

# Magdalen Court School

## Sixth Form

2009-2010





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# Intro



MCS has established a reputation for providing first-class tuition in 'A' level, GCSE & NVQ subjects. The school offers first-time 'A' level courses over one or two years, as well as one-term and one-year retake courses for both 'A' level and GCSE. The effectiveness of these courses hinge upon a high degree of individual attention and supervision, careful adherence to the precise syllabus requirements with reference to previous exam questions and an emphasis on sound study, revision and examination techniques. Our well qualified staff are specialist teachers and tutors of high calibre. They communicate ideas skilfully and are sympathetic to each student's problems.

## Some Past successes have been:

- Ryan Thompson x7 A2's & 1 B; 1st place choice @ Exeter Uni
- Lin Fan x8 A2's; 1st place choice Manchester Uni. Business Studies
- One pupil gained a scholarship in America to read Sociology, now teaches at Harvard Uni.
- Bristol Uni. popular; Mr J, Jim Jenner, other students for Law, America, Biology, English & Maths
- Bath Uni. popular; Joe Hibbered, Law, now doing a Masters in Law
- Bath Uni. Luke Johnston; ICT & Graphics
- Marjons Teacher Training Uni. x3 A2's French & other subjects
- Sport very popular, student at Loughborough now teaching
- Edinburgh Uni. Science then worked in Pharmacy
- Southampton Uni. reading Psychology now teaching
- Media Studies at Nottingham Uni, now in Marketing
- Drama at Dartington, now runs a Drama School

MCS runs Examination sessions for Oxford & Cambridge Uni.s taking Mature entries for medicine, Law & Veterinary Science. BMAT, ELAT exams & others. People come to sit them from all over the SW inc. Bristol & Cornwall.

The school gained 100% pass at 'A' level in 1994, 95, 97, 100% pass in all completed A/S & A subjects in 2006. The school was also listed on the internet in 2001 as high ranking. A wide selection of subjects can be offered and a student's individual requirements are discussed with the Head at the admissions interview.

The majority of leavers go onto further education leading to a wide range of careers, this is usually to an undergraduate course at University, although some students join the Services.

An improvement of 4 grades has been achieved in retakes and some pupils have had outstanding results, such as gaining an 'A' grade for English in one year. Students have gained a place at Cambridge for Law with 3 A grades (Psychology, English & Communication Studies) This candidate is now a Barrister in London.. Places have been taken up at Oxford Brookes, Bournemouth, Bristol and Nottingham to read Law, and another to Nottingham to read Anthropology. TV & Drama at Brunel, Sports Science at London, Leicester to read Maths & Law with an 'A' grade in Maths, Sunderland to read Pharmacy with 'A' grades in Biology & Physics, LSE to read PPE with 'A' grades for Chemistry & English Literature & Medicine at Guys St. Thomas. Post graduate Law courses at Bristol & London Universities, and another student with an A grade in French continued her studies in Toulouse. Students have entered Universities all over England. In 2001 students gained a scholarship for Engineering at Portsmouth University and places for Drama & Theatre Studies at Dartington, Art at Kingston College & Animal Science at Birmingham.



# Where to Start?

## Which courses?

Choose a course that:

- reflects your interests and personal qualities.
- enables you to learn in ways that best suit you.
- you know you can do well in.
- will help you to move on whilst keeping your
- options open for the future.
- has entry requirements that you can achieve.

Choose carefully, be realistic and remember that your choices will affect your future.

## Where should I continue my learning?

- Think first about what you want to study.
- Find out where you can follow these courses.
- Visit these schools/colleges/training providers and find out as much as you can by talking to staff and learners.  
*See dates of open events*
- Think about the length of the journey –can you get there easily?

## Thinking Ahead

As well as considering what courses you should take at 16 and 18 you need to consider long term plans.

### Employment

- If you know what type of job you would like, find a course that would help you on your way.
- If you have not decided yet, choose a course that will keep your options open.

### Higher Education

- To go to university you will need to meet their level 3 requirements. Remember that some universities seek passes in specific GCSEs subjects as well as level 3 requirements.
- If you have a clear idea about a particular higher education course that you would like to do at 18 or 19, find out what the specific entry
- requirements are. Start with the UCAS website [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com).

