

YOUR FUTURE, YOUR PATHWAY

EXPLORE A LEVELS, T LEVELS, V LEVELS,
TECHNICAL & PROFESSIONAL COURSES
AND APPRENTICESHIPS

UCS
COLLEGE
GROUP



TRANSFORMING LIVES



WELCOME TO YOUR FUTURE WITH UCS COLLEGE GROUP

Choosing what to do after school is one of the most important decisions you will make, and with so many options available, it can sometimes feel overwhelming. Whether you are aiming for university, looking to gain hands-on industry skills, or eager to start earning while you learn, UCS College Group offers a pathway designed to help you achieve your ambitions.

This guide has been created to help you understand the main progression routes available: **A Levels, T Levels, V Levels, Technical & Professional Courses, and Apprenticeships**. Each pathway offers different learning experiences, opportunities, and outcomes, but all are focused on helping you develop the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed for future success.

At UCS College Group, students benefit from exceptional teaching, industry-standard facilities, strong employer partnerships, personalised support, and a commitment to developing career-ready individuals. From progressing to leading universities and degree apprenticeships to securing employment with major national employers, our students are empowered to achieve their goals and realise their potential.

As you explore this brochure, consider how you learn best, what motivates you, and where you see yourself in the future. Whether you thrive in a classroom environment, prefer practical learning, or want direct experience in the workplace, there is a pathway that can help turn your ambitions into reality.

NEW FOR SEPTEMBER 2027 WHAT ARE V LEVELS?

NEW FOR SEPTEMBER 2027, V Levels (Vocational Levels) are a new generation of qualifications designed for students who want to combine academic study with practical, career-focused learning. Each V Level is equivalent in size to one A Level, giving students greater flexibility to build a study programme that matches their interests, strengths and future ambitions.

V Levels are ideal for students who enjoy learning through practical activities, projects and real-world applications, while still keeping progression routes to university, apprenticeships and employment open.

WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT V LEVELS?

- 1. A flexible way to study.** Unlike T Levels, V Levels can be combined with A Levels, allowing you to create a personalised programme that balances academic and vocational learning. This flexibility makes it easier to tailor your studies to your future goals.
- 2. Learn through real-world projects.** V Levels place a strong emphasis on applied learning, practical tasks and project-based activities. You'll develop knowledge and skills through hands-on experiences that mirror the challenges and opportunities found in industry.
- 3. Fewer formal exams.** Assessment is focused primarily on coursework, practical activities and applied projects, meaning less emphasis on end-of-course examinations. This approach allows students to demonstrate their skills in a variety of ways.
- 4. Career-focused subject areas.** Initial V Level pathways will be available in Education & Early Years, Finance & Accounting, and Digital Systems & Data. These sectors have been chosen to provide students with valuable skills that are in demand across a range of industries.

V Levels are nationally recognised qualifications designed to support a range of progression routes. Students can use them to gain UCAS Tariff points for university applications, develop the skills needed for Higher and Degree Apprenticeships, or move directly into employment with practical experience valued by employers.



WHY STUDY A LEVELS?

A Levels are one of the most popular choices after GCSEs. These subject-based qualifications can lead to university, further study, apprenticeships, or employment, giving you a strong foundation for your future. A Levels offer flexibility, challenge and opportunity, helping you develop the knowledge, skills and confidence needed for university, employment and beyond.

10 REASONS TO CHOOSE A LEVELS

- 1. Wide choice of subjects.** Choose from over 25 A Level subjects, including traditional options such as Biology, Geography and Physics, alongside newer subjects like Psychology, Criminology, Law and Sociology. You should choose subjects that fit well together and are accepted for your preferred university course. Our team can help you select the best combination for your goals.
- 2. Excellent results.** Our A Level students consistently achieve outstanding results. In 2026, results were above the national average, with many subjects achieving a 100% pass rate.
- 3. Ideal for academic learners.** If you enjoy classroom-based learning and achieved strong GCSE results, A Levels could be the perfect next step. You'll develop independent study skills alongside your lessons.
- 4. A route to University.** A Levels earn UCAS points and are widely accepted by universities. Many of our students progress to leading institutions, including prestigious universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial College London, Bristol, Birmingham, Exeter, Cardiff, Durham, Edinburgh, and many other Russell Group Universities.
- 5. Support for ambitious goals.** Our Honours Academy and Aspire Programme provide additional support for students aiming for competitive university courses, including Oxbridge, medicine and other high-demand careers.
- 6. Respected qualifications.** A Levels are recognised and valued by universities, employers and training providers across the UK as evidence of strong academic achievement.
- 7. Personalised support.** You'll have a personal tutor, regular one-to-one guidance and access to wellbeing services throughout your time at college.
- 8. Educational visits and experiences.** As part of your A Level study, you may have the opportunity to go on field trips. For example, Sociology students have visited HMP Bristol, Law students the Houses of Parliament, and students learning languages have been to France, Italy and the Czech Republic.
- 9. Enhance your CV.** Take part in enrichment activities including clubs, academies, debating, Duke of Edinburgh, Model United Nations and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), helping you stand out when applying for university or employment. You might even want to start a club of your own!
- 10. Digital learning with iPads.** As part of our digital transformation programme, we aim to provide A Level students with an iPad to support research, collaboration, revision and independent learning.

