



**UNIVERSITY
CENTRE**
SOUTH DEVON

2023 Mini Guide

WELCOME TO UCSD

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I am delighted to welcome you to the University Centre South Devon (UCSD) Prospectus for 2023. You have made an excellent choice considering UCSD for your higher level studies.

UCSD is part of South Devon College and, like the College, everything is centred on your experience as a student and helping you make the most of your time here. We have an unwavering passion for learning, and take great pride in our programmes of study. We offer a wide range of opportunities that enable you to progress into employment and give you the platform to excel.

We received a glowing report from the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) based on results from a four-day Higher Education Review.

We maintain the very highest academic standards and support your personal development, as well as your wider graduate skills. As a top-ranking provider in England for student satisfaction, we work incredibly closely with our students. So you can be sure that we will meet your needs as an individual and we will take your views into account.

When you graduate, you will gain a prestigious qualification from a first-class institution that is widely recognised by employers and other universities.

You will also have the opportunity to progress to the third year of an associated course, either here at UCSD, at the University of Plymouth, or elsewhere.

We take great pride in the success of our students, and our tutors and lecturers find no greater satisfaction than seeing our past students go on to achieve great and remarkable things, which happens year after year.

So, please do come and visit our campus and meet our friendly and professional team by attending one of our open days or information events, and see for yourself how we can help shape your future. I'm confident that you will be impressed by everything that we have to offer, and will see that we can support you to succeed. Thank you, once again, for considering us, and I look forward to welcoming you in September 2023.

Laurence Frewin

Principal and CEO



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Click here for in-depth information on our degree courses, study support and facilities



COURSE LIST

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ARTS

FdA Contemporary Arts Practice

COMPUTING AND ENGINEERING

FdSc/HNC Computing*

BSc (Hons) Integrated Technologies Engineering*

FdSc Engineering (Design and Development) †

FdSc/HNC Engineering (Electrical Electronics) †

FdSc/HNC Engineering (Manufacturing) †

FdSc/HNC Engineering (Marine Technologies) †

FdSc Engineering (Photonics and Optical Electronics) †

CONSTRUCTION

FdSc/HNC Civil and Coastal Engineering*

FdSc/HNC Sustainable Construction and the Built Environment*

BSc (Hons) Civil Engineering (Top-up)*

DIGITAL AND MEDIA

FdA Creative Digital Design

FdA Film and Photography*

FdA Games and Interactive Design*

FdA Illustration with Graphics and Animation

EDUCATION

Level 4 Certificate in Education and Training (CET)