### Not sure

- If you have no clear ideas about the future – don't worry. Connexions/Prospects personal advisers, your careers teacher, your form tutor



# What Type of Study

- A Level
- VRQ
  - BTEC
  - Diploma
  - Apprenticeship
- AQA Bacculaureate
- HNC and HND
- Foundation Degrees

# Where?

- School
- 6th Form College
- College
- Work



NQF level	Academic awards	General vocational awards	Key & Basic Skills	Employment led awards, certificates diplomas	Specialist vocational qualifications	Work related vocational qualifications
<b>5 Postgraduate</b>			Key Skills level 5	BTEC Advanced Professional		NVQ level 5
<b>4 Degree Foundation Degree</b>			Key Skills level 4	BTEC Professional	BTEC Higher Nationals	NVQ level 4
<b>3</b>	A/AS GCE	Vocational A/AS Levels (VCE)	Key Skills level 3	BTEC Advanced	BTEC Nationals	NVQ level 3
	Advanced Ext. Awards				BTEC Diploma in Foundation Studies (Art & Design)	
	Advanced FSMQ					
<b>2</b>	GCSE (grade A*–C)	Intermediate GNVQ	Key Skills level 2	BTEC Intermediate	BTEC First Diploma	NVQ level 2
	Intermediate FSMQ	GCSE in vocational subjects (grade A*–C)	Basic Skills			
<b>1</b>	GCSE (grade D–G)	Foundation GNVQ	Key Skills level 1	BTEC Foundation		NVQ level 1
	Foundation FSMQ	GCSE in vocational subjects (grade D–G)	Basic Skills			
<b>ENTRY</b>	Entry Level Certificate	Entry Level Certificates in Skills for Working Life and Life Skills	Basic Skills			



# A Levels

The official name for an A level is a General Certificate of Education (GCE). An A level is a Level 3 qualification and can help you to prepare for other Level 3 qualifications and for qualifications at Level 4.

Universities require most applicants to be qualified to this level. Employers will increasingly look for applicants who are qualified to at least this level.

A levels are subject-based qualifications that help you to prepare for higher education and employment.

There are around 80 subjects to choose from, and some have a work-related focus. These are called Applied A levels and are available in single and double awards - double awards are equivalent to two A levels.

A levels are split into units and each unit is assessed separately through a mix of internal assessment and examinations:

- AS (advanced subsidiary) units - you study these in the first year of your A level course. Most subjects have two AS units although some, like science and music, have three. If you pass the AS units in a subject, you will gain an AS qualification in that subject. This is called an AS level
- A2 units - you study these in the second year of your course. Most A levels have two A2 units but some subjects, such as science and music, have three units

## **Advanced Extension Award (AEA) - Level 3**

If you are doing well in an A level course and are predicted to get an A grade, you may have the chance to do an Advanced Extension Award (AEA). Gaining an AEA demonstrates the breadth and depth of your knowledge and your ability to apply it more widely and critically. It also helps higher education institutes to distinguish between you and other able candidates.



# VRQ

## Vocationally Related Qualification

### National Vocational Qualifications

This stands for Vocationally Related Qualification. VRQs are offered by awarding bodies such as City & Guilds and BTEC Edexcel.

They are work-related qualifications that develop the skills and knowledge needed in a specific vocational area, such as information technology, marketing, sales, agriculture and horticulture.

Courses vary in size. Some last a few weeks. Others take around the same time to do as four or five GCSEs.

Assessment is generally through a mix of examinations, observation and the creation of a portfolio of evidence.

You can also use a VRQ as a stepping stone to further learning, training and employment.

- In Years 10 and 11 you will usually work towards NVQs at Level 1 and/or Level 2.
- Young people aged 16 to 19 usually work towards NVQs at Levels 1 to 3.

There are over 900 NVQs to choose from.

NVQs are work related, they can be taught through the work place, (on the job).

They are also delivered through the 'Train to Gain program'

An example might be 'Forestry'.





# BTEC's

## BTEC Introductory Diplomas

The BTEC Level 1 qualifications offer you an introduction to vocational learning and provide the opportunity to progress to either Level 2 or employment.

## BTEC First Certificates and Diplomas

These are Level 2 vocational qualifications and provide the initial knowledge and understanding for you if you are wishing to work or to take further study at Level 3.

