.

SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

We aim to provide a high level of support to all students at the College, including those with disabilities or additional learning needs. Each student is allocated a tutor and will receive regular tutorials or one-to-one meetings, if required. Our award-winning Student Support and Additional Learning Support teams are also available for all our students to access if they need to do so. We want you to achieve your goals, so if you require one-to-one support in the

classroom, extra exam time or sessions in our study skills workshop, we will ensure these are in place to help you.

EMPLOYABILITY

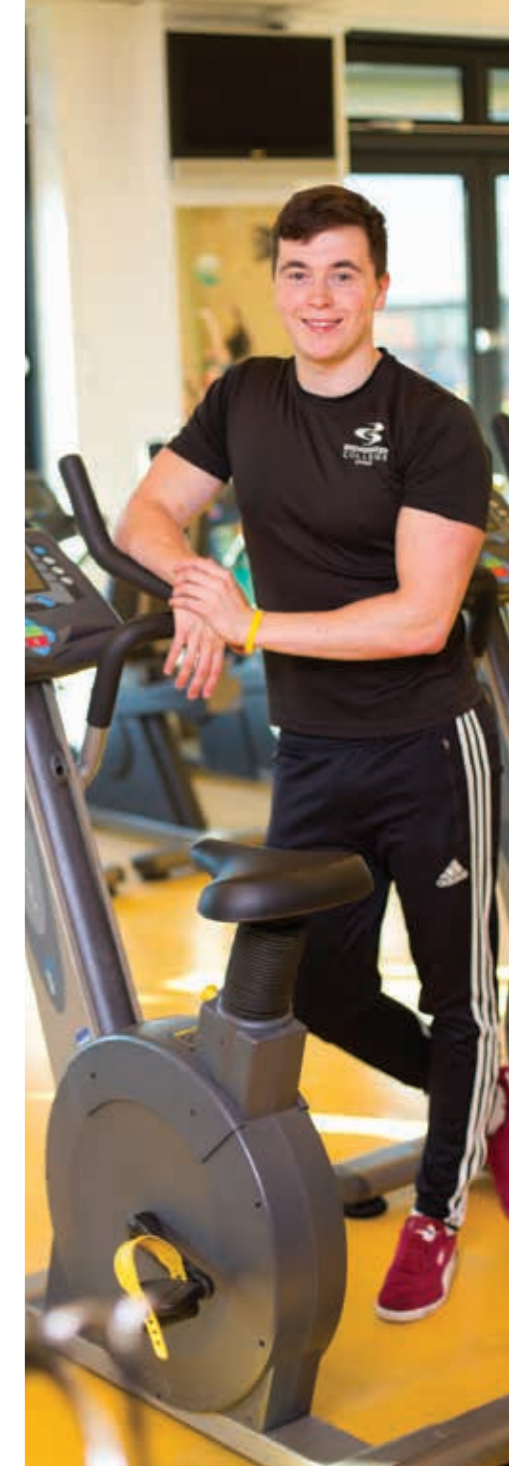
Whatever your career ambitions, we will give you the support you need to become a successful graduate with the skills and experience employers are looking for. Our graduates are employable because:

- All of our courses have a vocational focus.
- We have strong links to industry.
- All our students are given the opportunity to 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 & design, technologies, engineering, the health and caring professions, public services or research institutions.

EXTENSIVE CURRICULUM

We have over 60 professional and Higher Education qualifications available for you to study including Certificates of Higher Education, HNCs/HNDs, Foundation Degrees and (Hons) Degree Top-ups in partnership with awarding bodies and



universities. Courses cover a range of disciplines from Media Production to Counselling and Dance to Motorsport. We also offer flexible learning solutions such as part-time study or distance learning, allowing you the freedom to fit studies around personal or family commitments.

MODERN STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES

We always strive for our facilities to be of the best quality. We want our students to learn in state-of-the-art learning environments. Significant and ongoing investment in facilities helps us to attract new students as well as encouraging our current students to progress internally.

