



UCAS and Futures Information Evening Thursday, 1 October



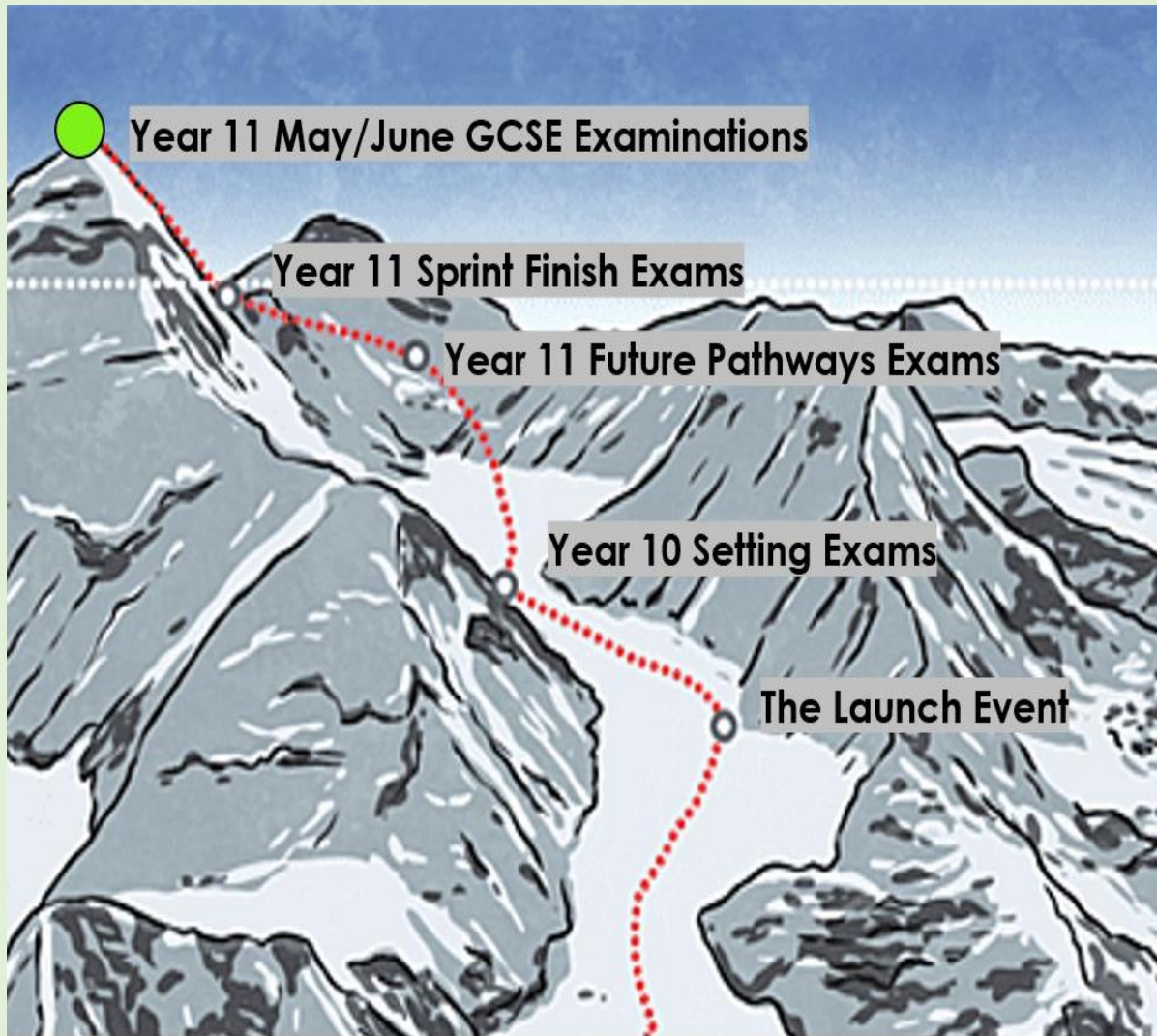
Lucy Pitcher

Director of Sixth Form

Tonight's aims:

- To know the options available to students when they finish Sixth Form.
- To understand the UCAS process.
- To know how we support the students through their 'Futures' curriculum.
- To understand student finance and how it impacts you.
- To learn more about degree based apprenticeships.

