



University  
*of* Exeter

# Looking ahead: considering the University of Exeter & post 16 options

Melissa Ruddock, Widening Participation Manager  
Caspian Robson, Widening Participation Admissions Officer

# Part 1 Covers:

- What makes Exeter stand out
- What can you study
- An overview of the student experience
- Student journey timeline





Outstanding Teaching.<sup>1</sup>

4 OF THE UK'S TOP 5

Home to **four** of the **UK's top five** most influential climate scientists.<sup>2</sup>



Globally a Top 200 university in all major world league tables\*.<sup>3</sup>



More than 400 courses in 40 subject areas.



Four times Queen's Anniversary Prize winners, most recently in 2020 for exposing the devastating effect of plastic pollution on human and wildlife health.

TOP 10

Top 10 for most targeted by leading UK employers.<sup>4</sup>



Devon and Cornwall are in the top 10 safest places in England and Wales.<sup>5</sup>



Sustainability University of the Year.



Consistently Top 5 in British Universities and Colleges Sport rankings out of 150+ institutions.



Leading UK university.<sup>6</sup>

**RUSSELL GROUP**

A world-class, research-intensive university.



**Award Winning Careers Support:**

- Training
- Support
- Development
- Opportunities
- Networking

**SUCCESS FOR ALL**

- ✓ University of Sanctuary
- ✓ Care Leavers Covenant
- ✓ Athena Swann Gender Charter
- ✓ Stonewall Diversity Champion
- ✓ National Network for the Education of Care Leavers



<sup>1</sup> Rated 'triple' Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF).

<sup>2</sup> The Reuters Hot List.

<sup>3</sup> 122<sup>nd</sup> in the U.S. News & World Report Best Global Universities 2024-2025; 169<sup>th</sup> in the QS World University Rankings 2025; 177<sup>th</sup> in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2024; 151-200 in the 2024 Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) released by ShanghaiRankings.

<sup>4</sup> The Graduate Market in 2024 report by High Fliers Research.

<sup>5</sup> Office for National Statistics Police Force Area data tables (30.01.2025)

<sup>6</sup> Top 15 in UK university rankings\*\* 14<sup>th</sup> in The Complete University Guide 2025 and 13<sup>th</sup> in The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2025.

# Courses we offer

## Faculty of Environment, Science and Economy

Computer Science

Earth and Environmental Science

Ecology and Conservation

Engineering

Geography

Mathematics and Statistics

Physics and Astronomy

Economics

Finance and Accounting

Management

Natural Sciences

## Faculty of Health and Life Sciences

Biosciences

Health and Care Professions

Psychology

Clinical and Biomedical Sciences

Health and Community Sciences

Public Health and Sport Sciences

## Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences

Arab and Islamic Studies

Archaeology and History

Classics, Ancient History, Religion and  
Theology

Communications, Drama and Film

English and Creative Writing

Humanities and Social Sciences

Languages, Cultures and Visual Studies

Law School

School of Education (Postgraduate)