Many of our facilities are also run as commercial ventures, offering superb work-based learning opportunities and real hands-on experience to our students.

EXCELLENT PROGRESSION ROUTES

We work with employers to ensure that our study programmes relate directly to the world of work and the needs of businesses. We also aim to provide clear progression routes from our A Level and vocational programmes to degree level and professional qualifications. For more course information and advice, please telephone 01278 441234 or visit www.btc.ac.uk.

TRANSPORT & ACCESSIBILITY

Bridgwater Centre is just a 10 minute walk from the town centre as well as the mainline station connecting to Exeter and Bristol, while buses come in from all over the county. The Taunton Centre is only a ten minute stroll to Taunton town centre, on the same train line as Bridgwater, while numerous independent bus companies drop you at the College's main entrance, including from the Park & Ride car parks. The Cannington Centre is connected with bus routes and minibuses from the Bridgwater Centre. All our centres have car parks, although we encourage car sharing and cycling – there are cycle racks located throughout the centres.

Our students really go places

Whether you are going on to further studies, employment or setting up your own business, Bridgwater & Taunton College provides you with the tools to succeed.

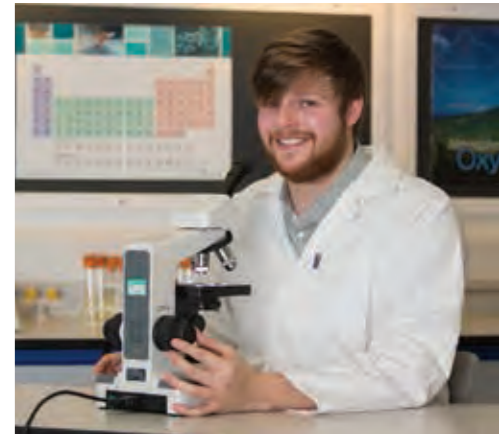
GREAT CAREERS

Some of the best tutors in the country are to be found at Bridgwater & Taunton 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

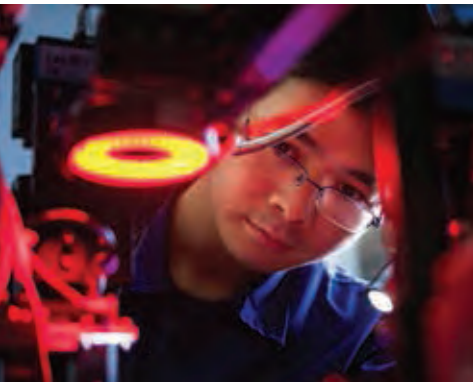
with them to make sure they succeed. In such an encouraging atmosphere you can find out who you really are.

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	Design Bridge	Howies	Rolls Royce
Airbus	Design at Debenhams	Jigsaw	Saatchi & Saatchi
Arcadia group	Designers Guild	Madame Tussauds	Salt Rock
All Saints	Dreamworks	Manor F1 Racing	Selfridges
Amdac	EDF Energy	Matsui Babcock	Thales
Carmichael	Fat Face	Ministry of Defence	The Partners
BBC	Holmes & Marchant	NHS	Timorous Beasties
B Studio	Honda	Pentagram	Vivienne Westwood
Clarks			



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.

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.

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.

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, but many of our part-time students study alongside work.

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 2016/17. For up-to-date information about amounts for 2018, and further information about eligibility for support for your childcare costs and how to apply please visit www.gov.uk/studentfinance

CHILDCARE CENTRES

If you have young children and are thinking about returning to study we may be able to help.

There are purpose-built Childcare Centres located at our Taunton and Bridgwater Centres, both with an 'Outstanding' Ofsted ranking. These fantastic facilities are fully equipped for children from babies through to children aged five.

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 £155.24 per week if you have one child, or £266.15 per week if you have two or more children.
- Up to £1,573 a year depending on your household income through the Parents' Learning Allowance to help towards course costs like books, materials and travel.
- Child Tax Credit.