## BTEC National Diplomas

The BTEC National Diploma is a specialist vocational qualification valued by the industry/ sector and higher education alike. It focuses on the applied knowledge and understanding of the specific sectors. The BTEC National Diploma consists of 18 units of study and is equivalent to three A Levels. The BTEC National Diploma prepares you for direct entry into employment or for progression to Higher Education.

The BTEC National Award consists of 6 units of study and is equivalent to 1 A Level

The BTEC National Certificate consists of 12 units of study and is equivalent to 2 A Levels

NQF Level	Qualification title	Equivalent to	No of units/GLH	Overall grade	Progression	Availability	
						Pre-16	Post-16
5	BTEC Higher National Diploma	Foundation Degrees, Dip HE	16 units 960 GLH	N/A	Bachelors Degree, employment		✓
	BTEC Higher National Certificate	Intermediate level qualifications	10 units 600 GLH	N/A	BTEC HND, Bachelors Degree, employment		✓
3	BTEC National Diploma	3 GCE A levels (A*-C)	18 units 1080 GLH	✓	BTEC HND/HNC, Foundation Degree, Bachelors Degree, NVQ, employment		✓
	BTEC National Certificate	2 GCE A levels (A*-C)	12 units 720 GLH	✓	BTEC HND/HNC, Foundation Degree, Bachelors Degree, NVQ, employment		✓
	BTEC National Award	1 GCE A level (A*-C)	6 units 360 GLH	✓	BTEC HND/HNC, Foundation Degree, Bachelors Degree, NVQ, employment		✓
	BTEC Foundation Diploma in Art and Design	N/A	9 units 600 GLH	✓	Bachelors Degree (Art & Design), BTEC HND/HNC, NVQ, employment		✓
2	BTEC First Diploma	4 GCSEs (A*-C)	6 units 360 GLH	✓	BTEC National, NVQ, employment	✓	✓
	BTEC First Certificate	2 GCSEs (A*-C)	3 units 180 GLH	✓	BTEC National, NVQ, employment	✓	✓
1	BTEC Introductory Diploma	4 GCSEs (D-G)	360 GLH	✓	BTEC First, NVQ, employment	✓	✓
	BTEC Introductory Certificate	2 GCSEs (D-G)	180 GLH	✓	BTEC First, NVQ, employment	✓	✓
E	BTEC Entry Level Certificate in Life Skills	N/A	6 units 180 GLH	✓	BTEC Introductory, NVQ, employment	✓	✓
	BTEC Entry Level Certificate in Skills for Working Life	N/A	6 units 180 GLH	✓	BTEC Introductory, NVQ, employment	✓	✓



# The Diploma

Whether you've got a career in mind, hope to go to university or just want to see what's out there, the Diploma is another way to explore your options. It's a new qualification for 14 to 19 year olds and offers a mix of classroom learning and hands-on experience.

The Diploma can be taken at three different levels (Foundation, Higher and Advanced) and will give you an insight into different careers within your chosen subject area, rather than providing training for a specific job.

## What can I study?

- [Construction & the Built Environment](#)
- [Engineering](#)
- [Society, Health & Development](#)
- [Creative & Media](#)
- [Information Technology](#)
- Environmental and Land-based Studies
- Business, Administration and Finance
- Manufacturing and Product Design
- Hospitality
- Hair and Beauty Studies.
- Travel and Tourism
- Public Services
- Sport and Active Leisure
- Retail Business.

From 2011 there will be three further Diplomas to choose from:

- Science
- Humanities
- Languages

<b>Foundation</b>	= Level 1; same as 5 GCSEs at grades D - G
<b>Higher</b>	= Level 2; the same as 7 GCSEs at grades A* - C
<b>Advanced</b>	= Level 3; the same as 3.5 A levels

<http://yp.direct.gov.uk/diplomas/?gclid=CIucl8Ws154CFWlr4wodbx7wrg>



# Apprenticeship

Compulsary NVQ training

Available in 2 levels:

- Level 2 Apprenticeships; (equivalent to five good GCSE passes)
- Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeships; (equivalent to two A-level passes)
- Level 4 Higher Apprenticeships; (NVQ Level 4, Foundation Degree)

Apprenticeships offer structured training in the workplace and are available at Level 2 (Apprenticeship) and Level 3 (Advanced Apprenticeship). You will be assessed by your employer and learning provider by preparing a portfolio of evidence of the work you do and the skills you have. All apprenticeships include key skills, such as communication, numeracy and IT. If your Apprenticeship includes a technical certificate, there may also be some exams which are mainly multiple choice.