Level 4 Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice

Level 4 Leading the Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice

FdA Education and Childhood

FdA Working with Children, Young People and Families

BA (Hons) Childhood and Youth Studies (Top-up) †

BA (Hons) Education, Development and Society (Top-up)*

HEALTH

FdSc Assistant Practitioner

FdSc Health Studies

FdSc Hearing Aid Audiology

FdSc Nursing Associate

BSc (Hons) Enhanced Integrated Care (Top-up)*

MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS

HNC Business and Management †

FdA Business and Human Resource Management †

FdA Business and Law †

FdA Business and Management* †

FdSc Tourism, Hospitality and Events Management

BA (Hons) Leadership and Management (Top-up)*

MARINE

FdSc Maritime Leadership and Vessel Management †

SCIENCES

FdSc Animal Science*

FdSc Biosciences*

BSc (Hons) Applied Animal Science (Top-up)*

SOCIAL SCIENCES

FdA History with English*

FdSc Psychology and Counselling Skills

FdSc Psychology and Criminology

FdSc Psychology and Sociology

FdA Youth Justice Practice †

BSc (Hons) Social and Therapeutic Interventions (Top-up) †

SPORTS, COACHING AND OUTDOOR

FdSc Adventure Leadership

FdSc Sports Coaching and Fitness* †

BSc (Hons) Coaching (Outdoor Leadership) (Top-up)*

BSc (Hons) Coaching (Sports Performance and Development)(Top-up)*

***Approved by the University of Plymouth**

†Subject to approval

HIGHER AND DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

Level 4 Assessor/Coach

Level 4 Hospitality Manager with Certificate of Higher Education

Level 4 Working with Children, Young People and Families Practitioner

Level 5 Assistant Practitioner

Level 5 Children, Young People and Families Manager

Level 5 Coaching Professional

Level 5 Hearing Aid Audiology

Level 5 Leader in Adult Care

Level 5 Learning and Skills Teacher

Level 5 Nursing Associate

Level 5 Outdoor Leadership

Level 5 Technician Scientist

Level 5 Youth Justice Practice†

Level 6 Chartered Manager Degree Apprenticeship

Level 6 CILEx Chartered Legal Executive

Level 6 Civil Engineering Site Management

Level 6 Control Technical Support Engineer

Level 6 Electrical or Electronic Technical Support Engineer

Level 6 Manufacturing Engineer

Level 6 Product Design and Development

5 REASONS TO STUDY AT UCSD

Our degrees have been designed to help you progress into employment, and also develop the skills you need to excel in your chosen career.

Our students' and local employers' opinions help shape our provision. This is why our university focuses on five key principles, which our students have identified as most important to them. There are countless reasons to study with us, but we think these five make us a unique higher education provider and the best place for you to study your degree.

1 LOCATION

- Based in Torbay
- Beautiful coast and countryside
- Working closely with local employers
- Dedicated University Centre
- Hi Tech & Digital Centre
- South Devon College Sports Centre

2 SUPPORT

- Student Support Hub
- Personal tutors
- Employability
- Disability and wellbeing
- Academic support

3 ACCESSIBILITY

- Consolidated timetable- study onsite 2-3 days per week
- Travel and parking
- Equal opportunities
- Childcare
- Bursaries

4 COMMUNITY

- Life at UCSD
- The area of South Devon
- University of Plymouth

5 EXCELLENCE

- Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA)
- NUS Awards

Click here for in-depth information on each course we offer

FACILITIES

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Our facilities create an exceptional learning environment, helping you to realise your full potential and achieve your goals.

All your lecture rooms are equipped for university study and you'll have direct access to our library where we have an extensive range of learning resources.

All facilities have been designed to ensure you can study and develop at your own pace. They provide a comfortable environment to suit your learning style, with all the necessary resources available to you.

YOU'LL HAVE ACCESS TO THE FOLLOWING ACROSS OUR CAMPUSES:

- 1,000 computers
- 25,000 books
- Campus-wide wireless network
- A comprehensive catalogue of e-books, journals, newspapers, and electronic resources
- A virtual learning portal
- A personal email account

OUR WIDER FACILITIES INCLUDE:

- Discounted travel pass with Stagecoach
- Cafés and dining areas
- A dedicated higher education social study space
- Hairdressing and beauty therapy salon, 'Inspirations'
- Fine dining restaurant, 'Horizons'
- Discounted gym membership, including weekly fitness classes
- Mama Bear's Day Nursery for students with young children
- Access to our cutting edge Hi Tech & Digital Centre (see image below)



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH

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The University of Plymouth is renowned for high quality, internationally-leading education, research and innovation.

With a mission to Advance Knowledge and Transform Lives, Plymouth is a *top 50 research university with clusters of world class research across a wide range of disciplines, including marine science and engineering, medicine, cybersecurity and psychology. A three-time winner of the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education, the university is ranked one of the top 25 institutions globally for sustainable development and 1st in the world for the quality of its marine research and teaching.**

Plymouth has a strong track record for teaching and learning excellence, and has one of the highest numbers of National Teaching Fellows of any UK university.

As a UCSD student on a University of Plymouth course, you are part of a wider community of 7,300 students studying off campus at one of 28 partner institutions.