MAYA

"I really enjoy studying Criminology, Law and Psychology because the subjects link together and help me understand each topic in greater detail. Law has become a particular passion of mine, and studying it at Strode College has confirmed that I want to continue exploring the subject at university."

UCS COLLEGE GROUP ADVANTAGE
CAREER READINESS

To find out more about A Levels offered at Bridgwater College scan here:



To find out more about A Levels offered at Strode College scan here:



Offered at
Bridgwater College
& Strode College



WHY STUDY T LEVELS?

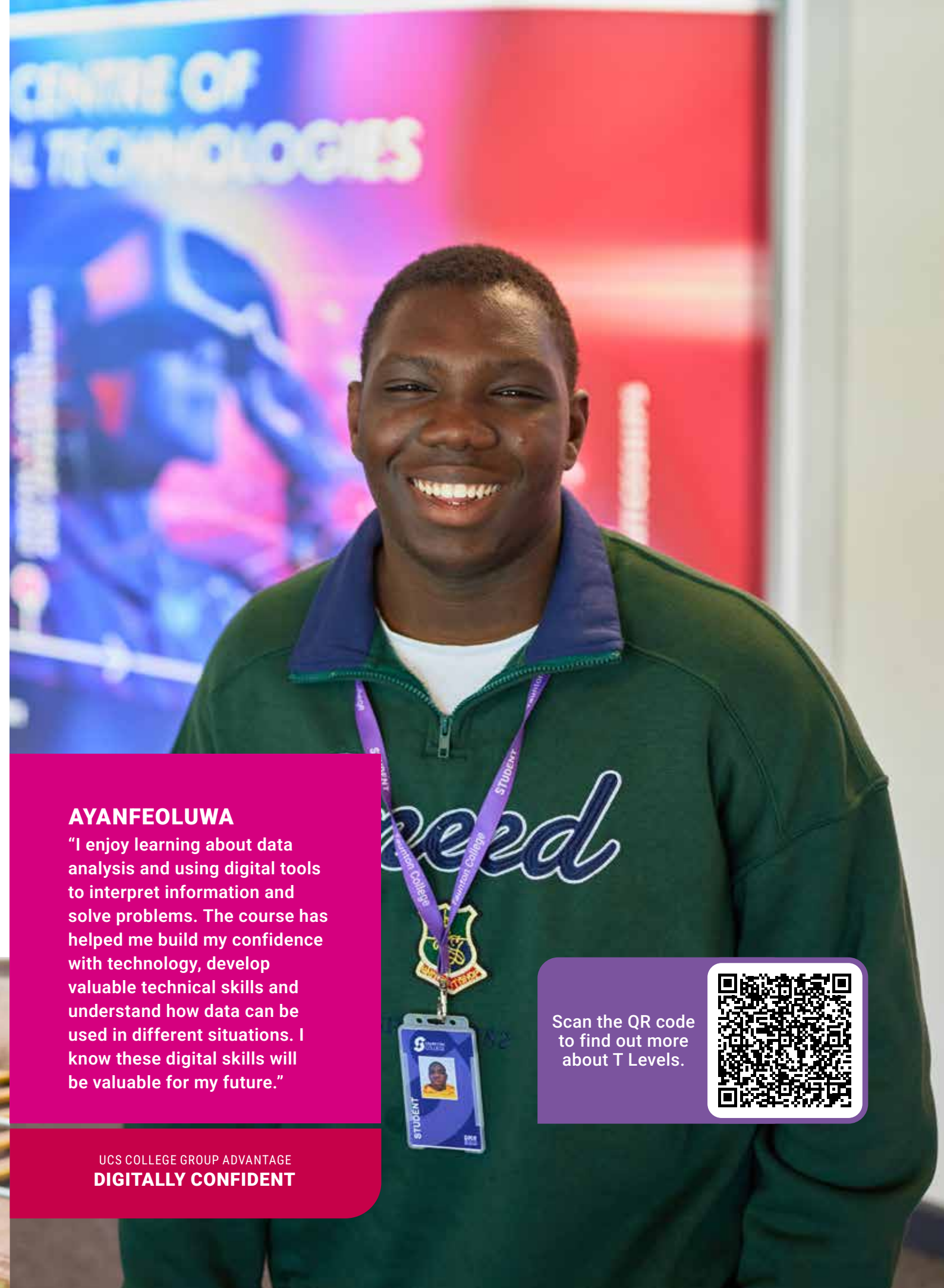
T Levels are an exciting alternative to A Levels for students who want to combine classroom learning with real industry experience. Equivalent to three A Levels, these two-year qualifications are designed with employers and provide a direct route to university, apprenticeships or skilled employment

You'll spend around **80% of your time in college and 20% on an industry placement**, putting what you learn into practice in a real workplace.