Most Apprenticeships are ‘employerled’, which means you have to find a job with an employer prepared to support your training needs. There are some local and national training providers who will match potential apprentices to vacancies. For details of these, in particular for vacancies in administration, building services, child care, customer care, hospitality, motor technician and travel as well as more specialised apprenticeships such as chartered surveying and racing stable hands contact Connexions in Kingston.

Some Apprenticeships also offer BTEC or City & Guilds certificates.



<http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/>



# Baccalaureate

The Diploma Programme for students aged 16 to 19 is a demanding two-year curriculum leading to final examinations and a qualification that is welcomed by leading universities around the world.

## The curriculum

IB Diploma Programme students study six courses at higher level or standard level. Students must choose one subject from each of groups 1 to 5, thus ensuring breadth of experience in languages, social studies, the experimental sciences and mathematics. The sixth subject may be an arts subject chosen from group 6, or the student may choose another subject from groups 1 to 5.

In addition the programme has three core requirements that are included to broaden the educational experience and challenge students to apply their knowledge and understanding.

**The extended essay** is a requirement for students to engage in independent research through an in-depth study of a question relating to one of the subjects they are studying.

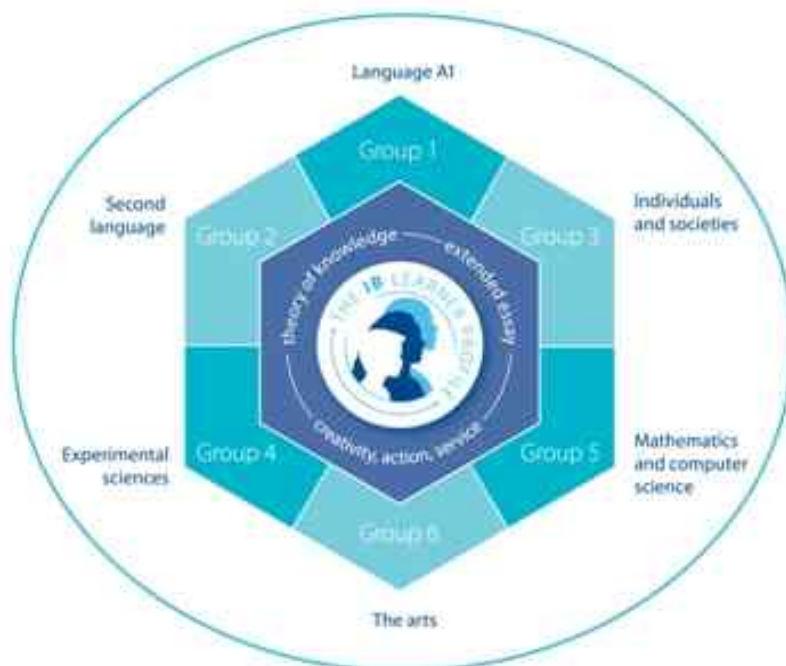
**Theory of knowledge** is a course designed to encourage each student to reflect on the nature of knowledge by critically examining different ways of knowing (perception, emotion, language and reason) and different kinds of knowledge (scientific, artistic, mathematical and historical).

**Creativity, action, service** requires that students actively learn from the experience of doing real tasks beyond the classroom. Students can combine all three components or do activities related to each one of them separately.

## Assessment

Students take written examinations at the end of the programme, which are marked by external IB examiners. Students also complete assessment tasks in the school, which are either initially marked by teachers and then moderated by external moderators or sent directly to external examiners.

The diploma is awarded to students who gain at least 24 points, subject to certain minimum levels of performance across the whole programme and to satisfactory participation in the creativity, action, service requirement. The highest total that a Diploma Programme student can be awarded is 45 points.



<http://www.ibo.org/>

<http://www.ibo.org/diploma/curriculum/>



# HE Diploma

Usually for Adult learners, to prepare them for entry into a degree or diploma course. These courses are outside of all the other courses & are managed by Universities.

Level 3, usually taught in 1 year

## HNC and HND

These stand for Higher National Diploma (HND) and Higher National Certificate (HNC).

