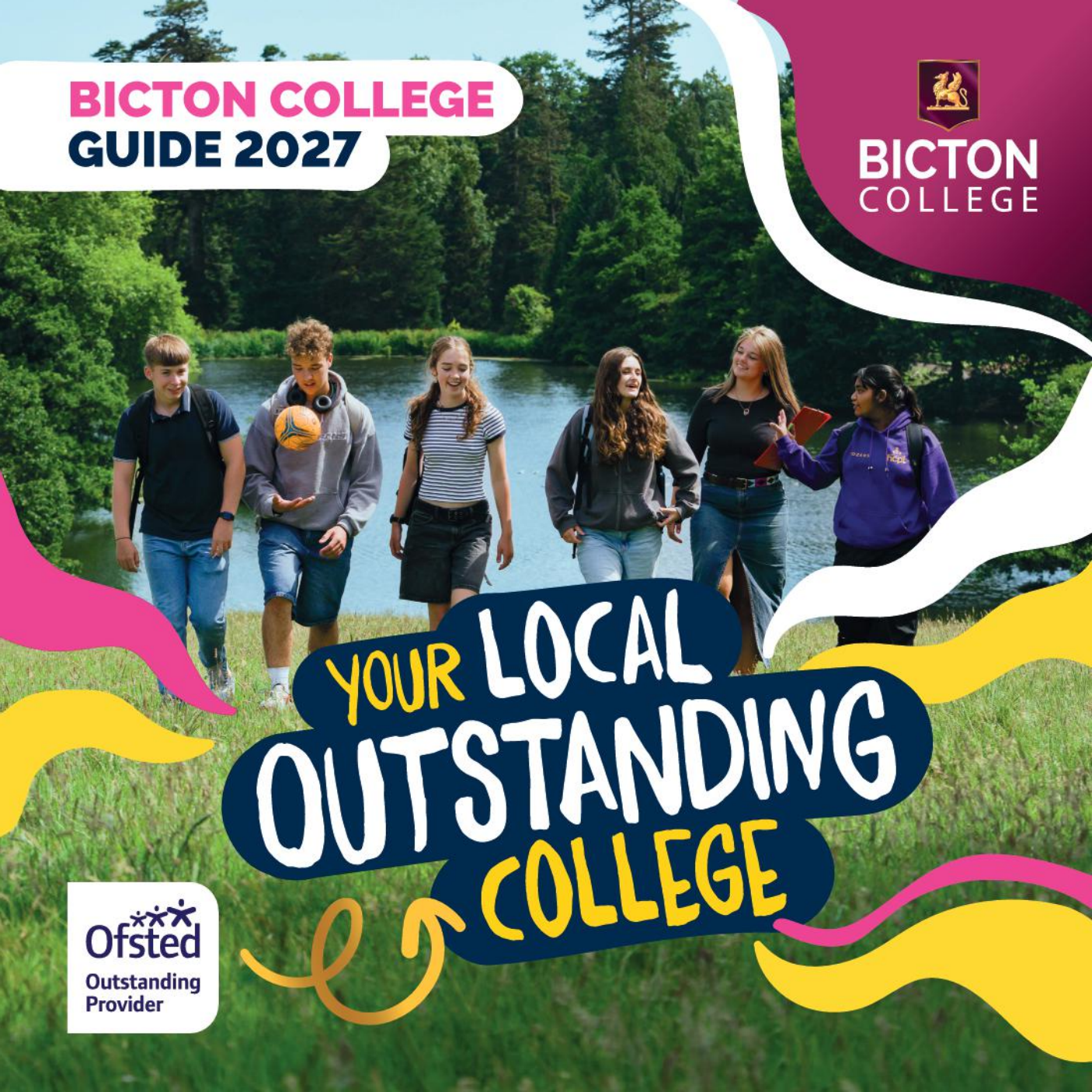
BICTON COLLEGE GUIDE 2027

BICTON COLLEGE



YOUR LOCAL OUTSTANDING COLLEGE

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

What Ofsted says...