Social and Political Sciences, Philosophy and  
Anthropology

Liberal Arts



# Degree Apprenticeships

## Degree Apprenticeships

Accounting Finance Manager

Civil Engineering

Digital and Technology Solutions

Financial Services Professional

Mine Management

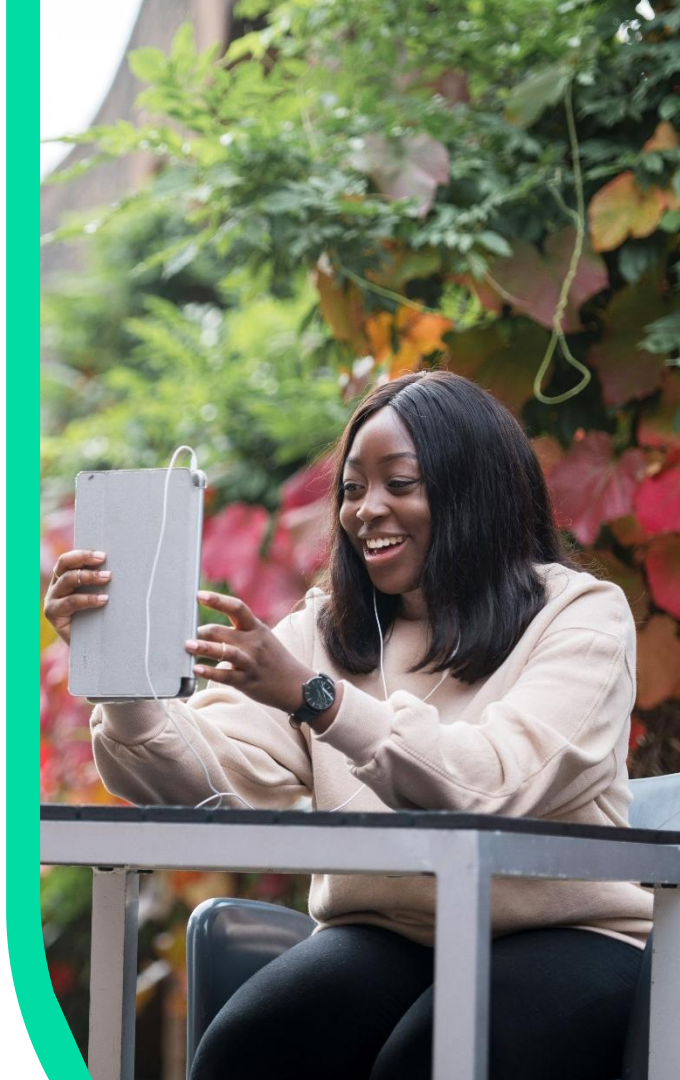
Operations Manager

Project Management



# Teaching, learning & research

- Leading academics whose research informs our teaching
- Variety to suit different learning styles -
  - Lectures
  - Seminars
  - Tutorials
  - Labs
  - Workshops Field trips
  - Self directed learning
- Compulsory and optional modules
- Libraries open 24/7
- Cutting edge facilities – campuses that blend the old with the new
- Strong industry links



# Student success and careers

- Personal tutors & peer support
- Residence Life Tutors
- On campus GP and wellbeing services
- Individual Learning Plans and reasonable adjustments
- Access to internships & employer links
- Careers support for life



# Student life and finance

- Clubs, societies & volunteering
- Students Guild & Guild Advice Unit
- Student media
- Competitive and social sports
- Bursaries and scholarships
- Hardship fund
- Enhanced Induction Programme
- Catered & self catered accommodation