They are highly valued by employers both in the UK and overseas, and can also count towards membership of professional bodies and other employer organisations.

HNCs and HNDs are provided by over 400 higher education colleges and further education colleges and are at level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

They are work-related and focus on learning by doing. The entry requirements for most courses include at least one Level 3 qualification.

HNCs and HNDs provide a stepping stone to a career in the chosen work area: they help you to progress at work, to gain professional status and to gain a higher level qualification such as an honours degree.

A HNC is often studied part time by students who are also working. If you complete a HNC you may wish to choose to go into higher education where you would have to complete the second and third year of a course.

A HND is studied for two years full time or longer if part time. If you complete a HND you may wish to choose to go into higher education where you would have to complete the third year of a course.

HNCs and HNDs are available in a wide range of subjects from accounting to video production.



# Foundation Degrees

Higher education doesn't just mean getting an honours degree.

You could, for example, work towards a Foundation Degree, a Higher National Certificate [link] or Diploma [link].

Developed in partnership with employers, this degree is based around work and is a Level 5 qualification. They help you to develop the higher level knowledge and skills that employers are looking for.

Entry requirements vary, but most include Level 3 qualifications and some require specific work experience.

Foundation Degrees offer you the flexibility to earn and learn and increase your career opportunities and earning potential.

You can do a Foundation degree course at college, university, in the workplace or through a combination of these. Some are also available as distance learning courses.

On completion of a Foundation Degree, there are opportunities to continue your professional development through progression to other professional qualifications, or to an honours degree on either a full or part-time basis.

Foundation degrees can provide a stepping stone to an honours degree, professional qualifications, entry to a particular career and promotion at work.

<http://www.findfoundationdegree.co.uk/>





# Key Skills

*Communication Application of Number Information Technology  
Problem Solving Working with others Improving your learning*

These skills are highly valued, both by employers and in universities. At MCS we provide many opportunities for pupils to develop Key Skills, through the AS/A2 programme, through extra-curricular activities such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme.

We can follow a prescribed Key Skills Qualification programme, although pupils are encouraged to refer to their skills in applications for university or employment.

## Support for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities

MCS aims to create a welcoming and supportive environment for all their students and clients.

### For young people with a learning difficulty or disability:

- Connexions will provide advice and support on education, training or work up to their 25th birthday;
- MCS provide special (discrete) courses which have smaller class sizes.
- There is a powerful Learning Support Dept. MCS works with EBC children and in Pastoral Care and Counselling. Tests are carried out, in conjunction with an Educational Psychologist, where appropriate, to create a programme of study for each individual child. This is followed up with daily support and individual tutoring can also be arranged on a daily, weekly or occasional basis.



# Information, Advice and Guidance

Young people need support in four main areas to help them make wise choices about their progression through learning and work:

- **Careers education** – a planned programme in the curriculum that helps them gain the knowledge and develop skills for planning and managing their careers
- **Work related learning** – experiences within the curriculum and outside school which help them learn about, for and through work
- **Personalised support and guidance** – help for individuals to enable them to review, plan and manage their learning and progression to the next stage
- **Careers guidance** – help from specialist advisers with knowledge of opportunities and the pathways to and through them, so they can identify their long-term goals and plan steps to attain them

At MCS we are committed to the provision of innovative and flexible ways to help the students make informed choices about their futures, develop the skills required to enhance their employability and contribute positively to the world they live in.

## In the Sixth form

Students will follow a programme, both within and outside of PSD, to include:

### Lower Sixth

- Work Experience debrief and group presentations
- Study skills
- Post 18 options
- First Steps to Higher Education
- Introduction to UCAS
- Next Steps to Higher Education
- University/College open days
- UCAS Higher Education convention
- The Personal Statement
- ISCO Expanding Horizons courses and other taster/insight courses
- Gap Year Fair
- Optional attendance at range of Careers lunches

### Upper Sixth

- UCAS briefing
- University/College open days
- Mock interviews
- Student finance
- UCAS – Decisions, Confirmation and Clearing
- Gap Year Fair
- Optional attendance at range of Careers lunches





# Degree Choosing a Subject

Let's deal with the fallacies first...

*A degree course only leads to a related career*

Wrong. Some 80% of job vacancies are available to graduates in any field. Employers are looking for evidence of academic ability, initiative and determination - all qualities that are needed to obtain a degree in any subject. However, if you know what career you wish to pursue, do research whether a degree in a particular discipline would be an advantage.

