

## USEFUL LINKS

A range of support for mature students can be found on our website: [exeter.ac.uk/students/wp-support/supportfor/maturestudents](https://www.exeter.ac.uk/students/wp-support/supportfor/maturestudents)

### [life-pilot.co.uk](https://www.life-pilot.co.uk)

An informative website that aims to help mature and part time adults get back into learning and to support their progression to higher level study. The site includes a range of starting points for adults including:

- Starting with few qualifications.
- Changing jobs or careers.
- Getting back into learning after childcare.
- Doing a course that prepares you for a degree.

In addition to information and advice, the site includes:

- Job Sectors and 800 profiles.
- A Course Search tool to find higher level courses and apprenticeships.
- Activities to help adults develop their skills for learning.



UNIVERSITY OF  
**EXETER**

SUPPORT FOR  
MATURE STUDENTS



## CONTACT

If you are considering higher education and need advice and guidance and for information about the support offered by the University, please contact:

Exeter campuses:  
Natalie Bracher  
01392 722526  
[outreach@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:outreach@exeter.ac.uk)

Penryn Campus:  
Richard Prest  
01326 371801  
[cornwall@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:cornwall@exeter.ac.uk)



[exeter.ac.uk](https://www.exeter.ac.uk)

# WELCOME TO YOUR UNIVERSITY >

We welcome applicants who may not have come directly from school or college and who wish to return to education at different stages of their lives. If you entering university for the first time and are aged over 21, you may be eligible for additional support.

The term 'mature student' applies to anyone aged 21 or over who didn't go straight to university after leaving school or college. This means that the term applies to a very large number of students – approximately a third of undergraduates at university in the UK today – and they come from a wide variety of backgrounds.

These backgrounds may themselves provide challenges and barriers to studying, including:

- you may have children, and therefore require childcare services or family accommodation;
- you may hold different qualifications than the ones typically listed as university entry requirements; or
- you may need to continue working and so prefer to study part time.

## PRE-ENTRY SUPPORT

### Applications

We recognise that mature students may offer different qualifications and experience, which will be taken into account when we assess your application. However it is important that you have adequate experience and/or qualifications to allow you to cope with academic demands of your course. It is normally recommended that you should have undertaken some

recognised systematic course of study (eg, Access, Open University credits, or GCE A levels) within the last three years.

Where an applicant has not undertaken any recognised form of systematic study within the last three years, the application may be referred to the Admissions Tutor for consideration.

If you are undertaking an Access to HE Diploma course you will be applying to university very soon after this begins so your tutor may not have had the chance to get to know you very well at the time you apply. Nevertheless, we strongly encourage you to apply early and are happy for tutors to put a note on your reference stating that they will send a more detailed reference at a later date.

Students who wish to study full-time should apply through UCAS.

If you have any queries concerning entrance requirements, or would like more information about applying to the University of Exeter, please contact the Admissions Office: [exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/applications/applying](mailto:exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/applications/applying)

## OPPORTUNITIES TO VISIT

- **Open days** – These allow you to find out more about studying at the University and the support available to you as a mature student. There will also be an opportunity for you to meet current students.
- **Campus tours** – We run tours regularly for prospective students which are led by one of our current students and will show you many of the facilities. The tours don't include visits to subject departments but you are welcome to contact departments direct to see if you can visit them whilst you are on campus.
- **Mature Student Conference (Streatham Campus, Exeter)** – We will be hosting an event aimed at students considering a return to higher education in the autumn prior to when you are thinking of studying with us. The day will provide specific information about the application process, study skills, and the opportunity to attend a subject taster session of your choice. Contact [outreach@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:outreach@exeter.ac.uk) for more information.

For more information about visiting us, visit [exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/visit](http://exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/visit)

# SUPPORTING YOU THROUGH YOUR JOURNEY >

As a mature student you may have a number of factors to consider when re-entering the employment market following your degree, such as caring responsibilities, financial responsibilities, recognising your transferable skill set, etc. We can provide support in the following ways:

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The decision to enter higher education as a student can be a difficult one in terms of commitment and financial circumstances. Financial support is available in the following ways:

- **Grants** – If you are a full-time undergraduate UK student who has dependent children, you may be eligible for a supplementary grant.

- **Bursaries** – Mature students with children may be eligible for bursaries to help cover childcare costs.

- **Travel expenses** – Mature students taking part in the University's Career Mentor scheme are also eligible for a bursary to help with travel costs associated with the programme.

Further information about student funding [exeter.ac.uk/students/finance/studentfunding](http://exeter.ac.uk/students/finance/studentfunding)

## TRANSITION, ACADEMIC AND STUDY SKILLS SUPPORT

- **Transition Support Events** – Held at both the Exeter and Penryn campuses, these events aim to give you the opportunity to overcome any concerns that you may have about making the transition to study at the University of Exeter. It will include familiarisation with the practical aspects of campus, an overview of what to expect from Freshers' Week, bring together expert advice from our support services and give you the chance to meet new people in advance of starting your studies. For more information, contact [outreach@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:outreach@exeter.ac.uk)

- **Academic skills day** – These are provided at both the Exeter and Penryn campuses prior to the start of term and will include activities and advice on many aspects related to studying. For further information, contact our Academic Skills Advisors at [academicskills@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:academicskills@exeter.ac.uk) or [ask@fxplus.ac.uk](mailto:ask@fxplus.ac.uk)

- **Study Skills** – The Study Zone at the Streatham Campus and the StudyHub at the Penryn Campus is a study space where you can get advice and support with a wide range of academic skills, including 1:1 appointments. Find out more about the support that we offer:  
Exeter: [exeter.ac.uk/studyzone](http://exeter.ac.uk/studyzone)  
Penryn: [fxplus.ac.uk/students/ask-academic-skills](http://fxplus.ac.uk/students/ask-academic-skills)

- **Peer Support** – This gives students the opportunity to gain support and guidance from other students in higher years who are trained as mentors to provide support to their mentees by drawing on their previous experience. To find out if there is a Peer Mentoring Programme running in your discipline visit **Peer Support Programmes**.

[exeter.ac.uk/studyzone/peersupport/peersupportprogrammes](http://exeter.ac.uk/studyzone/peersupport/peersupportprogrammes)

## CAREER SUPPORT

- **Careers support** – The Careers Service can provide advice to help you meet your own particular career aims. See the CareerZone website for further information and links to specific schemes: [exeter.ac.uk/careers/equality/mature](http://exeter.ac.uk/careers/equality/mature)

- **Access to Internships (A2I) scheme** – If you are a mature student, you may be eligible for the A2I scheme which provides paid internships to widening participation students and recent graduates: [exeter.ac.uk/careers/internships/access](http://exeter.ac.uk/careers/internships/access)