Student Support

PERSONAL TUTORS

Every student is allocated a personal tutor, normally a member of staff who has contact with you in a teaching capacity. He/she will be available throughout your studies to offer both academic and personal support, and in your first few weeks at College will lead the induction process to help you settle in to your new environment. Ongoing contact will be in the form of regular tutorials when your tutor will advise you of the many facilities and support services available; these include study skills support, time management and personal development planning. We offer a range of learning workshops which you can use either on a drop-in or regular one-to-one basis to improve your study skills, research skills, IT, English or Maths, and you will also have formal reviews with your tutor to monitor your progress and set targets for your ongoing development.

VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (VLE) – BLACKBOARD

Blackboard allows staff and students global 24/7 access to course materials, assignments and resources. Blackboard enables tutors to communicate with students via multiple methods, including the discussion board, real-time chat and email functions. Tutors can also upload teaching and learning materials, interactive

tests, audio and video content. Each course has its own space with access restricted to enrolled students. Blackboard can be accessed from any computer or device with an Internet connection and is therefore an invaluable resource.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

Bridgwater & Taunton College prides itself on being an open and inclusive institution. We have a zero-tolerance policy towards discrimination, harassment and race crimes. To us, everyone – staff and students alike – is equal and deserving of respect. This is reflected in our clubs and societies, which include a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Everyone and Anyone (LGBT&E) Group that has been established by students and won an Anne Frank Award in 2016. It is also seen in the College's status as a Stonewall Top 100 employer (a programme which highlights the most gay-friendly employers in the country), which was granted in 2015.

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.

LEARNING SUPPORT

The College actively welcomes students with learning difficulties, for whom we will



provide an appropriate course and level of support. In many cases students will already have been assessed, although if necessary assessments can be undertaken in College. We support students with a range of physical or sensory disabilities including:

- Dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia
- Hearing impairment/deafness
- Visual impairment/blindness
- Restricted mobility/dexterity
- Mental health difficulties
- Learning difficulties
- Diabetes, epilepsy, asthma and many more.

WELFARE

Staff in the Student Support offices across all our Centres are available to offer information, help and advice on a range of issues. Students are encouraged to approach the teams for help with:

- The completion of financial forms
- Travel and accommodation information
- Advice on benefits
- Advice on student loans, grants and bursaries
- Appointments with the Health Promotions team.

We have a variety of services to support learners, including BSL (British Sign Language) qualified signers, facilitators for

the sight impaired, note-takers and specialist equipment including filters and special papers. If you have a disability or learning difficulty, please use the appropriate section on the application form to advise us so that we can put suitable support in place for you as soon as you start your course.



STUDENT SUPPORT FUNDS

You may be eligible for funds from the College to support your studies. Please see our website for more details.

HEALTH AND COUNSELLING

There is a Health Promotions Coordinator on site at the Bridgwater Centre who is available to offer confidential advice on any medical issues, and we also have links with GP surgeries in Bridgwater and Cannington for students who may wish to use those facilities. Our counsellors and mental health workers provide a comprehensive, discreet support service for issues affecting any area of your life. Appointments to meet the counsellor can be made directly, via email or through your tutor in strictest confidence.

ACCOMMODATION

The College has accommodation for both weekday-catered (with a meal card) and fully self-catered HE students at the College's Taunton and Cannington Centres. Accommodation is allocated on a priority basis, mostly related to distance from home although other factors are taken into consideration. For more information about our Halls of Residence please visit our website.

STUDENT UNION

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 Student Union to represent the views of the student body. This enables the College to make positive changes for current and future students.

The Students' Union also makes sure you have the best time when studying at Bridgwater & Taunton 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.

Information & Guidance

Our Information and Guidance team is your first point of contact for information and advice about the many courses on offer. Their desk is staffed during office hours for 50 weeks of the year. To speak with a member of the Information and Guidance team call 01278 441234; alternatively chat with them live via our website www.btc.ac.uk.

