



University
Centre
Somerset

DEGREES FOR REAL LIFE



MINI GUIDE

2026/27

DEGREES FOR REAL LIFE

Welcome to University Centre Somerset (UCS). We're an innovative institute with a proud history and a bright future.

We're about cultivating confidence, nurturing skills, and providing practical, real-world experiences that transform our students into professionals.

Employability is at the heart of everything we do, making us the perfect place for you to study. Your future career is in safe hands.

A message from our Principal



At University Centre Somerset, we offer more than just degrees; we provide gateways to fantastic careers. Our programmes are designed with real-world application in mind, hence: "Degrees for Real Life."

At UCS our curriculum is not only rigorous but also richly embedded with practical insights, equipping students with the skills, knowledge, and experiences necessary to thrive in their chosen fields.

Central to our ethos is a strong network of employer partnerships that ensures our courses are directly linked to current industry demands. These collaborations open up numerous pathways for internships, practical projects, and direct employment opportunities after graduation.

Join us at University Centre Somerset, where your academic journey is intertwined with real-life and unlimited possibilities for career advancement. Together, we can turn your aspirations into achievements.



Andy Berry CBE
Principal & Chief Executive



Small groups, big thinking

Many of our programmes are taught in small groups. As a result, you'll foster a personal relationship with fellow students, course tutors and academic staff, making class discussion more vibrant and giving an opportunity for tailored teaching and learning.

You'll be allocated a personal tutor, who will mentor you throughout your studies. You'll also have access to our full suite of student support, welfare and advice, including specialist assistance for learners with additional needs.



Education for life

UCS is the higher education offer of Bridgwater & Taunton College, where we broaden your horizons and inspire you to reach your maximum potential.

It is the result of a long tradition of vocational higher education, with a heritage stretching back to the mid-19th century.

UCS is not just an institution; it's a community that supports, challenges, nurtures and inspires. It's hardly a surprise that we're firmly on the map as a university centre of the future, with an impressive legacy to build on.



Employability

Through our strong partnerships with major employers, we provide our students with not just a qualification, but a toolbox of skills, knowledge, and experiences that translate seamlessly into their future careers.

We deliver technical and professional training in disciplines such as Nursing, Engineering, Computing & Digital Technologies, Construction and Education & Training.

As the demand from industry for Higher and Degree Level Apprentices increases, we provide a growing number of opportunities, particularly for those roles that are competitive or hard to enter through the traditional university route.



A caring community

We hope you'll love every minute of your time at UCS. If the going gets tough, we're here to support you and can provide advice and guidance in a range of areas including:

- **Learning support**
- **Study skills**
- **Financial guidance**
- **Emotional wellbeing**
- **Equality and diversity.**



The support from the staff at UCS has really boosted my confidence for my future career.

Shen,
Nursing (Mental Health)
BSc (Hons)



UCS Elevate

Real Life Skills for Real World Success

We want to see our students thrive, not just academically, but professionally. That's why we've created UCS Elevate, a unique programme designed to ensure that our students are...

- INDUSTRY READY
- EMPOWERED
- HIGHLY SKILLED
- KNOWLEDGEABLE
- PROFESSIONAL
- COMMUNITY MINDED



Through my learning at UCS, I have grown both personally and professionally and feel ready to contribute to the counselling field.

Raluca,
Counselling Practice
Level 4 Diploma

 **I AM INDUSTRY READY**

British University & College Sports (BUCS)

Students from a wide range of courses have represented UCS in rugby, football and netball. Our teams travel all over the region to compete in BUCS League fixtures against the likes of Bath Spa University and the University of Winchester.



Our university partners

Many of our degree programmes are validated by some of the UK's most prestigious universities. We work closely with them on quality assurance, giving you the opportunity to garner a highly regarded qualification while enjoying the first-rate facilities and teaching of UCS. Our university partners are:

- **The Open University (OU)**
- **University of Plymouth**
- **University of the West of England, Bristol (UWE Bristol).**

We deliver Nuclear Engineering Degree Apprenticeships through our partnership with the National College for Nuclear.



Coming soon to University Centre Somerset!

From 2026, UCS is seeking to award and validate its own degrees, subject to approval from the Office for Students (OfS). This, combined with the continued work with our university partners, will allow us to deliver on our commitment to providing 'Degrees for Real Life', transforming lives and our communities through higher and degree level education.