UCS College Group is the largest provider of T Levels in Somerset, with subjects including Construction, Digital, Content Creation, Education & Early Years, Health (Nursing), Business Management, Accounting, Animal Management, Nuclear and Engineering.

WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT T LEVELS?

- 1. A route to University and beyond.** T Levels are recognised Level 3 qualifications that can lead to university, degree apprenticeships or higher-level training. They offer excellent progression opportunities while helping you develop industry-specific skills.
- 2. Designed by employers.** Created in partnership with employers, T Levels are shaped by industry needs. You'll gain the technical knowledge, practical skills and workplace behaviours that employers are looking for in future recruits.
- 3. Industry-standard facilities.** T Level students learn in specialist facilities designed to reflect professional workplaces. From advanced digital suites and VR technology to dedicated Health, Early Years and content creation environments, you'll train using industry-standard equipment.
- 4. Classroom learning plus industry experience.** T Levels combine the best of both worlds. Around 80% of your time is spent developing knowledge and technical skills in college, while 20% is spent on an industry placement where you gain valuable workplace experience.
- 5. Valued by students and employers alike.** Students and employers consistently praise T Levels for their practical approach. Many students build valuable industry connections through their placements, with some progressing directly into apprenticeships, employment or further training.
- 6. Supported by digital technology.** As part of our digital transformation programme, UCS College Group aims to provide every T Level student with an iPad. This supports independent learning, research, collaboration and the development of essential digital skills.
- 7. Some of our trusted employer partners include:** Brunel Accountancy, Cream Care, The Loft Lounge and Bar, Court Fields School, St Margaret's Hospice, Somerset NHS Foundation Trust and Bristol Website Design.



AYANFEOLUWA

"I enjoy learning about data analysis and using digital tools to interpret information and solve problems. The course has helped me build my confidence with technology, develop valuable technical skills and understand how data can be used in different situations. I know these digital skills will be valuable for my future."

UCS COLLEGE GROUP ADVANTAGE
DIGITALLY CONFIDENT

Scan the QR code to find out more about T Levels.



WHY STUDY TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL COURSES?

Technical and Professional qualifications, often known as vocational qualifications or BTEC's, are ideal for students who prefer practical, hands-on learning. Designed around specific industries and career pathways, these courses combine classroom knowledge with real-world experience, helping you develop the skills employers value. Whether you're learning in workshops, studios, salons, theatres, farms or specialist training facilities, you'll gain experience in environments that reflect the workplace.

WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL COURSES?

- 1. Courses connected to careers.** Technical and Professional courses are designed to prepare you for specific industries and job roles. Whether you aspire to work in engineering, hospitality, performing arts, protective services, business or healthcare, there is a course that can help you take the first step towards your chosen career.
- 2. Learn by doing.** If you enjoy practical learning, these courses offer the perfect balance of theory and hands-on experience. Alongside classroom study, you'll develop your skills in specialist environments and complete work experience to apply your learning in real-world settings.
- 3. A huge choice of subjects.** UCS College Group offers one of the broadest vocational curriculums in the region, with nearly 100 courses available. Subject areas include Agriculture, Animal Management, Automotive, Beauty Therapy, Business, Hospitality, Engineering, Computing, Construction, Art & Design, Media, Music, Early Years, Health & Social Care, Sport and many more.
- 4. Progress at the right level.** Whether you're completely new to a subject or ready for advanced study, there are courses to suit your starting point. Programmes range from introductory Level 1 qualifications through to Level 3 and higher-level study, allowing you to build your skills and progress step by step.
- 5. Progress to University or Apprenticeships.** Vocational qualifications can open doors to higher education, degree apprenticeships and skilled employment. Many students successfully progress to university-level study after completing their course, especially through our University Centre Somerset.
- 6. Essential English and Maths skills.** Where required, students can continue to develop their English and maths alongside their main programme, building valuable skills that support future study, employment and career progression.
- 7. Industry-standard facilities.** You'll learn in specialist facilities designed to replicate real workplaces. From our 200-hectare working farm and professional theatres to the Quantock Restaurant, Business Hub, Construction & Civil Engineering Centre and Health & Early Years Hubs, you'll gain experience using professional equipment and facilities.
- 8. Enrichment that sets you apart.** Students can take part in a range of academies, clubs and industry-focused activities, including 999 Academy, Team UCS College Group, Design, Fashion, Media, Music and Performing Arts. These opportunities help you develop new skills, work on live projects and enhance your CV, university application or future career prospects.