The team has been trained to provide impartial information, advice and guidance and is a first point of contact for general information and advice relating to many aspects of your application or future career opportunities. These are one-to-one discussions that can be conducted face-to-face, over the telephone or via email at info@bridgwater.ac.uk.

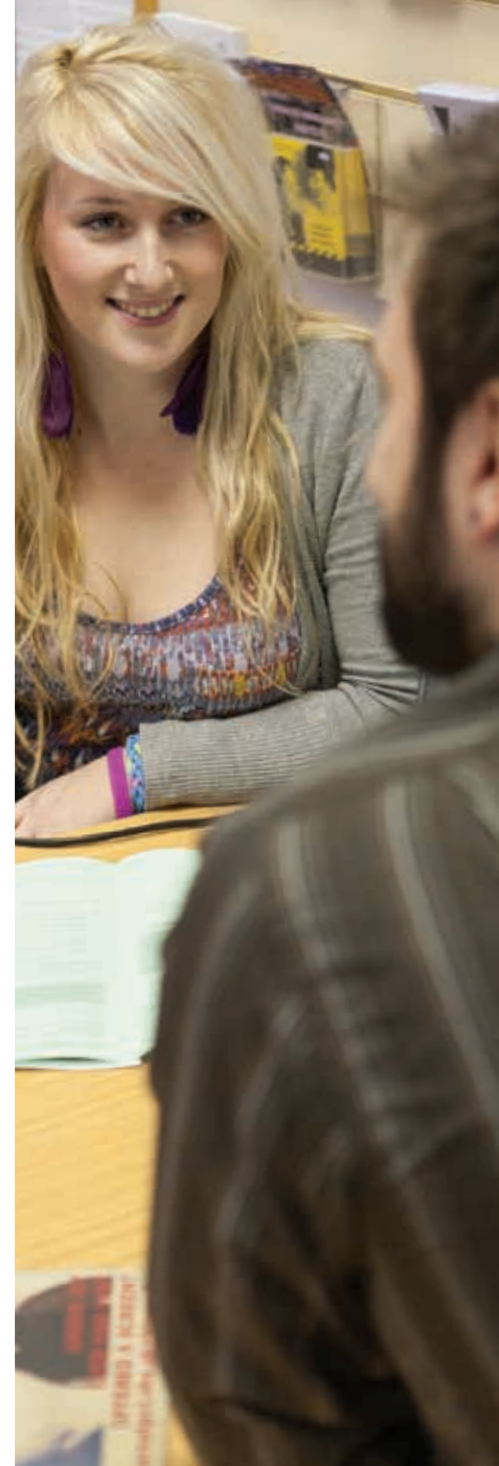
A dedicated member of the Information and Guidance team processes all HE applications and can help, advise and support applicants through the process. We have established direct IT links with our partner universities to ensure speed in tracking applications, and pride ourselves on the fact that every applicant is viewed and treated as a person and not as an administrative process. Students applying for full-time courses through UCAS will be notified of the decision via the UCAS system. Applicants wishing to study a Higher Education qualification part-time should complete the College application form online. You may

be contacted for an interview but in all part-time cases the Information and Guidance staff will communicate the offer.

ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

A key advantage of having personal, dedicated support at the earliest stage of your application is to gain reassurance that you are making a well-informed decision. This is critical when you consider that choosing the right university level qualification can have a huge impact on your future. Current statistical evidence confirms that holding university level educational qualifications ensures more choice and better career opportunities.

Support and guidance continues once you have enrolled and started your course via the tutorial process.



Making an application

FULL-TIME

For full-time courses you will need to apply online through UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) via www.ucas.com. When you have chosen your course, follow the procedures on-screen and complete and submit your form. For 2017 entry you can submit your application form to UCAS between 1 September 2016 and 15 January 2017; although you can also apply after this date, there is the possibility that your chosen course may be full. The cost of applying through UCAS for a 2017 start will be £24 unless you are applying to only one institution (e.g. Bridgwater & Taunton College), when you will pay a reduced fee of £13 (according to UCAS at time of print).