UCS degrees coming soon*...

SEPTEMBER 2026

- BEng (Hons) Motorsport
- BSc (Hons) Applied Sport Science and Coaching
- BSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy (validated by UWE Bristol)
- BEng (Hons) Instrument Control & Automation
- BSc (Hons) Manufacturing Management
- BSc (Hons) Digital Marketing
- BSc (Hons) Animal Management, Ecology & Conservation
- BA (Hons) Makeup Artistry, Prosthetic & Wig Making
- BSc (Hons) Computing and Digital Technologies
- BSc (Hons) Agriculture Management

SEPTEMBER 2027

- BSc (Hons) Counselling
- BA (Hons) Primary Education (with QTS)
- BA (Hons) Youth & Community Work
- BA (Hons) Early Childhood Education & Care

SEPTEMBER 2028

- BSc (Hons) Midwifery (validated by UWE Bristol)
- BSc (Hons) Paramedic Science (validated by UWE Bristol)

Expressions of interest help us to understand the demand for these courses, and improve the likelihood of UCS running them. If you are interested in any of the above, please follow this QR code and let us know!

** Launch dates are provisional and UCS and UWE Bristol retain the right not to validate or run any of the above.*

Taunton campus

Our Taunton campus is an exciting place to study, with cutting-edge training facilities.

- **Clinical Skills and Simulation Centre**
- **Construction Industry Skills Centre**
- **Centre for Digital Technologies**
- **High-tech Sports Science lab**
- **Fitness Zone gym**
- **Costa Coffee outlet.**



Bridgwater campus

Our Bridgwater campus is renowned for its world-class facilities and spaces where students get hands-on experience that sets them up perfectly for their future career.

- **Advanced Engineering Centre**
- **Energy Skills Centre**
- **Industry-standard Motorsport workshop and race car**
- **McMillan Theatre**
- **Fitness Zone gym and sports pitches**
- **Costa Coffee outlet.**



Cannington campus

Our Cannington campus has some of the best land-based higher education facilities in the country, in a beautiful rural setting. It is also home to the flagship National College for Nuclear.

- **Animal Management Centre**
- **180-hectare Rodway Farm**
- **Agriculture Innovation Centre**
- **BHS equestrian facility**
- **Fitness Zone gym**
- **18-tee golf course**
- **Costa Coffee outlet.**



Accommodation

For some people, staying away from home is an important part of the university experience. We offer university accommodation in Taunton and Cannington.

Accommodation at Cannington is on-campus, while the accommodation in Taunton is a 5 minute walk away.

If you prefer to live in a local shared house, or rent a room in a private home, our Residential Team can put you in touch with local estate agents to find suitable properties.



Entry requirements

To study a higher education course, you generally need to have completed a full Level 3 qualification such as A Levels, T Levels, BTEC, an Apprenticeship or Access to HE Diploma, and Level 2 qualifications such as GCSEs or a recognised equivalent.

UCS is committed to providing equal opportunities for all applicants, and seeks to recognise an individual's potential to succeed and flourish.

As such, where appropriate, we will consider making a contextual offer to study with us to recognise life experience and potential, as well as previous academic achievement.



Paying your way

Studying for a higher education qualification can feel like a big financial commitment. We can offer support to apply for student loans, maintenance grants and bursaries, and help you manage your money day by day.

