

# 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. You will find some useful websites later in this guide.
- 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 your time thinking about the subjects you are good at and the qualities you have. What course would match up with these? You might also want to think about the things that you don't currently enjoy so you can avoid these with your College course.
- 4. Understand your options** and the key differences between courses. It's important to check the entry requirements for the courses you are interested in to ensure you are on track to achieve the necessary grades.



# 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 onto 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

### 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.

## Technical and Professional Route

**Level 3, 2, 1**

### 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.

**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.

## Technical and Professional Route

**Level 3, 2**

### 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.

## 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. You may also seek employment, or work based training.

# 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 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. 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. Some learners may consider a fourth A Level, but this is subject to GCSE grades.

A Level

A Level

A Level

Extend



# OUR EXTEND OFFER.

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. Current Extend options include the following:

- Analytical and Forensic Science
- Ancient Worlds
- Anthropology
- Art
- Creative and Professional Writing
- Crime and Justice
- Cryptography
- Dance
- Drama Performance
- Ecology and Conservation
- Economics and Environmental Change
- Events Management
- Film and TV Production
- Football Business
- Forensic Linguistics
- Game Design
- Global Development
- Improvers' French
- Improvers' Spanish
- International Relations
- Introduction to German
- Introduction to Italian
- Introduction to Programming
- Legal Ethics
- Maths and Science Mastermind
- Medical Technologies
- Meteorology and Weather Forecasting
- Microbiology
- Neurobiology
- Philosopher's Toolkit
- Scriptwriting
- Sports Therapy and Physical Rehabilitation
- STEM Diploma
- Teaching English as a Foreign Language
- Website Development

Please note an Extend course will only run alongside a programme of **3 A Levels**.



# INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE.

---

The International Baccalaureate Diploma is a challenging and highly respected academic programme taught in over 5000 schools and college 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 and 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 internal assessment such as essays and practical work.

I was so happy when I found out that I had an offer for a place at Harvard University. I just burst into tears! Harvard was always the dream - my absolute first choice. I had to take the American SAT exams and their application process was a lot more personal than here in the UK. Everyone at Exeter College was so wonderful in helping me get in, and I'm just so grateful to have this opportunity. I'm incredibly proud of myself and I can't thank everyone enough for helping me.

*Charlie, previously studied International Baccalaureate*



# 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. Most subjects will include some form of external assessment and assessment through coursework.

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 more coursework rather than a purely exam focused qualification.



Students start on the level of course that is appropriate for their GCSE results. Courses are available from Entry Level to Level 3, which is 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.

T Levels are technical qualifications equivalent to A Levels. They are designed to give learners a route to university or industry that combines academic study with an industry placement, so you can relate what you study to the profession you hope to work in.

All T Levels include an industry placement with an employer so that students can apply their learning in a real workplace environment. Around 80% of time will be spent in the classroom with the remaining 20% being spent on placement.

T Levels primarily prepare students to move into a skilled job, but can also lead to further technical training, such as higher technical qualifications, Higher Apprenticeships or a university degree if you don't want to move straight into work.



# 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 earn a wage, the value of which will depend on the job role and sector. Most Apprentices will work with an employer four days a week and come into the 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. Exeter College Apprenticeship vacancies are also advertised on website and updated weekly.

# 6 STEPS TO JOINING EXETER COLLEGE.

## 1 RESEARCH COURSES AND ATTEND AN OPEN EVENT

Check out the course guide and the College website. Talk to your College Adviser, teachers, friends and family.

Come to our Open Events. We hold several throughout the year! Come along to speak to the teaching staff, see the facilities and find out all you need to know about the courses.

Register  
for Open  
Events



## 2 COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION

Apply online via the Exeter College website. Aim to apply by January to secure an earlier interview. You can change your application after you apply, but try to have it right the first time as course changes cannot be guaranteed.

How to  
apply



## 3 ATTEND YOUR INTERVIEW

When we have all the information we need, we will invite you in to talk through your course choice with an experienced lecturer to ensure that you are choosing the right course for you before you receive your conditional offer to study with us.

## 4 GET YOUR FINAL GCSE RESULTS

You will receive your results in August. Make sure you work hard to achieve the best grades you can in all your subjects, as this will open more doors for you when choosing a course at College.

## 5 COME TO ENROLMENT

You will receive details of your appointment in early August. At enrolment, the teaching staff will check your GCSE grades and you'll have another discussion about your chosen course. You'll enrol as an Exeter College student, find out where to go on your first day, and pick up your student ID card. Enrolment takes place the week after GCSE results day, so keep these dates free.

## 6 START WITH US!

Your first day of College will be an induction day where you will meet your tutor group and then you will start your studies with us.

# 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:

- **Careerpilot** has a wealth of useful further education/careers information for both students and parents, visit [careerpilot.org.uk](http://careerpilot.org.uk)
- **National Careers Service** includes job profiles, information and resources, visit [nationalcareers.service.gov.uk](http://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk)
- **UCAS Careers Advice** helps you discover what you need to know from finding and applying, to understanding employment, visit [ucas.com/careers-advice](http://ucas.com/careers-advice)

## You might also find the following links useful if you are considering progressing to university:

- **ucas.com** - UCAS connects people to university and post university studies including teacher training, Apprenticeships and internships.
- **prospects.ac.uk** - for advice on university options and post-graduate progression routes.
- **theuniguide.co.uk** - the University Guide is to find and compare university and degree courses. Try out the 'A Level explorer' tool to find out where your subjects could lead, along with much more.
- **informedchoices.ac.uk** - a guide produced by the Russell Group of universities to help students who are considering university.

## Useful links if you are considering Apprenticeships:

- **exe-apprentices.co.uk** - for current vacancies from Exeter College's large network of employers.
- **apprentices.gov.uk** - to find out about Apprenticeships and national job vacancies.

## Useful links to Explore Careers:

allows you to explore over 800 different careers or browse by job sector.



# 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](mailto: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 Apprenticeship Hotline on 01392 400800 or email [apprentices@exe-coll.ac.uk](mailto:apprentices@exe-coll.ac.uk)

