

BTEC

Frequently Asked Questions

Find out more about what it is like to apply to University with a BTEC.

One of our current students Rebecca who is studying sociology answers some typical questions below!

What will I gain from attending university?

University is not only a place to gain further qualifications in your chosen field of study, but also offers the chance to experience new social situations. Such as living away from home for the first time, exploring a new place, and meeting new people from a wide variety of backgrounds.

Is it hard to apply to University?

Personally, I didn't find it hard at all! Most universities use UCAS for the application process, which allows all of your grades and qualifications to be sent off to your choice of universities meaning you do not need to be in direct contact with the universities in order to apply to study there. Furthermore, UCAS allows you to keep updated with the process by updating your profile whenever there is a change in your application (for example if a university gives you a conditional offer).

Writing your personal statement can be scary, however there are many helpful videos online, and your college should be able to offer you support if you are struggling.

Are A-levels favoured over BTECS?

In recent years more and more college students are studying BTEC courses and progressing to university. There are several reasons for this, BTECS give students the practical skills that are necessary within university and careers, whilst also improving the way students study. BTECS can be a combination of essays and exams, which is very similar to the majority of university courses.

Will there be many people in my position?

In recent years there are many more people studying BTECs and carrying on with further education than there was before, so you will definitely not be alone. For some degrees having a BTEC qualification is beneficial due to the hands on and practical skills you've learnt.

How will studying/teaching be different from BTEC?

Studying at university will be very different to school or college, with much more emphasis on independent studying, you will have to learn how to time manage and independently revise material. At university, the majority of courses are assessed using both coursework and exams, this means that your skills for these types of assessments needs to be high in order to get the best grades possible.

How can I revise at University if BTEC is all coursework-based?

Unlike A levels, BTEC courses mainly involve coursework such as essays and practicals, which is very similar to some university degrees. I found that a lot of my classmates were struggling with essay writing (especially referencing!) whilst I had already learnt how to write essays during my BTEC course. But there were still some exams that I had to take, which did involve learning some new revision techniques.

The lecturers at university do not expect you to have already mastered every assessment type, which means that there are a lot of helpful revision classes before exams, also online resources (such as educational YouTube videos) are very useful.

Tips on academic writing

At university there will be a lot of academic writing, however there is also lots of support! Exeter University has a Study Zone that all students can go to get help and support with writing essays: <http://as.exeter.ac.uk/academic-skills-engagement-team/academic/>

Preparing for Uni

The thought of university can be very daunting, especially if you are moving away from your home, however it is always good to be prepared! Know what your course is, and if there are any readings or subjects you can look up before your lessons start. Also, see where you are living and find people online (university Facebook groups) that will be living in your accommodation. The best thing to remember is everyone is going into university feeling the same way you are.

Can I increase my math skills before university?

Not all degrees require maths as an entry requirement, however if your degree does involve more maths than a pass in GCSE then you should definitely have a look into different ways to increase your math skills! The first point of call should be your college as they may have extra math lessons for you to take. Also, look at this website here for more information: <https://study.com/academy/popular/how-to-improve-math-skills.html>

I am doing a mixture of BTECs & A levels can I be accepted?

Yes! A levels, BTECs, and a combination of the two are all accepted at the University of Exeter, just make sure to look at the specific course entry requirements.

What are good exam techniques?

Check out this handy student blog that covers both studying tips and exam techniques!
<http://blogs.exeter.ac.uk/students/study-tips/>

Will my options be limited because of BTEC?

Definitely not! Even though some university degrees do not currently accept BTECs, the majority of them do and see no difference between A levels and BTECs. The worse thing you can do is not apply to your dream course just because you are currently studying a BTEC qualification!

How does BTEC and A level qualifications compare??

A levels are usually assessed through end of year exams, whilst BTECs have coursework through out the terms. But they both equal to the same level of qualification once finished- look online for the UCAS tariff point calculator to see what your grade is equivalent to!

To find out more about BTECs at the University of Exeter: <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/entryrequirements/ukacademicqualifications/>

Talk to current students: <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/study/life/ask-a-student/>

Visit our campuses: <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/visit/>