Remember, you only start repaying student loans when you earn more than £25,000*

*correct at time of print, February 2025



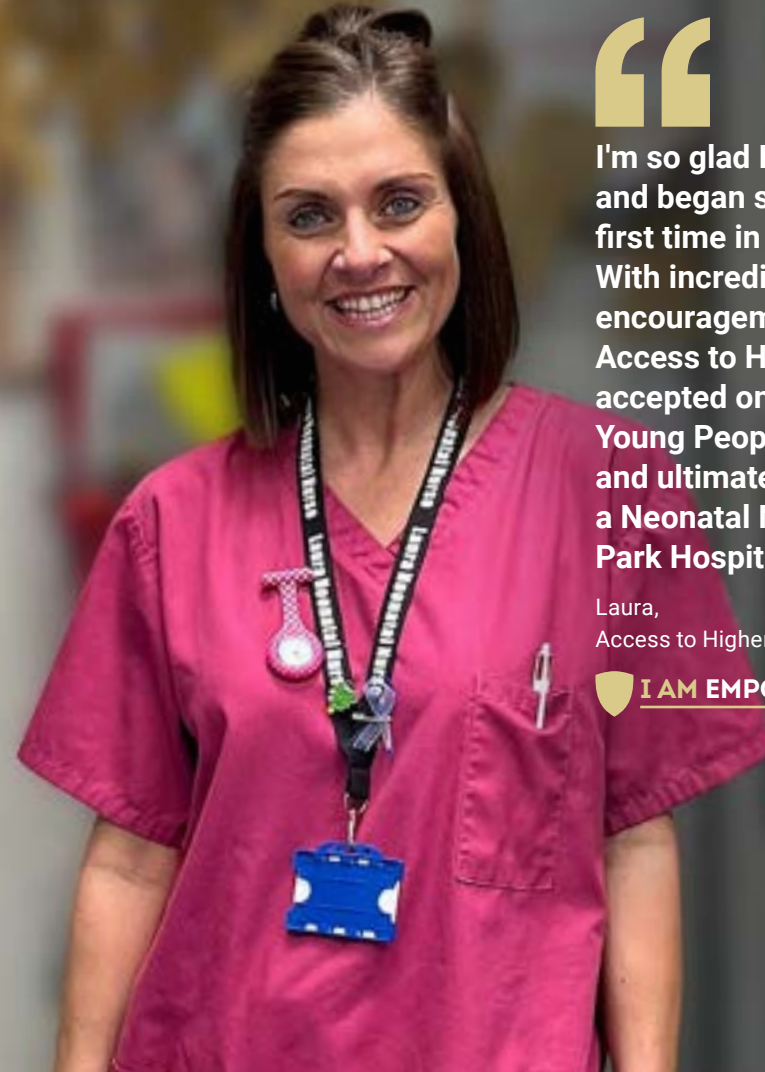
Access to HE

An Access to Higher Education Diploma is designed to provide a route for learners aged 19 and over, who possess few formal qualifications, to progress to university-level study. It can lead to a wide range of career and Higher Education opportunities.

We currently offer two routes, each with progression opportunities linked to them:

- **Nursing, Midwifery and Healthcare**
- **Science.**

If you complete an Access to HE Diploma and then go on and complete a degree or other recognised higher education course, you will not have to repay the remaining loan for the Access to HE Diploma.



“

I'm so glad I took the leap and began studying for the first time in nearly 20 years! With incredible support and encouragement from my Access to HE tutor, I was accepted on to a Children and Young People's Nursing degree and ultimately secured a job as a Neonatal Nurse at Musgrove Park Hospital.

Laura,
Access to Higher Education Diploma



I AM EMPOWERED

Higher and Degree Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships provide you with the chance to gain qualifications, skills and knowledge while working in your chosen industry.

The Apprenticeship offer at UCS is continually developing to meet industry demands. View the current offer and make an enquiry at the QR code below.



“

I have learned so much from my Apprenticeship. It combines my job at Musgrove Park Hospital as a Student Nursing Associate with study at UCS. Together, they have taught me all the skills I need to progress in my career.

Evie,
Nursing Associate Apprenticeship



I AM HIGHLY SKILLED

AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT

Study on a 180-hectare working farm and at our pioneering Agriculture Innovation Centre. The resources at our Cannington campus are considered to be among the best in the country for land-based training.

BRITISH FARMING PROVIDES
64% OF THE FOOD EATEN IN THE UK.
(countrysideonline.co.uk)

“

The course has helped me prepare for my next steps by providing me with a broad knowledge of the agricultural industry. I was honoured to receive the Jeremy Walker Agricultural Management Scholarship, which recognised my passion for agriculture and provided valuable networking opportunities with industry professionals.

Abigail,
Agricultural Management
BSc (Hons)

 **I AM INDUSTRY READY**

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT, ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION

Take your love of animals and the environment a step further, and work towards turning it into a rewarding career.