From the 25 February 2017 UCAS Extra is a live system for any applicants who have not been accepted by any of their choices or who have rejected all their offers. UCAS Extra allows you to make additional choices one at a time for courses that still have spaces. Any eligible applicants not in receipt of an offer, or making their first application after 30 June 2017, will be sent a Clearing Passport. Lists of courses with vacancies will appear on www.ucas.com and in national newspapers and if any of these are of interest to you, you should contact the university or college directly to ask if they will accept you. It is a good idea to do this yourself because the admissions tutor will

want to speak to you personally. UCAS will contact you directly with the decision about your application. Whichever institution you choose as your firm or insurance choice, you should apply to Student Finance England for tuition fee and maintenance support.

DEFERRED ENTRY

Please indicate your preference to defer on your application by completing the relevant box on your UCAS form. For some students this could be an ideal opportunity to pursue work experience relating to their course. Please be aware you will still have to meet the 2017 UCAS deadlines.

PART-TIME

Applications for part-time courses must be made direct to the College using the online application form. The application form can also be downloaded from our website at www.btc.ac.uk or obtained from the Information and Guidance team by calling 01278 441234; alternatively email info@bridgwater.ac.uk.

Enrolment on some courses is subject to a successful interview, and this will provide you with another opportunity to meet the tutors, see the College facilities and obtain any support or information, including financial information, that you might need. You can then apply to any funding sources



open to you. If an interview is not required, we would nevertheless recommend that you visit the College at some point, if you have not already done so.

Please note that for Early Years programmes a successful interview and a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, previously known as Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) clearance, is mandatory.

Once we receive your application we will contact you to arrange an interview.

PORTFOLIO

If you apply for a place on an Art & Design course, including BA (Hons), Foundation Degree, Access Diploma Art and Design pathway and Foundation Diploma, you will be invited to attend an interview where you will be required to show your portfolio of work.

It is not essential that all work in your portfolio is finished or mounted. We will be looking for a portfolio presentation that demonstrates your potential as an artist/designer in your chosen field, your visual communication skills and that shows you have experience in a range of different media and materials. Preparatory work such as sketches and notebooks can be a valuable part of your portfolio as they clearly demonstrate thought processes and imagination. In some cases, for example for large pieces of work, good quality photographs are acceptable. Don't put in just what you think is your 'best' work, we might think differently! Put in everything and be organised. We run Portfolio Workshops throughout the year to help you prepare for interviews - visit our website to sign up.

ACCREDITATIONS FOR PRIOR LEARNING

If you are applying for a top-up programme or have already undertaken study towards a named award at university level, you may be eligible to use APL to gain entry to the new course you are applying for.

We welcome applications from students with appropriate qualifications, prior work experience or a demonstrable interest and talent in a subject.

Entry requirements for each course are shown on the relevant course pages on the website.

We also require students to have GCSE at grade C (or equivalent), Functional Skills Level 2 in English/Communication/Literacy. Students whose first language is not English will be required to attain IELTS (International English Language Testing System) Level B2 with a score of 6 or more in each discipline of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

If you are unsure whether you have the right qualifications and skills to succeed on a degree course, please call the IAG team on 01278 441234.



A guide to qualifications

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. We also offer a range of business-focussed modules as 'stand alone' courses worth up to 16 credits that could be used towards gaining a full Foundation Degree.

FOUNDATION DEGREES

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.

TOP-UP HONOURS DEGREES

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

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

HIGHER NATIONAL CERTIFICATE/DIPLOMA

With two years part-time study you can achieve a Higher National Certificate (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 and HND 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. Please contact the IAG team for more information on 01278 441234.