*Vocational courses are not marketable*

Wrong. Clearly if you want to be an architect, it would be sensible to take a degree in architecture. And if you want to be a lawyer, a law degree would be helpful (although not essential). But many graduates who do take vocational degrees go on to employment in other areas - this is particularly true in the case of Law and Engineering.

*A degree in a particular subject guarantees entry to a chosen career*

Wrong. Employment is increasingly about the quality of the degree and, more importantly, the quality of the applicant. Success or failure in finding employment on graduation is often determined by the motivation and personality of the applicant, as well as their ability to complete an application form and sit an interview. However it is true that the majority of graduates find employment within six months of graduating.

How do I choose what to study?

The key fact to remember is this: you will spend at least 3 years on your chosen course - *it must be a subject which really interests you and matches your academic abilities*. Never choose a subject because your friends are, or because you think it will lead to a high salary career. Perhaps you will decide to opt for a subject you are already studying at school - many do. For example:



# Degree Choosing Your Course

It's not just a matter of choosing a subject and a university. There are many different types of course you can follow, and they can last anything from 2 years to 6 years. Some may involve lots of exams, some continuous assessment. Some may involve study abroad. And a course in French, say, at Aberdeen may be totally different from a course in French at Warwick. What questions should you be asking yourself as you make decisions about the course you want to follow?

## The difference between a subject and a course.

Once you have narrowed down your choice of subject, you must begin to search for the ideal course. Even more frightening than the 900 subjects is the fact that there are over 50000 courses to choose from. You might decide to do French. But French at Exeter, say, is not the same course as French at Durham. The Times Good University Guide gives "[league tables](#)" of different subjects at different universities; but whilst this might tell you something about the quality of the teaching and the amount spent on research, it does not tell you anything about the course content. So now you must turn to prospectuses and websites to see what a particular course involves.

But there is more to it than that. There are several different types of courses. You might like to do French and Italian, for example. Or French and History. Or French with History. Or French and the History of Ideas. Or even French and Welsh with Business Studies. The [UCAS website](#) lists every course at every university, and will show you the types of course available.

Have a look at this [Hotcourses website](#) - it offers an alternative website to the UCAS website for searching for courses at university, and it gives you the opportunity to request prospectuses etc. by clicking the 'enquire' button once you've found a course.

## The types of course

- **Full or Part time:** Most of you will probably opt for Full Time, but they can be done Part Time: Night classes &/or summer school
- **Distance learning:** eg Open University
- **Single Honours:** One subject studied, although a range of specialist options is usually available. You may study some related subjects during your first year.
- **Joint Honours:** Study of two separate but equal subjects which may or may not be related. Sometimes there might be a major and a minor subject.
- **Combined Honours:** Study of several subjects, which may or may not be related, often narrowing as the course progresses to one or two subjects. Course titles are usually of the form "Combined Arts" or "Combined Science."
- **Interdisciplinary Courses:** Study of a number of subjects, all related to a particular theme. For example: American Studies.
- **Sandwich Courses:** Alternating periods of study and related work placements (normally for one year, either in the UK or abroad). Such courses will normally last 4 or 5 years.
- **Modular Courses:** The course will be broken down into a number of units or modules, and students can select their own programme. Credits build up to a single, joint or combined honours degree.

## Course titles

The course title can often give the game away! "Business Studies with German" means that Business Studies is the major subject and German the minor in a joint honours course. "Business Studies and German" means they have equal weight. "Business Studies and German Business" will lay more stress on German Business than the language.



# Degree Choosing Your Course Continued

How long are courses?

Degree courses are generally three years, however:

- Medicine, Veterinary, Dentistry and Architecture courses will extend for more than three years, some up to six or seven.
- Courses at Scottish universities are usually for 4 years, but you get an MA or MSc, not BA or BSc.
- Engineering courses and those with practical training (especially language courses and sandwich courses) are usually for 4 or more years.

Many courses in languages, science, engineering and business studies (and others) offer up to a year of study in the EU. Under the [SOCRATES-ERASMUS](#) scheme you might be eligible for an additional grant. There is at least one ERASMUS programme at every UK university.