ANIMAL ECOLOGISTS STUDY THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PLANTS, ANIMALS AND THE ENVIRONMENT, AND CAN EARN UP TO **£42,000** PER YEAR.
(gov.uk)



I chose UCS for its excellent facilities, supportive staff, and proximity to home. I love the variety of subjects my course encompasses and the hands-on experience with diverse species. After graduation, I aim to work in a zoo, focusing on reptiles.

Joe,
Animal Management,
Ecology and Conservation
BSc (Hons)



I AM INDUSTRY READY



COMPUTING & DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

Our innovative, employer-led programmes mean our students are well placed when it comes to their future prospects within this exciting industry.

AN EXPERIENCED SOFTWARE DEVELOPER
CAN EARN UP TO **£70,000.**

(nationalcareers.service.gov.uk)

“

I chose UCS as the course content interested me. My greatest achievement has been developing a mobile app for Bridgwater Carnival, made possible through links between UCS and the carnival. This real-life experience has helped prepare me for my future career in mobile development.

Ben,
Computing & Digital Technologies
BSc (Hons)



I AM COMMUNITY MINDED

CONSTRUCTION

UCS has invested significantly in BIM software, Trimble Total Station and GNSS technology to support your learning in refurbished facilities at our Taunton campus.



The personal support and encouraging positivity from my lecturers have given me a zeal for further study and to build a strong career in the construction industry.

Pronto,
Construction Management
HNC



I AM EMPOWERED



THE SOUTH WEST CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY
NEEDS TO RECRUIT **38,200** WORKERS BY **2027**
IN ORDER FOR THE SECTOR TO KEEP UP WITH DEMAND.

(citb.co.uk)

COUNSELLING

Demand for counsellors is increasing; deepen your knowledge and achieve professional status with a course at UCS.

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH

IN THE COUNSELLING SECTOR IS PREDICTED TO

KEEP RISING STRONGLY OVER THE COMING YEARS.

(studentjob.co.uk)

“

I chose UCS for its strong reputation and because I could fit study around my children. The course has been incredibly insightful, and the teaching is outstanding. The supportive tutors have been instrumental in my development, and I'm excited to continue my studies at UCS while pursuing a permanent role in counselling.

Corinne,
Counselling Practice
Level 4 Diploma



I AM EMPOWERED

CREATIVE ARTS

UCS has built on a rich foundation of arts education in Taunton and offers an environment where innovation, experimentation and ideas flourish.

ALMOST **1 IN 8** UK BUSINESSES
ARE CREATIVE BUSINESSES.

(creativeindustriesfederation.com/statistics)



“

Studying the Art & Design Foundation Diploma at UCS has given me clarity on my artistic direction and the confidence to pursue a career in comic design. With hands-on workshops and experience of diverse techniques, I've gained a deeper understanding of my art and its potential in the creative industry.

Jazian,
Art & Design
Foundation Diploma

 **I AM KNOWLEDGEABLE**

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & CARE

High-quality childcare, play opportunities and early education are crucial for young children to get the best possible start in life.

OVERALL, IN **2023, 81%** OF
FAMILIES IN ENGLAND USED
CHILDCARE PROVISION.



I work as an Early Years Practitioner while studying at UCS. The course's flexibility, interactive lectures, and supportive staff have enhanced my confidence and skills, helping me excel in my role. Completing modules through essays and presentations has been rewarding, and I feel well-prepared to advance in my career.

Megan,
Early Childhood Education and Care
BA (Hons)



I AM PROFESSIONAL

ENGINEERING

Creative problem solving and hands-on learning combine to ensure that students who graduate from our engineering programmes are work-ready.

THE AVERAGE SALARY FOR AN ENGINEER
IN THE SOUTH WEST IS **£52,919.**

(reed.co.uk)



I work as a Project Manager for EDF. I chose UCS for its in-person learning and convenient location. The course has already helped me apply electrical principles in real-world scenarios, and I'm excited to build my technical skills further to advance my career.

Belinda,
Electrical Engineering
HNC



I AM INDUSTRY READY

MOTORSPORT

The UCS Motorsport team is a bonus aspect of the course. We have purpose-built workshops equipped with state-of-the-art tools and diagnostic equipment.

4,300 UK BUSINESSES OPERATE
IN THE MOTORSPORT SECTOR, SUSTAINING
NEARLY 41,000 JOBS.

