

BICTON COLLEGE GUIDE 2026



**BICTON
COLLEGE**

**YOUR LOCAL
OUTSTANDING
COLLEGE**



What Ofsted says...

“ Teachers prepare learners and apprentices extremely well for their next stage of education or employment. ”



OUTSTANDING



**YOUR LOCAL
OUTSTANDING
COLLEGE**

ENDING

BIG COLLEGE OUTS

Welcome to Bicton College

We're delighted that you are considering studying with us. We're really excited to welcome you into the Bicton College family and help make your career dreams a reality. I'm really looking forward to meeting you soon. In the meantime, please feel free to get in touch with any questions you may have.

Ed Parrish
Principal of
Bicton College



**New Agritech Advanced
Engineering Centre**

**Extensive equine yard with
Elite Riding Academy**

**Partnership with world-class
Bicton Arena**

On-site accommodation

**Animal management centre with
commercial zoo status**

Professional dog grooming facilities

WHAT'S ON CAMPUS



Our campus is set in a stunning landscape, including Grade I listed parkland, a historic Georgian manor, lakes and woodland. Bicton is home to top-class equine facilities, a world-class engineering and heavy plant workshop, an animal husbandry school and a 126-hectare commercial farm.

New groundworks area

Well-equipped military and protective services areas

Learning centre with dedicated student support

Sports facilities, including pitches, a fitness suite, an orienteering course and putting green

Walled garden, arboretum and water sports lake

Commercial farm

Free parking and electric car charging

Only 25 minutes from Exeter

Go beyond your course with varied student enrichment options

TOUR THE CAMPUS



Pick your pathway

We have lots of different courses to choose from, but how do you know which is the right one for you?

Don't worry, we can help you narrow down the option that is best suited to you. Here's a quick rundown of the different pathways on offer.



Full-time study programmes

What are they?

- They typically last between one and three years and lead to qualifications such as vocational certificates, diplomas or extended diplomas
- They focus on the practical skills and knowledge linked to a range of subjects, such as art and design, business, health and social care, engineering and many others
- They are offered at different levels depending on your experience
- You'll be assessed through coursework, practical observations, and external exams
- After completion, you can either progress to a higher level study programme, enter the world of work or move on to study at university level

Choose this if...

- You're looking for work skills to enter a particular industry, such as healthcare or construction
- You learn best by getting hands-on
- You want to progress to the workplace, further study or onto university



T Levels

What are they?

- T Levels last two years and are centred on one subject
- They focus on vocational skills linked to the specific career path you've chosen
- One T Level is the equivalent of three A-levels and has UCAS points, which support applications to higher education
- They combine college study with a significant industry placement working with a real employer

Choose this if...

- You already know what job you want to do
- You want to get practical, knowledge-based learning and on-the-job experience
- You want to progress to the workplace, further study or onto university

T-LEVELS



Apprenticeships

What are they?

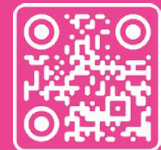
- An apprenticeship lets you gain work-based skills while earning a real salary
- The majority of the time will be spent learning on-the-job with an employer, with additional training at college
- You'll be assessed at both college and in your workplace

Choose this if...

- You already know what job you want to do
- You prefer to learn in the workplace rather than the classroom
- You want a professional qualification to support your work experience
- You want to earn while you learn

APPRENTICESHIPS

FIND
OUT
MORE



Course levels and entry requirements

It is important to choose the correct level of course after your GCSEs. The choices available to you will depend on whether you meet the entry requirements, how you like to study and what you would like to do after your time with us.

Please use the table opposite as a general guide to our entry requirements. Some courses may require further specific qualification grades due to the nature of their content. Acceptance on a course will also depend on a successful interview.



Please note:

- Some specialist courses may have extra entry requirements; please see website for details
- If you are considering taking on an apprenticeship, we'll ask you to complete an initial assessment in English and Maths, along with a Skills Scan. This will help us to determine your current skills and knowledge, and chose the right level of apprenticeship for you
- If you do not achieve your expected grades, please don't panic. Contact us, and we will help you find an alternative course, normally in the same subject area of interest

Entry level

Study Options: Entry Level qualifications

Typical Entry Requirements: No formal qualifications are required

Progression: Next Entry Level or Level 1 course

Level 1

Study Options: Level 1 qualifications, including certificates and diplomas

Typical Entry Requirements: Two or more GCSEs at grade 2 or above, or successful completion of Entry Level qualification

Progression: Level 2 course, an apprenticeship or employment

Level 2

Study Options: Level 2 qualifications, including diplomas and apprenticeships

Typical Entry Requirements: Three or more GCSEs at grade 3 or above, or successful completion of a relevant Level 1 qualification.