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



Ofsted
Outstanding Provider


YOUR LOCAL
OUTSTANDING
COLLEGE
NDING

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.

- Walled garden, arboretum and water sports lake
- Commercial farm
- Free parking
- Only 25 minutes from Exeter
- Go beyond your course with varied student enrichment options
- 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

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.



Technical and Vocational 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 animal management, agriculture, equine, and horticulture
- 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
- 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 choose 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

WHAT LEVEL IS RIGHT FOR ME?

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

Level 3

Study Options: Level 3 qualifications, including diplomas, apprenticeships and T Levels
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

Enrichment





There's more to explore on our campus with our diverse enrichment programme. Alongside your studies, you'll be able to discover new interests, develop valuable life skills, boost your CV and prepare for your next steps.

Depending on the enrichment you choose, you can pick a new activity each term, stick with something you love or take on a longer project like a Duke of Edinburgh Award.

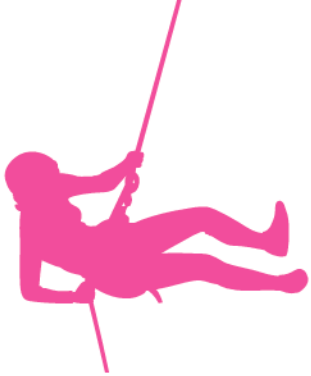
Other enrichment can be purely about having fun, being social and meeting new people while trying something you've never done before. And if you can't see something that interests you, you might even get the chance to start something brand new.

Skills and Experiences

- Animal husbandry
- Basic car maintenance
- Cooking
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Yard management

FIND OUT MORE





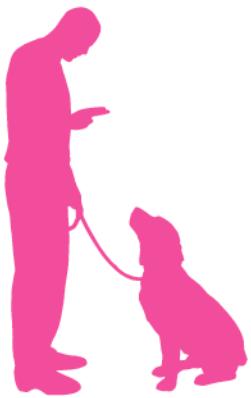
Clubs, Sport and Wellbeing

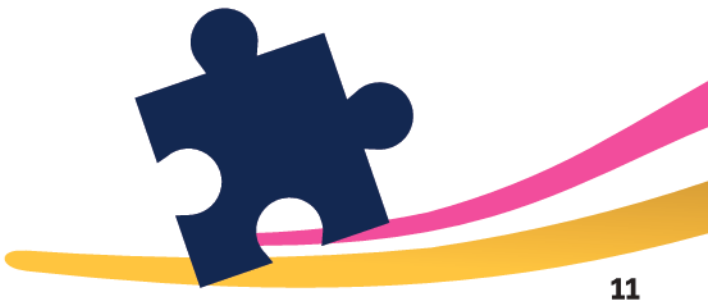
- Climbing
- Conservation Club
- Dog walking
- Drama Club
- Dungeons & Dragons
- Football
- Gardening Club
- Modern jazz/West Coast swing dance
- Netball
- Puzzle Club
- Rugby
- Workout of the day

Careers and Progression

- Careers and employability
- Industry experiences and networking
- Interview skills
- Leadership opportunities
- Students' Union
- Study support
- University preparation

Whether you want to enhance your academic success, stand out when applying for university, apprenticeships and employment, gain confidence, or simply follow your passions, we have an enrichment opportunity for you.





Agriculture



Technical and vocational study — Level

Land-based Studies Diploma — **Level 1**
Gain an introduction to agriculture with real farm jobs, from lambing and calving to tractor and fieldwork.

Agriculture Certificate — **Level 2**
Develop core farming skills with work experience and hands-on learning on college farms.

T Levels — Level

Agriculture — **Level 3**
Train for livestock production roles with technical learning and practical experience in a working farm setting, including a major industry placement.

SEE OUR FULL RANGE OF COURSES

Apprenticeships — Level

General Farm Worker — **Level 2**
Build your competence in working with livestock or crops in this apprenticeship supporting day-to-day farm operations.