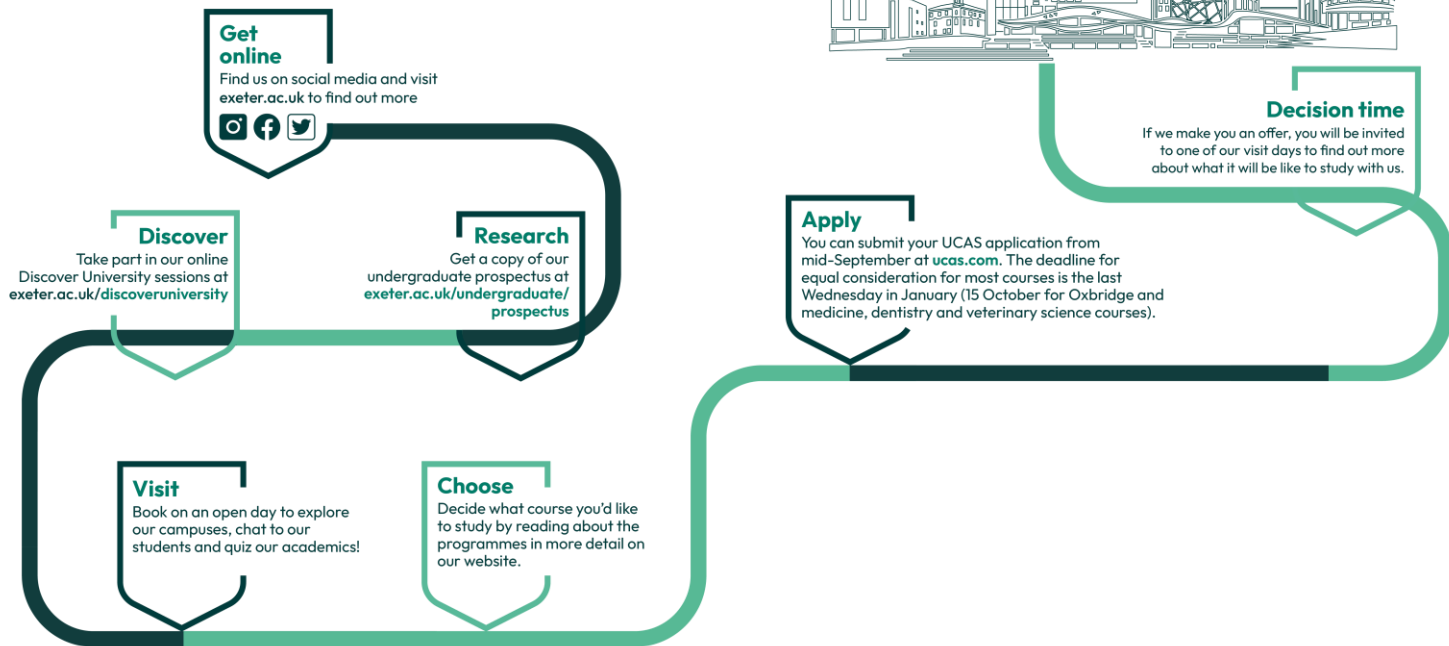


# Entry requirements

- GCSEs (or equivalent)
- A-Levels and other equivalent Level 3 qualifications
- Subject-specific requirements
- Other requirements
- Personal Statements



# Student's journey



Welcome to the  
University of Exeter:

September  
Term starts

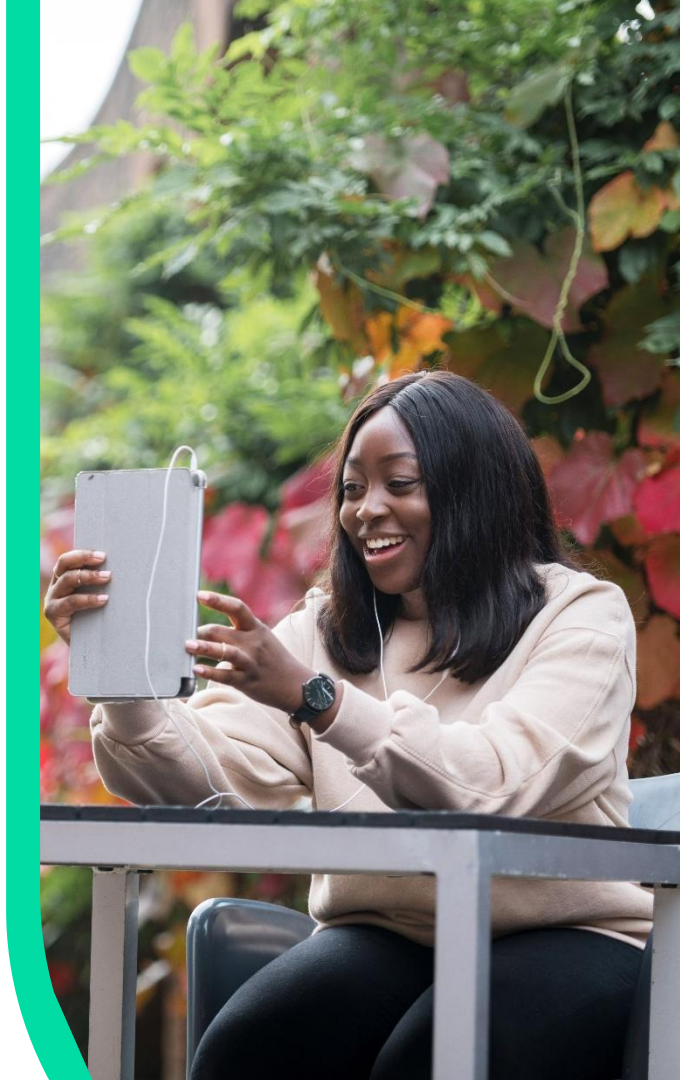




Question Time!

# Part 2 Covers:

- Why are GCSE grades important, and how do we use them?
- What can you study after your GCSEs?
- How do you choose the right path for you?
- Question time!



