

HOW DO I DECIDE WHAT TO STUDY AT EXETER COLLEGE?

We understand that choosing your options for college can feel a little overwhelming. Here are some hints and tips that we hope will make the process a little easier for you:

- 1. Do you have a plan for university or are you aiming for a particular career?** If so, it is important to choose courses at college that will meet the entry requirements for your future plans. Spend some time researching potential options after college in order to make an informed decision now - check the back page for useful websites.
- 2. Think about the subjects you currently enjoy** and whether you would like to study them at the next level. Do you have any hobbies or work experience that would link to a course at college? Remember if you are choosing something you haven't studied before, it is essential to do lots of research to make sure you know what you are signing up for.
- 3. What are your strengths?** Spend some time thinking about the subjects you are good at, and the skills and qualities that you have. What course will match up with these?
- 4. Understand your options.** See below and on the following pages for our guide to qualifications. You can also find out more by attending one or more of our open events, which take place throughout the year. Visit www.exe-coll.ac.uk for our open event dates.

WHAT TYPE OF COURSE IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

You can study at Entry Level, Level 1, 2, or 3 after school. The level you start at depends on your GCSE results. You can move your way up through the levels until you have completed Level 3, then you can progress on to higher education at college or university, get an apprenticeship or find employment.

The information below gives an overview of entry requirements and is a guide to what you may need for each level of course. It is a guide only – we consider every application on an individual basis and will discuss your qualifications at your interview to find the most appropriate course for you.

Academic Route	Level 3	Academic Route	Level 3	Technical and Professional Route	Level 3, 2, 1
A Levels GCSE Grades: Eight GCSEs at grade 4 or above, to include English Language and Maths. Some courses require higher subject specific entry criteria, for example grade 5 or 6. What next? You can study a higher education course at college or university, an Apprenticeship or find a job.		International Baccalaureate GCSE Grades: Eight GCSEs at grade 6 or above, to include English Language and Maths. Some subjects require higher subject specific entry criteria. What next? You can study a higher education course or Apprenticeship at college or university or find a job.		Vocational and Technical Courses Level 3 GCSE Grades: Five GCSEs at grade 4 including a grade 4 or above in English and Maths. Six grade 4s including English and Maths are required for T Levels. Level 2 GCSE Grades: Five GCSEs at grade 3 including English and Maths.	
Entry Level GCSE Grades: No formal qualifications. Students just need enthusiasm, commitment and a desire to succeed. What next? You can move on to a Level 1 course or Pre-Apprenticeship. You may also seek employment, or work based training.		Technical and Professional Route Apprenticeships GCSE Grades: Every employer is different, and therefore the entry requirements can vary. Ideally you should have your English and Maths at grade 4 What next? You can study an advanced apprenticeship, in preparation for a more senior role.	Level 3, 2	 Level 1 GCSE Grades: Four GCSEs at grade 2, normally including English and Maths. What next? You can study the next level of your course after Level 1 or 2, to eventually progress to Level 3. After Level 3, you could progress on to a higher education course at college or university or an Apprenticeship or find a job.	

A LEVELS.

A Levels are subject based qualifications which are often the next step for students achieving high grades in their GCSEs. Exeter College offers around 40 different A Levels, or A Level equivalents, which are taught through classroom based sessions and assessed mainly by exams. As an A Level student you will study a combination of subjects, which can be a good way of keeping your options open. Alternatively, you can study subjects which are essential for your choice of career or university course.

Our Extend Offer.

Learners studying an A Level pathway will enrol on a four element programme. This commonly consists of three core A Levels (or a combination of two A Levels and one BTEC Certificate) and an Extend option. Extend is a bespoke selection of courses, specifically designed to enhance your learning. Our aim is to provide students with an enriched academic experience fully preparing you for your next steps beyond college.



You may choose your Extend element to reflect your individual interests or future plans. The options range from areas such as creative and professional writing, sports therapy, legal ethics, medical sciences, modern languages, to qualification based courses such as the Level 3 Maths Certificate or a 4th A Level (subject to GCSE grades).



INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE.

The International Baccalaureate Diploma is a challenging and highly respected academic programme taught in over 2500 schools and colleges worldwide. It is enthusiastically accepted by universities in the UK and overseas and allows you to progress to study a wide range of degree courses from medicine to philosophy.

What will I study?