UCSD is a member of the university's partner college network, bringing university-level courses to students across the UK and overseas. The partnership works closely with employers to develop degrees and other higher-level qualifications designed to increase student employment and career progression prospects.

Our higher education courses are awarded by the University and our foundation degrees usually have at least one built-in progression route to an honours degree (often one-year courses are available at the university, or in some cases, another institution).

It's important to know that the deadline for applications is 25th January 2023, and places may be subject to availability. If you are progressing to the University of Plymouth, please check the fees with the university as these will be different from your current fees.

As a partner college student, you can access the university's online services, library, electronic resources and learning support materials through its web-based student portal (including access to the Careers Service online careers information (myCareer)). You can link in with the Students' Union (UPSU) and access sports clubs, societies, the advice service, volunteering opportunities, student representation, and university sports facilities.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- 📍 University of Plymouth, Drake Circus, Plymouth, Devon, PL4 8AA
- T: 01752 585858
- E: prospectus@plymouth.ac.uk
- W: plymouth.ac.uk
- f /plymouthuni
- 🐦 @plymuni

*Research Fortnight Research Power League Table 2014

**Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2021



YOUR QUALIFICATION EXPLAINED

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HIGHER NATIONAL CERTIFICATE [HNC]- LEVEL 4

Higher National Certificates (HNCs) are vocational qualifications designed to develop practical and theoretical skills and knowledge. They focus on equipping you with a practical understanding of your chosen subject and can lead directly to employment in specific industries. They may also count towards membership of professional bodies and other employer organisations. After successfully completing your HNC, you can progress onto the related foundation degrees at UCSD.

FOUNDATION DEGREE [FDA AND FDSC]- LEVEL 5

A foundation degree is a degree-level qualification that takes two years to complete, and is equivalent to the first two years of a traditional honours degree. Foundation degrees focus on relevant, work-based skills within a particular career route or profession, and are designed to increase employability and progression opportunities.

More and more people are recognising that foundation degrees are one of the quickest and most direct routes to the high-level vocational skills required in the working world. Because employers are involved in the development of foundation degree programmes, they ensure you're ready for employment when you complete your studies.

BACHELOR'S DEGREE (BA [HONS] AND BSC [HONS])- LEVEL 6

At the end of a foundation degree, you have the option to 'top-up' your qualification with a third year of study to convert it into a full honours degree. We offer a range of bachelor's top-up courses for you to consider, or you may be able to progress to the University of Plymouth where you'll be guaranteed an interview for an associated top-up course. Please note, there's a deadline for progression applications and places may be subject to availability.

A bachelor's degree introduces you to new skills and research methods that employers will value, and is widely seen as a mark of intellectual and academic ability and potential in the employment market.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

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We consider a variety of qualifications and relevant experience, and assess every application on its own merit. So, even if you don't meet the specified requirements, you may still be able to study with us.

BACHELOR'S DEGREES AND TOP-UP PROGRAMMES

To progress to a top-up bachelor's degree programme, you'll need 240 credits from a foundation degree or higher national diploma in a relevant subject area.

FOUNDATION DEGREE

As a guide, to receive an offer for a foundation degree, you'll require a minimum of 48 UCAS points*. These points can be gained from A Levels, BTEC Nationals, Access to Higher Education Diplomas and equivalent qualifications. You'll also require GCSE English at Grade 4/C and (Level 2) maths.

RECOGNISING PRIOR LEARNING

We welcome applications from students of all ages, regardless of previous academic achievements. We assess each student's suitability individually and take into account previous experience.

This is why we give you the opportunity to use all of your prior learning and experience when you apply for a course. You can show this through statements from employers, personal development plans, and reflective commentaries.

So, if you don't have the formal accreditation or qualifications required, but do have relevant past experience, you could still be accepted onto your chosen degree.

*A small selection of our foundation degrees may require more than 48 UCAS points.

ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION AND RETURN TO LEARN

If you don't feel quite ready for university study, an Access to Higher Education course may be perfect for you. These are intensive, one-year programmes that are designed to prepare you for studying at university level.

They can also update your academic skills if you're returning to education, and provide the opportunity to fill any gaps in your application, such as retaking English and maths GCSEs if you didn't originally achieve a 4/C or higher.

Return to Learn courses take slightly less time to complete, and are suitable for adults returning to education after an extended period of time. They're designed to build your confidence and reintroduce you to academic study in a manageable and achievable way.

This will prepare you for an Access to Higher Education course and, subsequently, university study. If you are starting a course in 2023, the UCAS entry criteria are:

Points	A Level Grade	BTEC Sub. Dip
48	A	D
40	B	
32	C	M
24	D	
16	E	P

Points	BTEC 90 Credit Diploma
78	D*D
72	DD
60	DM
48	MM
36	MP

[Click here for more information on our entry requirements](#)

FUNDING AND FEES

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Studying for a university degree doesn't have to be a financially daunting prospect. Our degrees are affordable but still offer first-class facilities and teaching, helping you to gain a prestigious degree and save money at the same time.

We offer various bursary packages, as well as the full package of loan funding available from Student Finance England, so you can be comfortable with your decision to study with us.

BURSARIES

We're committed to supporting our university students with a number of bursary packages, which you'll receive if you meet particular criteria. Bursaries, which are not repaid, are awarded in addition to any grants, loans or funding received through Student Finance England.

You could be eligible to receive up to £1,000 bursary in your first year of study with us. This comprises a £200 UCSD bursary (with the exception of students undertaking a Higher or Degree Apprenticeship) when you start your studies and an additional bursary of £800, depending on your personal circumstances.

To receive an additional bursary you'll need to accept UCSD as your firm offer, and make a bursary application with us directly. For more information and to see if you are eligible, visit ucsd.ac.uk/student-life/funding-finance-and-bursaries.

TUITION FEES

You're not expected to pay for your tuition immediately. Instead, your tuition is covered by a fee loan, which is paid directly to us on your behalf by Student Finance England. You'll only be expected to begin repaying this loan when you've completed your studies and are earning over £27,295 per year.

Fees for students joining us in 2023 are currently under review, but as a guide, our tuition fees for full-time students in 2022/23 started at £8,400 per year (individual course fees can be found on our website).

Please note that if you're progressing to study at the University of Plymouth after successfully completing a course with us, the fees for the course you are progressing to will be different.

MAINTENANCE LOAN

The maintenance loan is intended to help you with living costs during your studies. The basic rate of maintenance loan doesn't depend on your household income, unless you apply for more. The loan has to be paid back but not until your income is over £27,295 a year. The maximum loan available for students (living away from home and studying outside of London) in 2022/23 was up to £9,706 per academic year. For those living in the parental home during their studies it was £8,171*.

DISABLED STUDENTS' ALLOWANCES

Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) are available to students who require extra support as a direct result of a disability. This includes a mental health condition or specific learning difficulty, such as dyslexia or dyspraxia. DSAs do not depend on household income.

CHILDCARE FUNDING

This helps with childcare costs for students with dependent children in registered or approved childcare. The children must be aged under 15 at the beginning of the academic year. Depending on household income, you can apply for 85% of your actual childcare costs during term times and holidays.

PARENTS' LEARNING ALLOWANCES

Parents' Learning Allowances (PLAs) help with course-related costs if you have dependent children.

More information on this extra help can be found at gov.uk/studentfinance.

* At time of publishing, 2023/24 figures were subject to Parliamentary approval.