Questions to ask

*The "best course" is the course that suits you best.*

Make sure you know what to expect by asking yourself questions such as:

- Is the course theoretical, practical or vocational?
- What kind of teaching? - mainly lectures, mainly tutorials, both, seminars?
- How regular are tutorials and seminars? How much one-to-one help is available?
- How much written work? How much laboratory work?
- Written exams or continuous assessment or both?
- How wide is the range of course options?
- Do final exams give any exemption from professional qualifications?

What are the attendance requirements?

Where can I get information?

Many courses now offer "[Entry Profiles](#)" on the UCAS website. These include not only the entry requirements, but also a good description of the course, what it contains, what you can expect to get out of it and what you should bring to it. It is invaluable in that it is a means of matching you, the applicant, to the course. You can then go to the relevant departmental website.

Also use the [Hero.ac.uk](#) website, where you will find the information presented in a slightly different way. And above all, use the prospectuses. There is a full set in the universities and careers library.

What next?

In choosing a course, you must be confident that it matches your interests, abilities and plans. Since the courses will be different at every university, you must now link your decisions so far with your choice of university.

[Choosing your university](#)



# The UCAS Procedure

## Introduction

There is a single applications procedure for UK universities and colleges through UCAS (the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service). In essence, this is how it works:

- You complete an application form online in which you can apply for up to 5 universities (4 in the case of Medical and Veterinary applications)
- The form is submitted to UCAS who pass the information on to the relevant institutions
- UCAS send you an acknowledgement slip with your UCAS number and password, which you can use to track the course of your application.
- The individual institutions will contact UCAS with their decisions and these will be passed on to you.
- A Statement of Decisions card will accompany the last decision and you use this to let UCAS know which offers you wish to accept. Also, online you will see a trigger to accept/decline once you have your last offer.
- You may only hold two offers: a "firm offer", and an "insurance offer" (with lower grade requirements) as an insurance. Any other offers must be rejected.
- When the A-Level results come out your firm offer will be confirmed if you have the grades. If not, and you have the grades for the insurance offer, that will be confirmed. If you don't quite make the grades, you may still get accepted. If not, you will be entered for "clearing." Full details of this procedure are on the page "[What to do when results come out](#)".

## When to apply

The form filling process starts in June when you collect the "buzzword" from Mr J. You can then start to fill it in, and in September you submit your form via the internet.

Applications can be submitted to UCAS by the Universities department from September 15th. It is important to be aware that Oxbridge, Medical and Veterinary applications must be completed very soon after the start of the Michaelmas Term, and that the sooner all applications are completed, *the more likely you are to get offers*. Do not wait until the official deadlines. Some choral and organ awards need to be completed even before the start of the term.

Any applications submitted after the UCAS deadline will be considered at the discretion of the universities and colleges, but it is highly unlikely that there will be any offers at this stage on popular courses, and your application will have "Late" stamped across it.

## Dates for 2010 Year of entry

**L6** (if you are ultra organised, you might even attend open Days at the end of yr11!)

Sept. 2008      Attended Open days. Universities run a series through the year.  
eg: Aberystwyth are: 7<sup>th</sup> July 2009 15<sup>th</sup> September 2010, & 16<sup>th</sup> October 2010  
Exeter Uni. open day June 2010, booking essential, bookings taken from May

June: 2009      Collect Buzzword for UCAS on-line application

**U6**

1st Sep. 2009      Opening date for receiving applications.  
15th Oct. 2009      Final deadline for applications to Oxford & Cambridge Uni. & Medicine & Veterinary Medicine.  
15th Jan. 2010      Application deadline for 'on-time' UCAS applications  
Late Feb.              Start of Extra  
24th Mar. 2010      Application deadline for those Art & Design applications, not using 15th Jan. deadline.  
30th Jun. 2010      Application deadline for all other courses  
Mid August              Scottish results published  
19th Aug. 2010      A & AS results published  
Late Sep.              Last date for UCAS Clearing applications



# UCAS Tariff Tables

## GCE and VCE

Grade					Tariff points
GCE & AVCE Double Award	A level with additional AS (9 units)	GCE A level and AVCE	GCE AS Double Award	GCE AS & ASVCE	
A*A*					280
A*A					260
AA					240
AB					220
BB	A*A				200
BC	AA				180
	AB				170
CC					160
	BB				150
CD	BC	A*			140
DD	CC	A	AA		120
	CD		AB		110
DE		B	BB		100
	DD		BC		90
EE	DE	C	CC		80
			CD		70
	EE	D	DD	A	60
			DE	B	50
		E	EE	C	40
				D	30
				E	20

A\* grades will be introduced to GCE A level achievement from 2010.