Livestock Unit Technician — **Level 3**
Build technical and operational skills for managing livestock, with a focus on welfare, performance and productivity.



Countryside Management

Technical and vocational study	Level
Land & Wildlife Certificate Build confidence in conservation estate maintenance and species surveying through hands-on training and work experience.	**Level 2**
Land & Wildlife Extended Diploma Combine practical estate work across real habitats with ecological understanding to begin your career protecting habitats and wildlife.	**Level 3**

ELIZA BOSENCE

Land & Wildlife Certificate Level 2

"I chose this course because I'm passionate about conservation and wanted to deepen my understanding of ecology while gaining practical skills."



Animal Management & Veterinary Nursing



Technical and vocational study — Level

Animal Management — **Level 1**
Diploma — **Level 2**
Develop your core animal skills with a range of animals, while building confidence and transferable employability skills.

Veterinary Care Support Certificate — **Level 2**
Begin your path into veterinary work by building the core skills needed to support a clinical team.

Patient Care Assistance Diploma — **Level 2**
Build practical skills in animal handling, patient care, and clinical support, while learning in a real working environment.

T Levels — Level

Animal Management — **Level 3**
Learn health, welfare and behaviour skills, and then apply them in real settings during a substantial industry placement, working with a wide range of species.

Apprenticeships — Level

Veterinary Nursing — **Level 3**
Build confidence in nursing care, anaesthesia and practice operations on campus, while gaining real experience in a working clinic.

SEE OUR FULL RANGE OF COURSES



Equine Management

SEE OUR FULL RANGE OF COURSES

Technical and vocational study

Level

Animal Management & Equine Diploma — **Level 1**
Gain skills in the practical care of horses, from basic anatomy and health to feeding, grooming, and moving animals.

Horse Care Diploma — **Level 1**
Take your first step into horse care with practical yard sessions and excellent equine facilities.

Equine Care Certificate — **Level 2**
Develop work-ready yard skills and equine knowledge working with a range of horses.

Equine Management Advanced Extended Diploma — **Level 3**
Build on your existing equine experience, and develop your leadership skills, along with the option to gain additional BHS qualifications.



Horticulture



Apprenticeships	Level
Horticulture & Landscape Operative Build a range of skills working within a real role, including planting, establishing and maintaining plants, along with the use of machinery and landscaping.	Level 2

ELENA O'CONNOR

Horticulture & Landscape Operative Apprenticeship Level 2



"I've always learnt better with my hands – doing something physical and learning it that way – so, an apprenticeship ticks all the boxes because you learn the theory at college and then reinforce it by learning on the job."



Arboriculture

T Levels

	Level
Arboriculture	**Level 3**

Combine classroom learning with a 45-day placement to learn essential plant science, chainsaw use, tree felling and woodland management.

Technical and vocational study

	Level
Forestry & Arboriculture BTEC Extended Diploma*	**Level 3**

Learn the science behind forestry decisions while learning practical tree work skills like working with chainsaws and felling trees.

Apprenticeships

	Level
Arborist	**Level 2**

Learn how to care for and manage trees, by gaining skills such as chainsaw work, aerial tree work and pruning, all while working with a real business.

*For those aged 19+

SEE OUR FULL RANGE OF COURSES



Land-based Engineering & Technology



Technical and vocational study — Level

Construction & Groundworks Diploma — Level 1

Learn to operate heavy plant machinery to the exacting standards of a modern construction site.

Land-based Engineering Certificate — Level 2

Learn how to service, repair and test a range of machinery used in the agricultural and countryside sectors.

Construction Driver Training (Groundworks) — Level 2

Learn how to operate a variety of equipment including excavators, forklifts, dumpers and road rollers.

Apprenticeships — Level

Land-based Service Engineer — Level 2 / Level 3

Learn current maintenance and repair techniques at college, and then apply them directly to equipment in your workplace, at a level to suit you.