Post-Sixth Form Options



Post-Sixth Form Options

University

Conservatoire

Gap year

Degree level
apprenticeship

Higher
apprenticeship

Employment

06/10/2026



Degrees



Benefits of a degree

- Compulsory for certain careers
- 97% of business leaders report graduates reaching management positions faster¹
- Average graduate salary is £42,000, compared to £30,500 for non-graduates
- Government projections indicate 90% of new jobs by 2035 will require graduate skills³
- Life skills: independence, networking, critical thinking

Choosing a course

- 164+ universities
- 35,000+ undergraduate degrees
- Shadowing / work experience in that field
- Visit Open Days
- Explore online prospectuses
- Visit UCAS.com

Course considerations

- Modules differ across courses with the same name, e.g. History
- Accreditation, e.g. British Psychological Society
- Year in industry / sandwich year abroad
- Contact hours
- Assessment methods
- Employment prospects

University considerations

- Entry requirements
- Ranking
- Russell Group
- Distance from home
- Campus or City
- Facilities
- Student satisfaction

Application process

- UCAS manage all UK applications and automatically share results to confirm places
- 5 course choices
- £34.50 / free for those eligible for FSM

Support in school:

- Unifrog
- Sharing opportunities (via email)
- CPSHE
- Tutor sessions – Yr 13: twice a week
Yr 12: Summer Term
- Aspiring Scholars Programme
- Futures workshops- From Yr 12 onwards
- Work Experience- Yr 12 Summer Term
- Mock interviews- Yr 12 Summer Term

Support in school: Unifrog

An online platform used to:

- Log work experience
 - Research courses
 - Write personal statements
 - Store predicted grades
-
- If you were at ICC in Year 10, you will already have a log in from work experience.
 - If you were not at ICC, and you do not have a log in, please email Mrs Nichols for support.

Support in school: Unifrog

Initial searches for
courses and universities:

You can put in:

Current subjects

Career aspirations

Preferences-

- Russell group
- Distance
- Setting
- Single or joint honours

Direct matches (1)

Law

Subjects you might like (24)

SINGLE HONOURS

JOINT HONOURS

Accounting and Finance and Law

Criminal Law and Justice

Economics and Law

English and Law

History and Law

Law and Africa and Black Diaspora

Law and Business

Law and Chinese

Law and Criminology

Law and Financial Management

Law and French

It will then give you a list of possible course options.

You can click on the course and it will give you further details.

Or you can then go to the UCAS website to research further.

Aspirational (57) Top of your range		Solid (4) In the middle	
 Law - 3FT BA (Hons)		 Law - 3FT LLB (Hons)	
 University of Cambridge A Level: A*,A,A UCAS Points: 152		 Cardiff University A Level: A,B,B-A,A,A UCAS Points: 128-144	
 Law - 3FT LLB (Hons)		 Law with Foundation Year - 4FT BA (Hons)	
 Durham University A Level: A*,A,A UCAS Points: 152		 University of Oxford A Level: B,B,B UCAS Points: 120 Foundation year	
 Law - 4FT LLB (Hons)		 Law (Accelerated Programme) - 2FT LLB (Hons)	
 The University of Edinburgh - Central area campus A Level: A*,A,A-A*,A*,A UCAS Points: 152-160		 University of Southampton Requirement: Not given. Check their site (Avg UCAS points 145)	
 Law - 3FT LLB (Hons)		 Law (Juris Doctor) - 2FT LLB (Hons)	
 King's College London, University of London A Level: A*,A,A UCAS Points: 152		 University of Southampton Requirement: Not given. Check their site (Avg UCAS points 145)	
 Law (Bachelor of Laws) - 3FT LLB (Hons)			
 London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London A Level: A*,A,A UCAS Points: 152			
 Law - 3FT LLB (Hons)			
 University of Manchester A Level: A*,A,A			