Progression: Level 3 course, an apprenticeship or employment

WHAT LEVEL
IS RIGHT
FOR ME?

Level 3

Study Options: Level 3 qualifications, including diplomas, apprenticeships and T Levels. Our programmes are delivered as two one-year courses: Year 1 – Diploma, and Year 2 – Extended Diploma

Typical Entry Requirements: Four or more GCSEs at Grade 4 or above including English and/or Maths, or successful completion of a relevant Level 2 qualification and a grade 4 or above in English and/or Maths

Progression: University study, an apprenticeship or employment

Agriculture

The world needs skilled workers, technicians, managers and future managers to rise to the challenge of feeding a growing population while reducing the impact of climate change. Study with us, and you'll gain the practical skills needed to start your career in the modern industry of sustainable farming.

We offer a variety of courses, from Level 2 to Level 3, offering pathways to employment, university or a higher-level apprenticeship.

SEE OUR
FULL RANGE
OF COURSES



Subjects we offer

- Agriculture
- Agriculture, Environmental & Animal Care
- General Farm Worker
- Land-based Service Engineer
- Livestock Unit Technician

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Why study with us

- Learn sustainable farming practices
- Get hands-on with agricultural machinery and tractors
- Study soil science and the use of a range of fertilisers
- Gain experience working with livestock
- Design land management plans
- Learn agricultural health and safety

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Full-time study

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T Levels

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Apprenticeships

Animal Management



We offer a range of courses from Level 1 to Level 3, with pathways to employment, university or higher apprenticeships.

Subjects we offer

- Animal Care
- Animal Management
- Animal



Leap into the world of animal management with our experienced team, an amazing array of animals, and our dedicated animal management facilities. Caring for animals can be an extremely fulfilling and rewarding career – from working in kennels and catteries to wildlife rescue – there are a wide range of careers to explore.

Why study with us

- Work in our Animal Zone, which holds a zoo licence and is home to a wide range of animals, from primates and rodents to exotics, birds and aquatics
- Develop your understanding of animal biology, behaviour and nutrition
- Learn the principles of welfare and rehabilitation, and how to undertake detailed health checks
- Understand the role of conservation of species in the UK and abroad

SEE OUR
FULL RANGE
OF COURSES



Countryside & Conservation

Explore the beauty of the countryside and protect our natural heritage with a career in countryside and conservation. You'll gain practical training in habitat management, biodiversity conservation, wildlife monitoring and sustainable land use, gaining experience in a range of real-life projects.

SEE OUR
FULL RANGE
OF COURSES



We offer both Level 2 and Level 3 courses, offering pathways to employment, university or higher apprenticeships.

Subjects we offer

- Land & Wildlife

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Why study with us

- Expert mentors and lecturers
- Amazing industry connections
- Gain practical skills, including fencing, dry stone walling and coppicing
- Learn how to conduct ecological surveys and identify species
- Practice the safe use of machinery such as strimmers and chippers
- Develop your communication and teamwork skills



A man wearing a brown flat cap, glasses, and a dark blue jacket stands with his arms crossed in front of a dark grey Land Rover Defender. The background is a lush green field with trees. The image is decorated with colorful wavy shapes in pink and yellow.

**SAM
LEBAILLY**

Land & Wildlife Management
Advanced Technical
Extended Diploma Level 3

“ The tutors’ broad range of real life industry experience helped to prepare me for a life in the field, helping me build my confidence and improve my knowledge and skillset every day. ”

F Full-time study **T** T Levels **A** Apprenticeships

Equine Management

If you're passionate about horses, then take the reins and begin your career in the equine industry at Bicton. With extensive facilities, connections to world-class institutions, and beautiful countryside to explore, we have everything you need to succeed.

We offer a variety of courses, from Level 1 to Level 3, providing pathways to employment, university or an apprenticeship.

SEE OUR
FULL RANGE
OF COURSES



Subjects we offer

- Animal Management & Equine
- Horse Care
- Equine Management



Why study with us

- Facilities such as indoor and outdoor arenas, walkers and solariums
- Partnered with world-class Bicton Arena
- Develop your horse welfare and professional horse care skills
- Learn equine first aid
- Participate in events and competitions

F Full-time study **T** T Levels **A** Apprenticeships

Horticulture & Arboriculture



We offer a variety of courses from Level 2 to Level 3, offering pathways to employment, university or higher apprenticeships.