(theengineer.co.uk)

“

Studying Motorsport gave me the practical experience and personalised teaching that set the foundation for my career. Now, as Head of Trackside Systems for McLaren F1, I travel the world, lead critical race operations, and apply the skills I gained to thrive in the high-pressure world of Formula One.

Joel,
Motorsport Engineering
Foundation Degree Graduate
Head of Trackside Systems,
McLaren Formula One Team



I AM HIGHLY SKILLED

NUCLEAR

The nuclear sector in Somerset has entered an exciting phase of investment with the construction of Hinkley Point C. Therefore, opportunities for skilled and qualified professionals are growing.

THE FIRST NEW NUCLEAR POWER STATION TO BE BUILT IN THE UK IN OVER 20 YEARS IS RIGHT ON OUR DOORSTEP, AND WILL CREATE **25,000** EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

(edfenergy.com/energy/nuclear-new-build-projects)

“

I am a Nuclear Degree Apprentice on the electrical pathway. Since starting at UCS, I've learned so much and met amazing, enthusiastic people. The tutors are experts in their fields, and the campus has fantastic practical facilities. I look forward to completing my apprenticeship and pursuing a Master's and possibly a PhD.

Daniel,
Electrical, Electronic and Control
Engineering with Nuclear BEng (Hons)



I AM INDUSTRY READY

NURSING & HEALTH

The Clinical Skills and Simulation Centre immerses students in real clinical practice and gives a safe and supported environment in which to learn.

“

The lecturers at UCS are supportive, approachable and always ready to help. As a visual learner, I benefit from their practical demonstrations and guidance, which enhance my understanding and make learning more effective. I hope to make my family and UCS proud as I continue my nursing journey.

Marie,
Nursing (Adult)
BSc (Hons)

 **I AM EMPOWERED**



THERE WERE **31,773**
NHS NURSING VACANCIES IN
ENGLAND AT THE END OF **2024.**

(nurses.co.uk)



SPORTS SCIENCE & COACHING

Your passion for sport, together with the skills and experience these programmes equip you with, could lead to a great way to earn a living.

FORECASTS SUGGEST

SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH

IN HEALTH AND FITNESS, SPORT AND RECREATION AND
OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES IN THE SOUTH WEST.

(careerpilot – health & social care and sport & leisure key facts)



My greatest accomplishment is being the Captain of UCS's first Netball team which I now coach. My course has given me an insight into future careers in sport and with the blend of theory and practical skills I have learnt, I want to pursue a career in teaching or coaching.

Ellie,
Sports Science and Coaching
BSc (Hons)



I AM COMMUNITY MINDED

TEACHING & TRAINING

Use your expertise in your chosen subject or industry and get qualified to teach the next generation of Further Education students.

BURSARIES OF UP TO

£30,000 MAY BE AVAILABLE
TO TRAINEE TEACHERS, SUBJECT TO
ELIGIBILITY.

(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/)



I studied Computing and Digital Technologies at UCS, before completing my PGCE. I'm now a Computing Lecturer at Bridgwater & Taunton College. I wouldn't be in this role without the knowledge and support I gained throughout my time at UCS.

Mitchell,
PGCE



I AM PROFESSIONAL

Destinations

Study at University Centre Somerset and a whole world of possibilities opens before you. Thanks to our emphasis on employability, our students have gone on to pursue successful careers in a range of fields. At every turn, they have built upon the rich experience of their studies to establish themselves in a competitive jobs market.

UCS graduates have secured positions in high-profile organisations including Williams Formula One, EDF Energy and Dreamworks.

Numatic



ATKINS

**AMDAE
GARMICHAEL**

**WILLIAMS
RACING**



nationalgrid



THALES



**National
Trust**



Pentagram



**Ministry
of Defence**



Course List

AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND ECOLOGY

Agricultural Management

Foundation Degree

Agricultural Management

BSc (Hons) Top-up

Animal Management, Ecology and Conservation

BSc (Hons)

Animal Management, Ecology and Conservation

Foundation Degree

Animal Management, Ecology and Conservation

BSc (Hons) Top-up

Animal Management

Level 4 Professional
Certificate

Apprenticeships

Countryside Ranger

Level 4

DIGITAL INNOVATION, ENGINEERING AND CLEAN ENERGY

Computing and Digital Technologies

BSc (Hons)