- The Diploma ensures you maintain a breadth of subjects, but enables you to specialise in the Sciences, Humanities or Languages.
- You will study six subjects (three at Higher and three at Standard Level) including English, Maths, Foreign Languages, Sciences, Humanities, plus:
- A core programme of Theory of Knowledge (TOK), a research essay and creative, active and voluntary projects (CAS).

The International Baccalaureate is equivalent to a full A Level programme and involves exams and coursework.

VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL COURSES.

Vocational and Technical courses are offered at a variety of levels and examples include T Levels, BTECs, VRQs and UAL diplomas. Students choose one standalone course which is related to their interest in a particular area. Students learn from both practical and theory based sessions, and often have the opportunity to take part in work experience. Assessment is often through coursework, with some exams or controlled assessment.

Vocational learning may be ideal for students who are interested in pursuing a career in a specific industry or those who feel they learn well in a more practical way. Some students also prefer continual assessment rather than a more exam focused qualification.

Students start on the level of course that is appropriate for their GCSE results. Courses are available from entry level through to level 3, which is the equivalent to A Levels. Once a student has completed a level 3 qualification they can choose from a range of progression options, including higher education at college or university, employment or an Apprenticeship. Many employers value vocational and technical qualifications for the practical knowledge and skills that students develop during their time at college. These courses also allow students to make useful contacts within the local industry which can enrich their future job prospects.

T-LEVELS combine classroom theory, practical learning and an industry placement to ensure students have the skills to thrive in the world of work. T Levels aim to provide the knowledge and experience needed for highly skilled employment, higher level study or a Higher Apprenticeship.



APPRENTICESHIPS.

Apprenticeships allow you to start your career and gain valuable work skills and experience, whilst also continuing your learning at Exeter College. Apprentices will gain a qualification equivalent to either GCSEs, A Levels, or a university degree, depending on which level of apprenticeship is studied. Whilst training, students will also earn a wage, the value of which will depend on the job role and sector. Most apprentices will work with an employer for four days a week, and then come in to college once a week to learn and develop their skills. As students are continually assessed they will need to be organised and motivated to keep up with college work, whilst also working in their chosen industry.

Exeter College offers apprenticeships in a huge variety of sectors with digital marketing, dental nursing, construction and engineering being just a few examples. The college also has links with over 900 employers in the south west region. Our team of Training and Recruitment Advisers support students whether they already have an employer in mind or whether they need help to find a placement. Advisers can help with job seeking, interview skills, CV writing and much more. See overleaf for their contact details.

FURTHER ADVICE ON MAKING YOUR DECISION.

It's a good idea to gather information from a range of sources to support you in making this important decision. We understand that there is a vast amount of information available, and have therefore compiled a list of resources we often find useful:

- **Buzz Quiz:** www.icould.com/buzz
In under five minutes, discover which careers might suit your personality
- **National Careers Service:** nationalcareers.service.gov.uk
Offering a range of careers information through their 'Explore careers' tool, and lots more
- **Career Pilot:** www.careerpilot.org.uk
A wealth of useful further education/careers information for both students and parents
- **UCAS Careers Advice** www.ucas.com/careers-advice
Explore a range of jobs and career pathways

You may also find the following links useful if you are considering progressing to University:

- **UCAS University Search Tool:** www.ucas.com
Find out about higher education course options, including entry requirements, course content and more
- **Prospects:** www.prospects.ac.uk
Advice on university options, and post-graduate progression routes
- **The University Guide** - www.theuniguide.co.uk
Try out the 'A Level explorer' tool to find out where your subjects could lead, along with much more
- **Informed choices:** www.informedchoices.ac.uk
A guide produced by the Russell Group of universities to help students who are considering university

You may also find the following links useful if you are considering an Apprenticeship:

- www.exeapprentices.co.uk
Search current apprenticeship vacancies from Exeter College's large network of employers
- www.apprenticeships.gov.uk
Find out about apprenticeships and see national job vacancies.



COLLEGE ADVICE TEAM.

Our dedicated College Advice Team are trained to give advice and guidance about the college and help you make sense of all your choices.

College Advisers visit many local schools regularly and also have drop-in appointments at the college and online - check with your school tutor or get in touch by phoning **01392 400600** or email **CAT@exe-coll.ac.uk**

APPRENTICESHIP TEAM.

Our dedicated Apprenticeship Team are available to provide advice and guidance on Apprenticeships, finding an employer and applications and CVs.

Get in touch with one of our Training and Recruitment Advisers via our Apprentices Hotline on **01392 400800** or email **apprentices@exe-coll.ac.uk**