MIA

"I have a huge passion for horses, and the teachers have always supported me in developing my knowledge and confidence. The practical lessons and work experience bring my learning to life, giving me valuable hands-on experience and helping me develop the skills I need to prepare for my future career."

UCS COLLEGE GROUP ADVANTAGE
CAREER READINESS

Scan the QR code to find out more about Technical and Professional courses.



WHY CHOOSE AN APPRENTICESHIP?

An apprenticeship allows you to earn while you learn, combining real workplace experience with a nationally recognised qualification. If you're ready to start your career, gain valuable skills and learn directly from industry professionals, an apprenticeship could be the perfect pathway for you.

10 REASONS TO CHOOSE AN APPRENTICESHIP

- 1. A range of opportunities.** With over 100 apprenticeship programmes linked to more than 1,500 job roles, there are opportunities across a wide range of sectors. From Engineering, Construction and Business to Digital, Agriculture, Nuclear, Fashion, Hospitality, Health & Social Care and more, there's an apprenticeship to match your interests and ambitions.
- 2. Earn while you learn.** As an apprentice, you'll be employed and paid, giving you the opportunity to gain industry experience while earning a wage. You'll also receive employee benefits such as paid holiday and workplace rights.
- 3. Work with leading employers.** UCS College Group apprentices work with respected organisations across the UK, including EDF, the Ministry of Defence, Agratas, the NHS, Environment Agency, Thatchers, Mulberry, Halfords and Wessex Water. These partnerships provide valuable experience and excellent career opportunities.
- 4. Gain real-world skills.** Apprentices develop practical skills in a professional working environment, gaining experience that employers value. Training takes place in real workplaces, helping you build confidence, industry knowledge and a strong CV.
- 5. Learn at college too.** While most of your time is spent working, you'll also attend college to gain your qualification. This combines hands-on experience with specialist teaching, ensuring you develop both practical and technical knowledge.
- 6. Develop essential skills.** Where required, apprentices can continue to study English and maths alongside their programme, helping to strengthen the core skills needed for future career success and progression.
- 7. Personal support and mentoring.** Throughout your apprenticeship, you'll be supported by experienced assessors and workplace mentors. Regular reviews and guidance help ensure you stay on track and achieve your goals.
- 8. Improve your career prospects.** Apprenticeships are proven to enhance long-term career opportunities and earning potential. By gaining recognised qualifications and practical experience, apprentices are well positioned for promotion and future career progression.
- 9. Train in industry-standard facilities.** Alongside workplace learning, you'll have access to specialist facilities including the National College for Nuclear, Advanced Engineering Centre, Industry Skills Centre, Business Hub, Construction & Civil Engineering Centre, Health & Early Years Hub, working farm and professional training environments.
- 10. Progress all the way to degree level.** Apprenticeships are available at a range of levels, starting from Level 2 and progressing through to Degree Apprenticeships at Level 6. This allows you to continue developing your skills while advancing your career.



BROGAN

"My apprenticeship allows me to develop my carpentry skills in a real working environment while learning how to produce work to a high standard. The workshop helps me build on my practical experience, and the support from my tutors encourages me to keep improving and achieve my very best."

Scan this QR code to find out more about Apprenticeships.



UCS COLLEGE GROUP ADVANTAGE
EXCELLENCE IN ACTION



Bridgwater College

Bath Road, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 4PZ

01278 455464 | bridgwatercollege.ac.uk



Cannington College

Rodway, Cannington, Somerset, TA5 2LS

01278 455464 | canningtoncollege.ac.uk



Strode College

Church Road, Street, Somerset, BA16 0AB

01458 844400 | strodecollege.ac.uk



Taunton College

Wellington Road, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 5AX

01823 366366 | tauntoncollege.ac.uk



**University
Centre
Somerset**

University Centre Somerset

Wellington Road, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 5AX

01823 366366 | somerset.ac.uk



Every effort has been made to ensure the information in this Your Future, Your Pathway Booklet is fair and accurate at the time of print (September 2026). We make every effort to publish up-to-date information on our website. UCS College Group reserves the right to amend information at any time.

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WHICH PATHWAY WILL YOU CHOOSE?

Our Open Events are the perfect opportunity to explore your future options. Meet our expert staff, ask questions, tour our facilities and experience what life at college is really like.

Come along to discover the courses and pathways available and find the option that's right for you.

EXPLORE OUR
OPEN EVENTS
AND REGISTER
TODAY



NEED SOME ADVICE?

Our Information and Advice team can help you explore your options and find a pathway that suits you.

01278 441234
ucscollegegroup.ac.uk

THE IMPORTANT PLACE TO START IS WITH YOU!