Computing and Digital Technologies

Foundation Degree

Computing and Digital Technologies

BSc (Hons) Top-up

Construction Management for England

HNC Level 4

Electrical & Electronic Engineering for England

HNC Level 4

Manufacturing Engineering for England

HNC Level 4

Mechanical Engineering for England

HNC Level 4

Motorsport Engineering*

BEng (Hons)

Mechanical Engineering with Nuclear

BEng (Hons)

Electrical, Electronic and Control Engineering with Nuclear

BEng (Hons)

Apprenticeships

Construction Site Engineering Technician

Level 4

Construction Site Supervisor

Level 4

Engineering Manufacturing Technician

Level 4

Nuclear Engineer

Level 6 Degree

HEALTH, WELLBEING AND EDUCATION

Early Childhood Education and Care

BA (Hons)

Early Childhood Education and Care

Foundation Degree

Early Childhood Education and Care

BA (Hons) Top-up

Nursing (Adult)

BSc (Hons)

Nursing (Mental Health)

BSc (Hons)

Nursing Associate

Foundation Degree

Assistant Practitioner

(multiple pathways)
Foundation Degree

Adult Care

Level 4 Diploma

Leadership & Management for Adult Care

Level 5 Diploma

Therapeutic Counselling

Level 4 Diploma

Sport Science and Coaching*

BSc (Hons)

Certificate in Education

Level 5 Certificate

PGCE

Level 6 / 7 Diploma

Apprenticeships

Registered Nurse

Level 6

Nursing Associate

Level 5

Lead Practitioner in Adult Care

Level 5

Leader in Adult Care

Level 4

Healthcare Assistant Practitioner

Level 5

Leadership and Management for Adult Care

Level 5

Sports Coach

Level 4

* Subject to validation

This course list is correct at time of print (February 2025). For information about all of our courses visit www.somerset.ac.uk where you can also request prospectuses for each subject area.

BUSINESS AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Management and Leadership

Level 5 Award /
Certificate / Diploma

Art & Design

Foundation Diploma

Makeup Artistry, Prosthetic FX and Wig Making

BA (Hons)

Makeup Artistry, Prosthetic FX and Wig Making

Foundation Degree

Makeup Artistry, Prosthetic FX and Wig Making

BA (Hons) Top-up

Apprenticeships

Associate Project Manager

Level 4

Operations/ Departmental Manager

Level 5

Access to HE

Nursing, Midwifery and Healthcare Science

Where to find us

One of the benefits of University Centre Somerset is our accessibility. So however you're travelling, you will find us easy to get to.

Rail

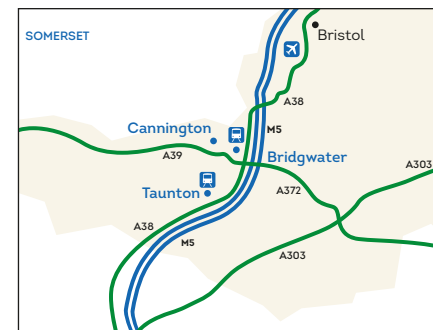
Our Taunton and Bridgwater campuses are easily accessible by train. Both towns are on the main line from Bristol to Exeter, and our campuses are within an easy walk or taxi ride of the station.

Bus

We have bus stops on each of our campuses, served by local bus routes. A regular connection runs between the Bridgwater and Cannington campuses.

Car

All three campuses are easily accessible from the M5 motorway. Each campus offers limited parking, including designated areas for disabled parking, mopeds and bicycles. You will be charged £1 per day to park at our Taunton campus, while parking is free at the Bridgwater and Cannington campuses.



Taunton campus

Wellington Road, Taunton
Somerset TA1 5AX

Cannington campus

Rodway, Cannington
Somerset TA5 2LS

Bridgwater campus

Bath Road, Bridgwater
Somerset TA6 4PZ

01278 441234

info@somerset.ac.uk





University
Centre
Somerset

DEGREES FOR REAL LIFE

COME AND
SEE FOR YOURSELF

OPEN EVENTS

See what makes University Centre Somerset
the perfect place to start your journey.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this prospectus is fair and accurate at the time of print (February 2025). Bridgwater & Taunton College reserves the right to amend information at any time.

01278 441234 | info@somerset.ac.uk | somerset.ac.uk