Groundworker — Level 2

Develop core groundworks skills used from start to finish on real-life projects.

SEE OUR FULL RANGE OF COURSES

Military & Protective Services



SEE OUR FULL RANGE OF COURSES

Technical and vocational study	Level
Military & Protective Services	Level 1 Level 2

Develop your fitness, leadership and teamwork as you prepare for a career in the military or protective services, at a level to suit you.

Entry to the Uniformed Services Extended Diploma — **Level 3**

Receive the ultimate preparation for a career in the Armed Forces, emergency and rescue services and UK Border Force, as well as non-uniformed roles in the civil service, voluntary or private security sector.

TOM POINTON

Royal Navy Airman Aircraft Handler
Entry to the Uniformed Services Diploma Level 3 alumni

"I use the skills that I learnt and developed at Bicton College every day in my job, as communication and teamwork are a critical part of being an aircraft handler."



Outdoor Adventure & Sport



Technical and vocational study

Level

Outdoor Adventure Diploma **Level 3**
Kickstart your outdoor career by training across a wide range of activities to become a professional coach and leader.

Sports Coaching Extended Diploma **Level 3**
Build real coaching ability with a course that combines practical sport and fitness with the science behind performance.

SEE OUR FULL RANGE OF COURSES

MATT PHILLIPS

Expedition Leader
Outdoor Adventure Diploma Level 3 alumni

"I enjoyed the hands-on and physical parts of the Outdoor Adventure course – being able to use the facilities on site, and spending a day each week on the river, the moors or the ocean."





Supported Learning & Progression Pathways

SEE OUR FULL RANGE OF COURSES

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

Technical and vocational study

Developing Personal Independence
Grow independence, confidence and resilience for adult life, such as shopping, cooking and travel.

Developing Progression Skills
Build communication, teamwork, problem solving, and employability skills through vocational tasters.

Vocational Studies
Try different vocational areas and build the skills to progress onto a Level 2 course.

Preparing for Employment
Build confidence and workplace skills through placements, projects and employability support.

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 time, including both FE and HE students. There is 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