Timeline for most applications

When		Process
Year 12	Oct-May	Research courses, open days and universities
	Summer Term	Register with UCAS, link to school with buzzword (supported in school)
Year 13	Sep	Predicted grades finalised
	Sep-Oct	Write personal statement, with guidance from tutor
	Oct-Jan	Attend open days, online webinars.
	Nov- Dec	Pay and submit application
	Dec	School writes reference and checks application
	Jan	Equal Consideration deadline
	Feb	Extra opens:
	Mar - Apr	Apply for loan
	May	Deadline to respond to offers – select firm and insurance
	July	(Clearing opens)

Early applications

- Medicine / Dentistry / Veterinary
- Oxford / Cambridge
- Music conservatoires

- Internal application deadline: 25 Sep (current Yr 13)
- External application deadline: 15 Oct (current Yr 13)

- Entry test dates vary
- Interview dates vary (Oxbridge usually Dec, Medicine often Dec – Mar)

Early applications

Year 13:

- 1:1 meeting with Ms Findlay
- Further support with application if needed.
- Guidance for final submission and payment

Year 12:

- Aspiring Scholars Programme (see Mrs Offer)
- Information event- Spring Term

Personal Statement

- One statement goes to all five choices
- 4,000 characters
- Split across 3 prompts:
 - Why do you want to study this course or subject?
 - How have your qualifications and studies helped you prepare?
 - What have you done to prepare outside of education, and how were these experiences useful?

Personal Statement- guidance

- Show, don't tell
- Show passion through reading, projects, competitions, visits, podcasts, shadowing, work experience...
- Reflect on experiences

Apprenticeships

- Research apprenticeships on YOU.Gov website
- Look out for emails from Mrs Hughes on opportunities for work experience and open days
- Personal statement will support applications
- Year 12 (Summer Term): support with writing CV

Gap years

- Useful to confirm decision or gain experience.
- We recommend a deferred UCAS application.
- We recommend completing the application process at this time.
- Useful information on the UCAS website.



Pete Offord University of Exeter



DISCOVER
UNIVERSITY

**Introduction to
student finance**

**Degree
Apprenticeships**

Pete Offord
School and College
Engagement



**University
of Exeter**

Two main costs associated with university

- Tuition fees
- Living expenses



Tuition Fees 2027/28 entry

- £7,530 - £10,050 per year (expected to rise)
- Exceptions;
 - BMBS Medicine
 - Courses with a year abroad or a year in industry
 - Foundation year courses
- Fees do not need to be paid up front



Student living costs

Accommodation

Books and equipment

Food and drink

Clubs, societies, and sports

Clothes, toiletries, and
haircuts

TV and music subscriptions

Travelling home

Phone and internet

Social life

House deposits



Typical student living costs (per year)

Self-catered accommodation (40 weeks)	£6,590.75
Entertainment, going out, travel, food	£999.60
Supermarket spend	£1761.12
Clothing and fashion	£1479.60
Socialising	£1268.40
Household bills	£1488.96
Total	£13,588.43



Accommodation cost based on the University of Exeter average (Exeter campuses), Sept 2026. Other costs based on the NatWest Student Living Index, August 2025.



Sources of Income/Support



Government support

Student Loans
Grants



Universities

Bursaries
Scholarships



Other Sources

Scholarships
Part time work

Sources of income: government 2027/28 entry

Type of funding	Amount (per year)	Repayable	Non- repayable	Means-tested	Non-means- tested
Tuition fee loan	Up to £10,050	✓			✓
Maintenance Loan	Up to £15,415*	✓		✓	

*The amount is variable depending on your household income and where you are studying.
You could receive less than the £15,415 but no more than this.

Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE)

- You may apply for a tuition fee loan (LLE) to cover the full costs of your tuition fees.
- **This amount is based on current rates (£10,050 per annum) and may change over time.**
- The maximum number of tuition fee years you can apply for is 4 (i.e., £40,200).
- Your total allowance is 4 years of full-time study or 480 credits.



LLE – Tuition Fees

- The number of credits you take out will affect how much money you take out of your allowance.

Example based on 2027 entry fees

- A 360 credit course over 3 years (120 credits per year) costs £10,050 per year.
- If you apply for the maximum Tuition Fee Loan, you'll use £30,150 of the £40,200 total. This will leave £10,050 for any future study.



LLE - Maintenance Loan

- You can receive up to £15,415 per year (for courses up to 30 weeks), depending on your university location and living situation
- Loans are reduced if you are studying under 120 credits (e.g. 60 credits = up to £7,707.50)
- You may need extra financial support (e.g. part-time work, bursaries and scholarships, or family help)



Maintenance loan and household income

Household income	Living at home while studying	Living away from home while studying	Living and studying in London
£25,000 or less	£9,118	£10,830	£14,135
£40,000	£6,825	£8,512	£11,777
£65,000	£4,013	£5,048	£7,846

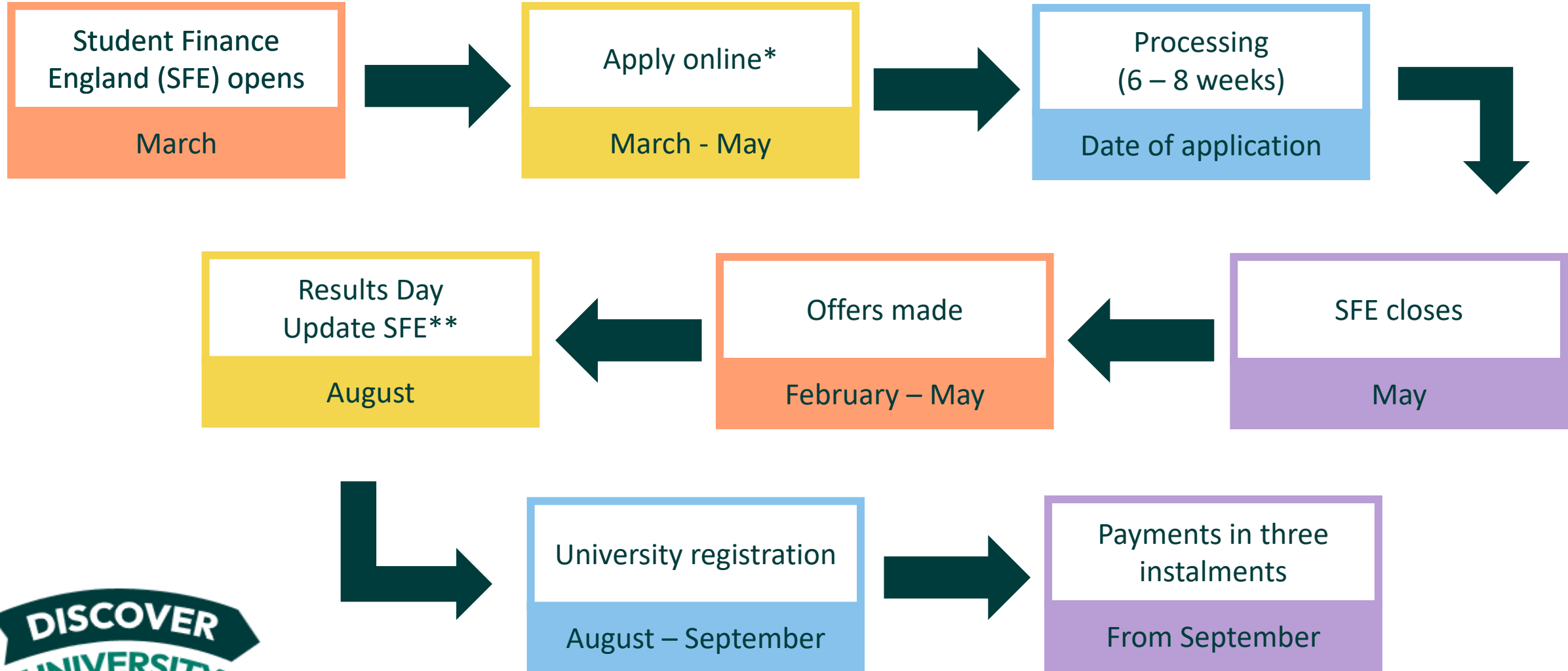
2026/27 full-time students, not eligible for those on benefits or aged over 60.