Cultivate your passion for plants with our courses in horticulture, floristry and arboriculture. You'll not only learn core skills in your area of study, but also learn about plant science and sustainability, as well as valuable business skills.

Subjects we offer

- Horticulture & Landscape Operative
- Horticulture & Landscape Supervisor
- Forestry & Arboriculture
- Arborist (Tree Surgery)
- Arboriculture

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SEE OUR
FULL RANGE
OF COURSES



Why study with us

- Expert mentors and lecturers
- Amazing industry connections
- Develop your botanical knowledge
- Learn sustainable practices
- Gain skills to be able to work for yourself

Land-based Engineering & Technology



Our automotive and engineering courses put you in the driver's seat, steering you towards a successful career in a growing sector. If you like problem-solving, hands-on work, then a role in land-based engineering or plant operations and groundworks could be the right fit for you.

We offer a variety of courses, from Level 1 to Level 3, offering pathways to employment, university or a higher-level apprenticeship.

SEE OUR
FULL RANGE
OF COURSES



Subjects we offer

- Land-based Engineering
- Construction and Civil Engineering
- Groundworker



Why study with us

- Expert mentors and lecturers
- Amazing industry connections
- Work with a range of agricultural and construction machinery
- Learn how to use engineering drawings
- Gain relevant health and safety training

**LEE
POWELL**

Land Based Service Engineering
Technician Apprentice Level 3
at M S W Engineering

“ I enjoy this apprenticeship because I get to work with electrics and new technology in modern tractors and machinery. Learning how to apply this knowledge to the job is really helpful. Plus, earning while you learn makes a big difference. ”

F Full-time study **T** T Levels **A** Apprenticeships

Military & Protective Services



Whether you want to work in the armed forces or the emergency services, we have the ultimate preparation programme to help you get the jump on your dream career. With rigorous training and expert leaderships, you'll acquire the essential skills and knowledge needed to serve and protect.

We offer a variety of courses, from Entry Level to Level 3, providing pathways to employment or higher education.

Subjects we offer

- Entry to the Uniformed Services **F**

Why study with us

- Excellent facilities
- Full-scale simulations and industry exercises
- Expert lecturers and mentors with industry experience
- A focus on practical learning, physical fitness and mental resilience
- Build discipline and integrity
- Strong relationships with the Royal Marines, British Army, Royal Navy, Royal Air Force, Police, Fire Service, the Prison Service, and private security organisations

SEE OUR
FULL RANGE
OF COURSES





Outdoor Adventure

NEW COURSE!

Leap into the great outdoors with our new Outdoor Adventure Education course. This programme has been designed in collaboration with industry specialists and local employers to fully immerse you in the world of outdoor adventure and education, developing essential skills needed to gain a career in the sector.

Our Level 3 course provides pathways to employment or university.

Subjects we offer

- Outdoor Adventure Education

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Why study with us

- Cover both land and water-based adventure activities, including climbing, paddle sports, navigation and expedition training
- Outdoor adventure expeditions
- Purpose-built facilities and 200 hectares of countryside to explore
- Build your confidence, leadership, resilience and teamwork skills
- Learn how to manage risk, facilities and equipment



SEE OUR
FULL RANGE
OF COURSES

Supported Learning & Progression Pathways



Prepare for adulthood, independence and the world of work with our Progression Pathways courses. Whether you need guidance on what career to follow, want to gain the skills to live independently, or would like boost your confidence, we can help you.

Subjects we offer

- Independence Pathway
- Progression Skills Pathway
- Vocational Studies
- Vocational Specialists
- Employment Pathway
- Supported internships

Why study with us

- Personal development sessions
- 1-to-1 sessions with a teacher
- Careers advice
- Additional learning support caseworkers
- Quiet room
- Progression to further education, supported internships or employment



SEE OUR
FULL RANGE
OF COURSES

Veterinary Nursing



Provide essential care for beloved pets and animals by embarking on a career in veterinary nursing. Our comprehensive courses theoretical knowledge with practical training in veterinary practices and clinics, providing you with the skills to become a trusted professional.

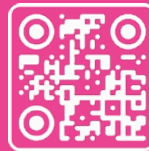
We offer a range of Level 2 and Level 3 courses, with pathways to employment, university or higher apprenticeships.