This funding information is for HNC, foundation degree and Bachelor's degree programmes. For funding information on other programmes, please call us on 08000 21 31 81 or email university@southdevon.ac.uk

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LIVING COST (MAINTENANCE) LOANS

Student's living arrangements	Maximum Maintenance Loan for the 2020/21 academic year	Maximum Maintenance Loan for the 2021/22 academic year
Living with parents	£7,747	£7,987
Studying in London and not living with parents	£9,203	£9,488
Studying outside London and not living with parents	£12,010	£12,382
Living abroad for at least one term as part of their UK course	£10,539	£10,866

REPAYMENTS

You won't repay your fee or maintenance loan until you're earning more than £27,295 per year*. If you're earning less than this you won't need to pay anything. Repayments begin in the April after you graduate, but only if you meet the financial criteria.

Repayments are charged at a rate of 9% of any additional salary over the £27,295 threshold. Interest is charged from the day the first payment is made to you until the loan is repaid or written off. Any loan remaining after 30 years is written off entirely.

For example, if you're earning £2,310 per month before tax, you'll repay £3 a month. This is because £2,310 is £36 above the monthly threshold of £2,274, and 9% of £36 is £3 (rounded down to the nearest pound).

The table below is a useful reference to see how much you can expect to repay on various incomes.

Your annual salary (before tax)	Your monthly salary (before tax)	Your approx. monthly repayment
£27,295	£2,274	£0
£28,000	£2,333	£5
£29,500	£2,458	£16
£31,000	£2,583	£27
£33,000	£2,750	£42

APPLYING FOR STUDENT FINANCE

WINTER 2022

Find out how much funding you're eligible for by using the student finance calculator at gov.uk/student-finance-calculator.

EARLY 2023

Apply for student finance online at gov.uk/studentfinance. You don't need to have accepted a place to apply.

SPRING 2023

Make sure you apply for student finance before the deadline in May to ensure you receive your funding at the start of the term.

SUMMER 2023

You'll receive a student finance entitlement letter that details what finance you'll get. Sign this and return your student finance declaration form.

SEPTEMBER 2023

Begin your studies and register your student finance with us- you'll receive a payment on confirmation of your attendance.

* At time of publishing, 2023/24 figures were subject to Parliamentary approval.

HOW TO APPLY

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1

Decide on your preferred course (visit ucsd.ac.uk to browse our courses).

2

Register with UCAS, look for University Centre South Devon, and complete your application form at ucas.com or contact us directly.

3

From January 2023 you'll be informed of our decision. Some applicants may need to attend an interview prior to a formal offer being made.

4

Apply for student finance. You don't need to have accepted an offer to apply, and the earlier you can do this, the better.

5

We'll invite you to attend an 'Applicant Event'. This will give you the opportunity to experience UCSD before you start.

6

Once you have your results you'll need to send a copy of your certificates to the admissions office. You'll then receive a letter notifying you of our decision. This will also be available to view through the UCAS website.

Now you can celebrate. All you need to do is prepare and look forward to becoming a student at UCSD in September.

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ADMISSIONS TIMELINE

FEBRUARY-JUNE 2022

UCAS Exhibitions

JUNE-SEPTEMBER 2022

UCSD Open Day

SEPTEMBER 2022

UCAS applications open

NOVEMBER 2022

UCSD Open Event

JANUARY 2023

Main UCAS application deadline

APRIL-JULY 2023

UCSD Applicant Events

AUGUST 2023

A Level results and Clearing opens

SEPTEMBER 2023

UCSD induction

YOUR APPLICATION

At UCSD, we want to make sure the process for applying is as smooth as possible for you. Admissions decisions are made by our dedicated admission team, whose job is to make fair and consistent decisions, reading and assessing each application in full. To provide the best possible service to you, you can get in touch with our team at any time.

YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT

Your personal statement is an important opportunity for you to let us know more about you and why you've chosen your course of study. Our admission team will read your personal statement in detail, so it's important you demonstrate to us why you're interested in your course as well as the skills you've gained to help you to succeed. The course descriptions on our website (ucsd.ac.uk), which tell you what the course is about and what it includes, may help you decide what you want to write about and give you some inspiration to explore your chosen subject further.