*Note, this is a **sliding scale** and provides only an estimate of what you may be entitled to.*

The application process

*you do not need to know your university destination when applying

**if you have made a change of institution, you must report this to SFE



The application process

*you do not need to know your university destination when applying

*if you have made a change of institution, you must report this to SFE



Paying back your government loans

- April, after graduation
- Repay 9% of income over **£25,000** (subject to change)
- Like a 'graduate tax' - deducted from your monthly salary
- Accumulate interest in line with inflation (**Retail Price Index** , currently 3.4%)
- Loan is written off after 40 years



Sources of information

- [Student finance login - GOV.UK](#)
[Student finance calculator - GOV.UK](#)
- [Prepare For University & Your Studies - How to Get Ready](#)
- [Home | Blackbullion](#) (**Search for bursaries and scholarships**)
- [Funding University – MoneySavingExpert](#) (**Parental Contribution Calculator**)
- [Help if you're a student with a learning difficulty, health problem or disability: Disabled Students' Allowance - GOV.UK](#)
- www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/studentfinance/article-1633418/Student-budget-calculator-spend-fund-it.html
- www.savethestudent.org/money/student-budgeting/student-budget-calculators.html

[Undergraduate Funding and Scholarships | University of Exeter](#)



Sources of income: universities

Type of funding	Amount (per year)	Repayable	Non-repayable	Means-tested	Non-means-tested
Fee waivers and bursaries	Varies		✓	✓	
Scholarships/awards	Varies		✓		✓

Examples

Bursaries – Access to Exeter (up to £2,300 p/a), Penryn Bus Transport (£200)

Scholarships – Devon Scholarship (up to £250 p/a), Horwill Memorial Scholarships (up to £125 p/a)

Other sources of income

Source	Where to find it
Charities and Trusts	Scholarship Hub Find Student Bursaries & Grants
Employer Scholarships	Scholarship Hub Find Student Bursaries & Grants
Specific Subject support (NHS)	NHS Learning Support Fund (LSF) NHSBSA
Part-time work	University job boards, local employers
Savings/help from home	Start talking about it at home!

Sources of information

- [Student finance login - GOV.UK](#)
[Student finance calculator - GOV.UK](#)
- [Prepare For University & Your Studies - How to Get Ready](#)
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- www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/studentfinance/article-1633418/Student-budget-calculator-spend-fund-it.html
- www.savethestudent.org/money/student-budgeting/student-budget-calculators.html



Key things to remember

- You can take out a **student loan for all your tuition fees**, and to cover costs **towards your living expenses**, which do not need to be paid upfront
- Applications take on average 6-8 weeks to process, but can take longer – **get your application in as soon as possible**
- You must **apply for student loans every year** you are studying
- Universities can offer **bursaries, scholarships, grants** and **fee waivers** to support with costs





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**Degree
Apprenticeships**



University
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What are **degree** apprenticeships?

- **Jobs with training**
- An **alternative** way to access university
- **Funded**, no tuition fees
- **Salaried**, paid a wage by your employer
- **Focused** on job role or industry



Apprenticeship salaries*

Age 16-18	£8 per hour (Apprentice rate)
Aged 19 or over and in your first year	£8 per hour (Apprentice rate)
Aged 19 or 20 and have completed your first year	£10.85 per hour (National Minimum Wage)
Aged 21+	£12.71 per hour (National Living Wage)

Many of our apprentices start on much higher than this, e.g. £28,000 per year in London



*As of April 2026

Apprenticeships: how do they work?