Our Higher Education Offer

AREA	COURSE	CENTRES		
		Bridgwater	Taunton	Cannington
Access	Access to Higher Education: Business Studies	■		
	Access to Higher Education: Business & Computing		■	
	Access to Higher Education: Education	■		
	Access to Higher Education: Forensic Science	■		
	Access to Higher Education: Health & Social Care	■	■	
	Access to Higher Education: Humanities	■	■	
	Access to Higher Education: Science	■	■	
	Access to Higher Education: Science & Engineering	■		
	Access to Higher Education: Social Science	■	■	
	Access to Higher Education: Art & Design		■	
Accounting: AAT Professional Diploma in Accounting	■			
Agriculture	Agriculture Management Foundation Degree			■
	Agriculture Management BSc (Hons) Top-up (subject to approval)			■
	Agriculture: Food Chain Management BSc (Hons) Top-up Degree (subject to approval)			■
Animal Management	Animal Conservation Foundation Degree			■
	Animal Conservation BSc (Hons) Top-up Degree			■
	Applied Animal Management Foundation Degree			■
	Applied Animal Management BSc (Hons) Top-up Degree			■

Our Higher Education Offer

AREA	COURSE	CENTRES		
		Bridgwater	Taunton	Cannington
Arts	Art, Design & Media Foundation Diploma	■	■	
	Fashion Design Foundation Degree		■	
	Fashion Design BA (Hons) Top-up Degree		■	
	Fine Art Foundation Degree		■	
	Fine Art BA (Hons) Top-up Degree		■	
	Graphic Media & Communication Foundation Degree		■	
	Graphic Media & Communication BA (Hons) Top-up Degree		■	
	Media Make-up Foundation Degree		■	
	Media Make-up BA (Hons) Top-up Degree		■	
	Textiles & Surface Design Foundation Degree		■	
Textiles & Surface Design BA (Hons) Top-up Degree		■		
Business	Business Management Foundation Degree		■	
	Business Administration BA (Hons) Top-up Degree		■	
	CMI Level 5 Diploma in Management & Leadership	■		
	Human Resource Management Level 5 Intermediate Certificate	■		
	Human Resource Management Level 7 Advanced Diploma	■		
	Management & Leadership CMI Level 5 (QCF) Award/Certificate/Diploma	■		
	ILM Leadership & Management Level 5 Award / Certificate		■	

Our Higher Education Offer

AREA	COURSE	CENTRES		
		Bridgwater	Taunton	Cannington
Computing	Applied Computing Foundation Degree	■		
	Applied Computing BSc (Hons) Top-up Degree	■		
	Computing & Internet Technologies Foundation Degree		■	
	Computing & Internet Technologies BSc (Hons) Top-up Degree		■	
	Computer Games Technology Foundation Degree		■	
	Computer Games Technology BSc (Hons) Top-up Degree		■	
Counselling	Counselling Practice Level 4/5 Diploma	■		
Countryside	Countryside Management BSc (Hons) Top-up Degree			■
Dance Teaching	Dance Teaching & Learning Level 6 Diploma	■		
	Performance (Contemporary Dance) Level 4 ATCL	■		
	Performance Arts Level 4 ATCL	■		
Early Childhood Studies	Early Childhood Studies BA (Hons) Degree		■	
Health & Social Care	Health & Social Care BA (Hons) Degree		■	
Engineering	Computer Aided Manufacture & Automation HNC	■		
	Electrical / Electronic & Control Engineering HNC	■		
	Production Engineering HNC	■		

Our Higher Education Offer

AREA	COURSE	CENTRES		
		Bridgwater	Taunton	Cannington
Engineering continued	Mechanical Engineering HNC	■		
	Mechanical Engineering Foundation Degree	■		
	Mechatronics Foundation Degree	■		
Food Technology	Food Technology & Development Foundation Degree			■
	Horticulture HND			■
Media	Media Production Foundation Degree		■	
Motorsport	Motorsport Engineering Foundation Degree	■		
	Motorsport Technology BSc (Hons) Top-up	■		
Music	Music Production HND		■	
Public Services & Outdoor Education	Public Services with Outdoor Education Foundation Degree (subject to re-approval)		■	
Sports	Sports Science with Sports Coaching Education Foundation Degree		■	
Teaching	Education & Training Level 4 Certificate	■		
	Education & Training Level 5 Diploma	■		

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