FULL-TIME COURSES

The application deadline for full-time courses is 25th January 2023. If you miss this, you can still apply until June 2023 through UCAS Extra, or later through Clearing, although you may not be guaranteed a place. You can apply for up to five different courses in your UCAS application.

PART-TIME AND HIGHER APPRENTICESHIP COURSES

Applications for part-time and higher apprenticeship courses are handled differently to full-time ones, and are not made through UCAS. All applications for part-time courses should be made directly to UCSD by contacting the team on **08000 21 31 81** or emailing university@southdevon.ac.uk.

[Click here for more information on how to apply](#)

STUDENT PROFILES

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OWEN KEITH-HILL

Studying FdSc Adventure Leadership at UCSD

Studied Adventure Sports at South Devon College

"UCSD offered the course that I wanted to study, and its location provided really good access to the local environment, but the main factor in my decision to study here was how helpful all the staff at South Devon College were right from the beginning.

The practical opportunities on my course are amazing, and there are lots of useful facilities on campus. I want to finish my foundation degree and progress to Level 6, with my long-term goal being to start my own business in the Adventure Sports/Outdoor Learning sector."

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JODY GREEN

Guest Experience/Relations Manager at the Grand Hotel, Torquay

Studied Level 4 Hospitality Manager Higher Apprenticeship at UCSD

"I decided to start working in the hospitality industry 23 years ago. When I was made redundant from Virgin Atlantic in 2020, I felt really vulnerable.

University Centre South Devon worked really closely with the Grand Hotel to design an education plan for me, and supported me from start to finish. They allowed me to work the hours that would suit my studies.

I'm excited about the future, I'm excited about what the area has to offer, and I think I'm here to stay."



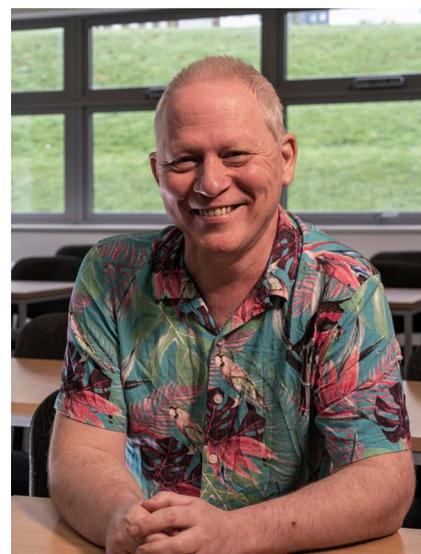
TILLY SHORE

Studying FdSc Psychology and Sociology at UCSD

Studied Health and Social Care, Youth Work Practice and Teaching Assistant at South Devon College

"I've had some amazing experiences in each course that I've progressed through at South Devon College and University Centre South Devon. The tutors were helpful, friendly and always there to support at any time.

I am in the first year of my degree, and plan to progress as far as I can to guide myself towards my career path. My advice to a prospective student would be not to worry if you aren't certain of your career path yet. UCSD has so many courses available for you to explore: ensure you choose a subject that motivates and interests you."



DARREN BROWN

Studied FdSc Psychology and Sociology and BA (Hons) Education, Development and Society at UCSD

"Before returning to education, I was a part-time counsellor and single Dad.

The thing that made me decide to start a course at UCSD was that the courses were relatable to me. My career has progressed since completing the course in a number of ways: I'm now able to apply for jobs that I couldn't have seen myself approaching 3 years ago.

I had a fear of returning to university, and discovered that it's one of the most welcoming environments. The only thing stopping you is yourself!"



UNIVERSITY
CENTRE
SOUTH DEVON

PART OF
South Devon College

In partnership with



UNIVERSITY OF
PLYMOUTH

OPEN DAYS

For a comprehensive list of our
Open Days please visit ucsd.ac.uk

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