On-the-job training with
an employer - competitive
salaries



Off-the-job training with a
training provider –
minimum 20% of normal
working hours



End Point Assessment on
relevant skills, knowledge, and
behaviours

Employers we work with

We partner with over 400 employers across England, from micro businesses to huge multinational organisations.



J.P.Morgan



IBM



Amey



GSK

CACI



Wincanton



University of Exeter degree apprenticeships

Programmes suitable for school/college leavers:

- Engineering (BEng)
 - Civil
 - Electro-Mechanical
 - Electrical and Electronic
 - Manufacturing
 - Mine
- Financial Services Professional (BSc) (Investment or Retail)
- Accounting Finance Manager (BSc)
- Operations Manager (CertHE)
- People Professional (CertHE)
- Project Management (BSc)
- Adult Nursing (BSc)
- Diagnostic Radiographer (BSc)
- Digital and Technology Solutions (BSc)
- Digital Marketer (BSc)



Degree Apprenticeships with University of Exeter



Supporting **3,000+** apprentices and **450** employers across 20 apprenticeship programmes.



Gold award at the QS Reimagine Education Awards 2024. Winning the **Power of Partnerships** category, which recognises institutions that use partnerships to enhance the learning experience, inspire others to collaborate and influence the educational landscape.



Multicultural Apprenticeship Award for University of the Year 2024. This award recognises the deep commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion in its apprenticeship programmes.



Highly commended in the Education Practice Award (Experienced Category) at the British Academy of Management Awards 2024. This award was in recognition of our ability to co-create curriculum with employers for degree apprentices and providing access and success for all.



Outstanding Higher Education Partner of the Year. Chartered Management Institute (CMI) Awards 2023.



The University of Exeter Business School was named Business School of the Year in the 2022 Times Higher Education Awards.



At the Apprenticeship and Training Awards 2025 The University of Exeter were awarded the **Diversity and Inclusion award** and received Highly Commended for Sustainability in Apprenticeship training



University
of Exeter

University apprentice
achievement rate:

80.7%

National average apprentice
achievement rate:

60.4%



University apprentice
retention rate:

83.0%



University overall
pass rate:

97.2%

How to apply – Degree Apprenticeships

Training providers

- Often promote apprenticeship vacancies they teach
- Vacancies webpage
- Main university programme
- web pages

Gov.uk and other search engines

- Search vacancies across country and filter by location, level, sector etc.
- No one comprehensive search engine, so best to combine
- Check whether apprenticeships available for different jobs

Employer websites

- If you know the company you want to work with
- Apply directly through their website

Links and resources

- www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship
- www.ucas.com/apprenticeships
- www.amazingapprenticeships.com
- www.exeter.ac.uk/degreeapprenticeships
- www.NotGoingToUni.co.uk
- <https://skillsengland.education.gov.uk/apprenticeships/>



Find out more



Open days
Virtual tour
Live chat



Online events
Academic Competitions
Research resources



Newsletter
Online events
Guides and support

Visit the University of Exeter

Open Days

Saturday 3 October – Exeter Campuses

Saturday 10 October – **Penryn** Campus,
Cornwall

Saturday 24 October – Exeter Campuses



For Supporters

We encourage parents and supporters to engage through our regular communications and webinars, which will keep you informed about the latest developments, opportunities, and resources at the university.

Sessions include; student finance, degree apprenticeships, supporting your student, preparing for results day and more.

More information for supporters and all sessions can be found at exeter.ac.uk/supporter



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exeter.ac.uk/discoveruniversity



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**RUSSELL
GROUP**



Call to action

- Discuss ideas for the future early and often
- Research together – Use Unifrog tools and UCAS website
- Plan Open Day visits
- Read through personal statements
- Year 12 grades matter
- Year 13 - time is of the essence!