Subjects we offer

- Veterinary Care Support
- Veterinary Nursing

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SEE OUR
FULL RANGE
OF COURSES

Why study with us

- Develop your knowledge of animal health, wellbeing and husbandry
- Learn animal anatomy, physiology and genetics
- Assist in surgeries and administer medicine
- Gain an understanding veterinary anaesthesia
- Learn about the operational requirements of a veterinary practice
- Practice pre and post-operative nursing care

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Full-time study

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T Levels

A

Apprenticeships

Supporting you at college



Transport

If you are aged 16-18, and need help with transport to college, it's really important to apply for your bus pass during the months of June and July. This will guarantee that you'll have your pass in time for the start of term in September.

Depending on where you live, your bus pass could be provided by Cornwall Council, Devon Council or through the College's own transport network.

We do have bursaries available that can support eligible learners with the cost of travel. If you have any questions about travelling into college, please email bursaries@cornwall.ac.uk

Accommodation

We have on-site accommodation for more than 200 students during term-times, including both FE and HE students. There are a range of rooms available, including shared and single study options. We also offer a variety of food packages, depending on how often you will be on campus.

Students are close to all of the College facilities such as lecture rooms, computer suites, library, social areas and sports facilities. Food is provided in the College dining area and all the College staff you may need to contact are close at hand.

FE Bursary funding

If you are under 19 years old on 31 August, your course won't cost you anything. For students aged 19 and over who may have to pay fees towards their tuition, guidance is available.

We offer a FE Bursary to support eligible students financially with access to transport, childcare, equipment and free college meals. If you have any further questions regarding financial support with your studies, please email bursaries@cornwall.ac.uk

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MORE



Student Support

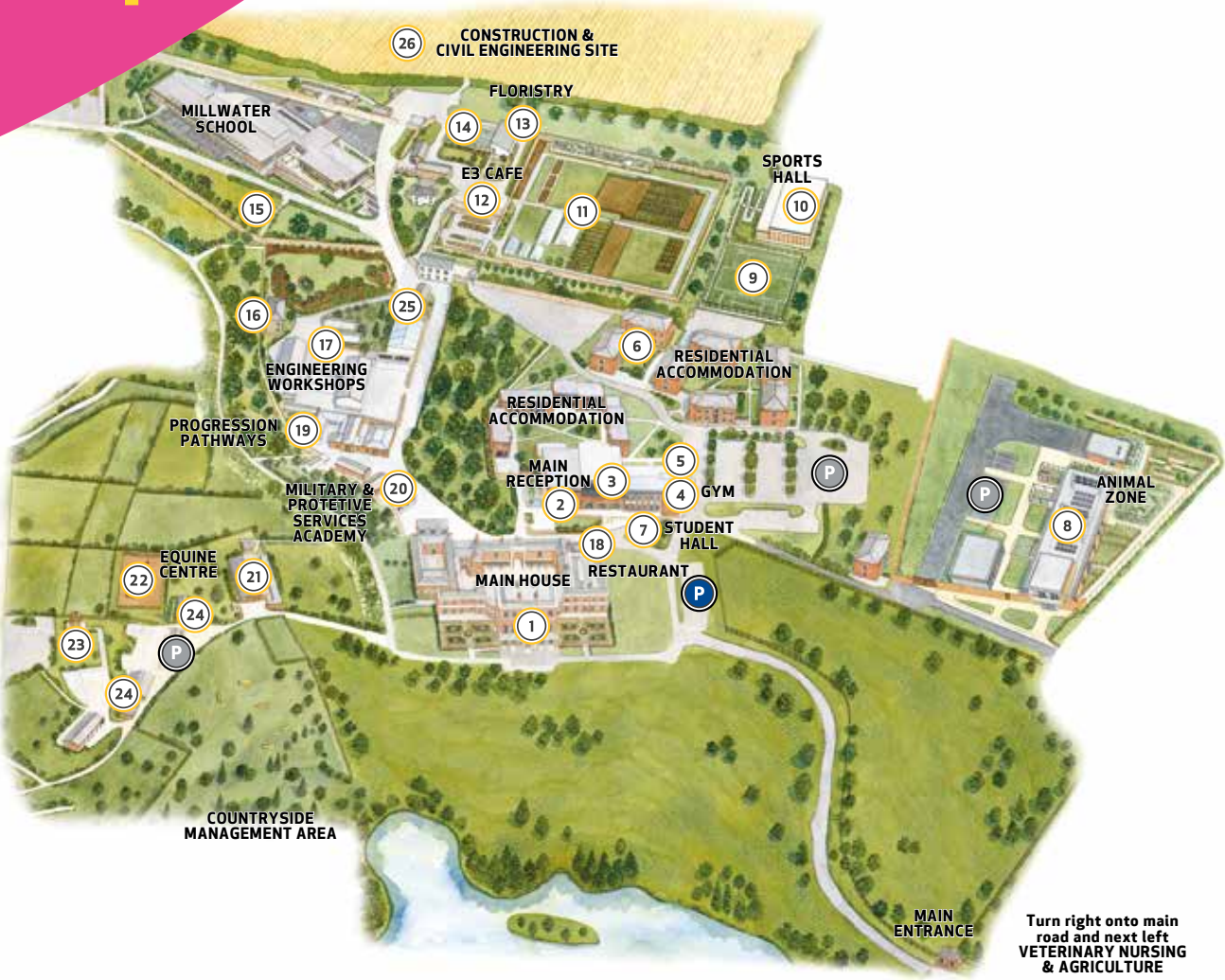
The College provides a supportive learning environment focused on student success and personal growth. Engagement and Progression Officers (EPOs) help with academic and personal challenges, and staff in learning centres offer study support and resources.