Student Support

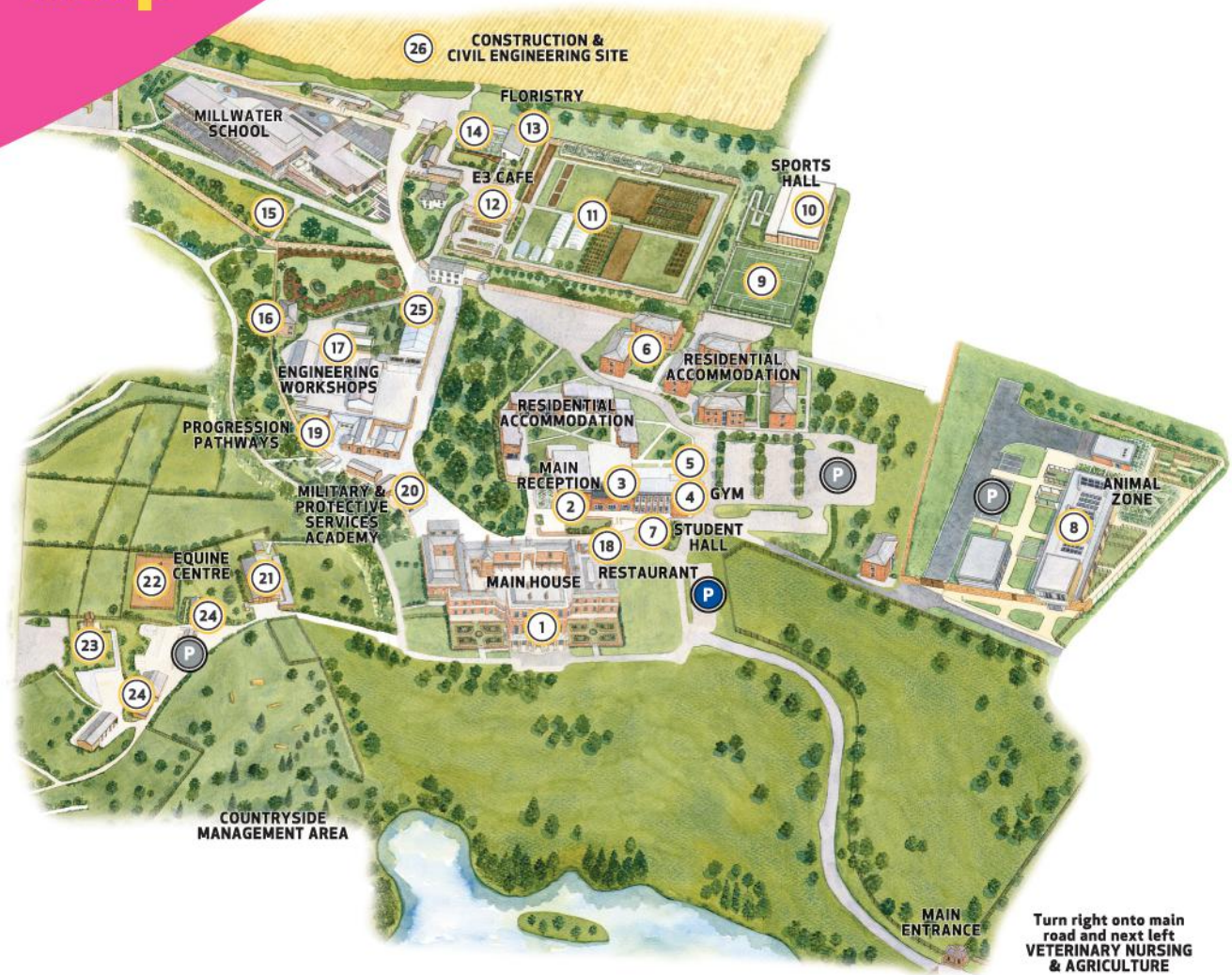
The College provides a supportive learning environment focused on student success and personal growth. Engagement and Progression Officers (EPOs) help with academic and personal challenges, and staff in learning centres offer study support and resources.

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


26 CONSTRUCTION & CIVIL ENGINEERING SITE
FLORISTRY
MILLWATER SCHOOL
14
13
E3 CAFE
SPORTS HALL
12
11
10
15
9
16
25
6
17
RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION
ENGINEERING WORKSHOPS
RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION
PROGRESSION PATHWAYS
19
5
MAIN RECEPTION
3
GYM
ANIMAL ZONE
20
4
2
MILITARY & PROTECTIVE SERVICES ACADEMY
8
7
STUDENT HALL
18
EQUINE CENTRE
22
21
RESTAURANT
MAIN HOUSE
24
1
23
24
COUNTRYSIDE MANAGEMENT AREA
MAIN ENTRANCE
Turn right onto main road and next left
VETERINARY NURSING & AGRICULTURE

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



Alumni spotlight

LUCY HARWOOD

Lucy was working as the administration officer for a local agricultural contractor when she was inspired to retrain, and decided to enrol on a course in Agriculture at Bicton College.

Since then, she has not only gone on to acquire a range of diverse skills, but she has returned to Bicton as a Study Programme Manager for Agriculture & Countryside courses. In this role, she oversees the curriculum, teaching and administration of Level 1 learners.

Lucy said: "I always had such a strong connection with Bicton College that returning to work here just felt like I was coming home."

How to apply

So you've decided which course is for you:



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 explore your options.

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 us 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 24 Oct 2026	10am - 12pm
Sat 23 Jan 2027	10am - 12pm
Sat 17 Apr 2027	10am - 12pm

FIND OUT MORE

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

Taster Days

Mon 26 Oct 2026	10am - 2pm
Mon 15 Feb 2027	10am - 2pm
Wed 2 Jun 2027	10am - 2pm