# GCSEs: Why They Matter And How We Use Them

- GCSEs are the first national tests sat in most UK schools.
- Many places, including colleges, universities and employers view them as a measure of a candidate's grasp of fundamental academic concepts in core subjects – especially because many students won't study them again as they progress to Level 3 studies
- Most universities will advertise what GCSE grades a student needs to hold before they can progress to an undergraduate course
  - The most common are English Language and Mathematics



# GCSEs: How We Use Them At Exeter

- At the University of Exeter, we also outline essential GCSE requirements for each of our courses on our webpages
  - All of our courses require at least a Grade 4 in GCSE English Language
  - Specific grades in GCSE Maths (typically a 4 or above) are common for STEM subjects
- The University of Exeter has no expectations of a minimum number of GCSEs, nor any time restrictions on when you have sat them. The only compulsory requirements we have are the ones on our webpages.

- We update our course webpages every year – sometimes requirements change between years! It's always important to make sure you're looking at the entry requirements for your desired year of entry. Outdated information isn't helpful!
- If you didn't study GCSE qualifications, we can accept equivalencies – such as in qualifications from other countries. Our Admissions team is always happy to answer questions from students who want to check they have the right qualifications.





After Your GCSEs...

# After GCSEs: Choosing Level 3 Qualifications

- There are lots of qualification types you might be interested in pursuing after you finish your GCSEs! These include:
  - A Levels
  - BTECs
  - T Levels
  - Apprenticeships or traineeships
  - International Baccalaureate
  - ... And more!
- Different qualifications will be available at different providers, so it's important to explore what's available in your area
- Different qualifications are designed to lead to different pathways – it's important to choose the right one to match your passions, interests, and ambitions!



# After GCSEs: Choosing Level 3 Qualifications

- If you want to go to university, you will apply to study a specific subject. Every subject a university offers will have a webpage outlining what requirements an applicant needs to meet to apply
  - GCSE requirements
  - Level 3 requirements
  - Other requirements (e.g. interviews or entrance tests)
- Different universities will have different requirements – even if they’re offering courses with the same time. It’s important to be aware of this when thinking about your Level 3 studies, and your future university ambitions



# I Want to Study...

Let's play a game! Guess what subject requirements these popular courses have...

---

## LLB Law

Does this require:

- Law
- English
- No requirements

## BSc Business and Management

Does this require:

- Business
- Maths
- No requirements

## BA History

Does this require:

- History
- Maths
- No requirements

## BA English

Does this require:

- English
- Maths
- No requirements

*Note: some courses will have multiple subjects at Level 3!*

## BSc Psychology

Does this require:

- Science
- Psychology
- No requirements

## BMBS Medicine

Does this require:

- Science
- Maths
- No requirements

## BEng Engineering

Does this require:

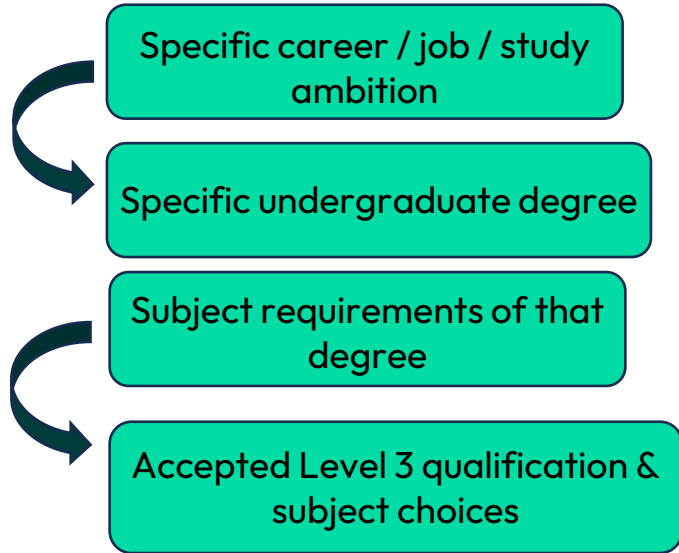
- Science
- Maths
- No requirements





How Do I Choose?

# Approaches to Choosing Level 3s:



Neither way of choosing is better or worse than the other – odds are you'll end up doing a bit of both!

What matters is centring your choices on yourself: your ambitions, your strengths, your options, and what's going to be best for you!





Question Time!