Students can take part in personal development activities such as trips, guest talks, and skill-building sessions. Health and wellbeing are also prioritised, with tailored activities across campuses to support mental and physical wellness.

Career guidance is available year-round through Careers Officers, who support university progression, job opportunities, and further training. Students also have access to online tools like Moodle and Teams.

The College values inclusivity and safety, offering SEND support, financial aid, and accommodation options. The Students' Union helps shape the student experience through representation and events.

Campus map



- 1 Main House & Admin
 - 2 Main Reception
 - 3 Learning Resource Centre
 - 4 Gym
 - 5 Residential Services
 - 6 Residential Accommodation
 - 7 Students' Hall
 - 8 Animal Zone
 - 9 Astro Pitch
 - 10 Sports Hall
 - 11 Walled Garden
 - 12 E3 Café
 - 13 Floristry
 - 14 Glasshouses
 - 15 The Orchard
 - 16 Carpentry Workshop
 - 17 Engineering Workshops
 - 18 Restaurant
 - 19 Progression Pathways
 - 20 Military & Protective Services Academy
 - 21 Indoor Arena
 - 22 Outdoor Arena
 - 23 Climbing Tower
 - 24 Equine Centre
 - 25 Arboriculture & Countryside
 - 26 Construction & Civil Engineering
-  Student parking
 -  Parking with disabled spaces

Our amazing alumni



After successfully completing an Equine Management Diploma, **Amy** found steady work at a local stud yard, caring for thoroughbreds from foals to broodmares, and future racehorses.

Since completing her Military & Protective Services qualification, **Grace** has recently celebrated her 'Passing Out' at Winchester Army Training Camp in the Royal Army Veterinary Corp.



Floristry alumna **Alice** now runs her own wedding and event floristry business, Devonshire Rose Floral Designs, specialising in whimsical, rustic and country flowers.

How to apply

So you've decided which course is for you:

NOW IT'S TIME TO APPLY

1

Apply

Complete an application form

You can apply through the relevant course page on our website using an online form. If you'd prefer a paper copy of the application form, call us and we can send one out to you.

2

Interview

We can't wait to meet you

You'll receive an invitation to meet with the course lecturer at an interview. This is likely to be at one of our scheduled interview events on a weekday evening. It's a perfect opportunity to talk about the course you're interested in and find out how it can help you achieve the goals you have for the future.



3

Accept your offer

You made it! Your college place is waiting

Exciting! Reserve your place as soon as possible. Please note, the offer you get may be conditional on you gaining certain GCSE grades. If you end up not getting the results you expected, there's no need to panic. Just get in touch and we'll help you to look into any other options available to you.

4

Start course

Welcome to your local, outstanding college

We'll see you in September for your induction week!

GET IN TOUCH

If you have any other queries, please contact our main enquiries line on **0330 123 2523** or email **enquiries@cornwall.ac.uk**



SCAN THE
CODE TO VISIT
BICTON.AC.UK

Join us @ our next
BICTON COLLEGE

OPEN EVENT

A great starting point for you and your family. Tour the campus, meet staff and students, and find out more about courses and college life.

Sat 4 Oct 2025	10am - 1pm
Sat 17 Jan 2026	10am - 1pm
Sat 25 Apr 2026	10am - 1pm

Taster Days

Mon 27 Oct	10am - 3.30pm
Mon 16 Feb	10am - 3.30pm
Wed 27 May	10am - 3.30pm

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MORE



Scan the code to visit
bicton.ac.uk/events