[http://www.ucas.com/students/ucas\\_tariff/tarifftables/](http://www.ucas.com/students/ucas_tariff/tarifftables/)



GCE Qualifications (including vocational subjects)			BTEC Nationals			Points	BTEC Foundation Diploma in Art and Design)	Key Skills
AS	A level	Double Award	Award	Certificate	Diploma			
					DDD	360		
					DDM	320		
						285	Distinction	
					DMM	280		
		AA		DD	MMM	240		
						225	Merit	
		AB				220		
		BB		DM	MMP	200		
		BC				180		
						165	Pass	
		CC		MM	MPP	160		
		CD				140		
	A	DD	D	MP	PPP	120		
	B	DE				100		
	C	EE	M	PP		80		
A	D					60		
B						50		
C	E		P			40		
D						30		Level 4
E						20		Level 3
						10		Level 2

#### International Baccalaureate (IB)

IB Diploma points	UCAS Tariff
45	720
44	698
43	676
42	654
41	632
40	611
39	589
38	567
37	545
36	523
35	501
34	479
33	457
32	435
31	413
30	392
29	370
28	348
27	326
26	304
25	282
24	260



**Truro and Penwith College (Formerly Truro College) (T85)**

**Action Photography (V610) EP**

qualification

2FT Fdg FdA

**Truro and Penwith College (Formerly Truro College)**

**Action Photography**

2 year full-time Foundation Degree

### Why would this course interest me?

What makes this programme distinctive is its emphasis upon work 'out there', capturing images that rely on preparation, skills and being in the right place at the right time. You will also have a particular interest in developing a high level skill within the field of photographic image making and manipulation. You will also be interested in the development of photography and the work of others. The degree enables you to gain an academic qualification that will enable you to develop these skills and understandings. As well as the wide range of modules you will study, you are taught by an excellent team of staff all with the relevant skills, professional experience and knowledge to enhance your experiences and learning as a student. Furthermore, we insist that you do not spend all of your time in the classroom and ensure that you gain practical experience in applying your knowledge and enthusiasm within relevant environments outside of the College.

### What skills and personal attributes do I need to have?

In this area of photography above all others you must have the commitment and energy to work outside of the 9 to 5, in situations that could be uncomfortable and pressured. You need a calm head and the ability to master technical skill, as well as the aesthetic ability to appreciate what is a good image. It is important that you have an approachable manner with excellent interpersonal skills. Good communication and time-management will also be vital for you to exceed on this course and gain the best experiences.

<b>Course Specific Requirements</b>	
<b>Interview / Audition may be required</b>	Yes All UK applicants are interviewed.
<b>Portfolio / Evidence Required</b>	Yes

#### GCSE/Standard Grade

<b>Subjects and grades required</b>	GCSE English Language and Mathematics at grade C or above
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#### GCE A level

<b>Acceptability</b>	Acceptable on its own & combined with other qualifications
<b>Additional Information</b>	60 tariff points required to include a minimum equivalency of one A level

#### BTEC National Award (6 units) (not including Early Years)

<b>Acceptability</b>	Not acceptable
<b>Required grades</b>	Merit
<b>Subjects and grades required</b>	Only accepted in relevant subjects.

#### BTEC National Diploma (18 units) (not including Early Years)

<b>Acceptability</b>	Acceptable on its own & combined with other qualifications
<b>Required grades</b>	Pass, Pass, Pass
<b>Subjects and grades required</b>	Only accepted in relevant subjects.



<http://www.ucas.com/students/coursesearch/coursesearch2010/>





### What skills, qualities, and experience do I need?

- Your personal statement should explain your reasons for wanting to study the course and why you think that you would make a good vet. You will need to be able to demonstrate that you fully grasp what is involved, and that you don't think that it is just about working with cuddly pets.
- You will need to have an excellent academic profile, either achieved or predicted.
- The BVSc with Pre-Veterinary year is a science based degree - you will study biochemistry, physiology, microbiology and anatomy - and science underpins most clinical skills. It is important that you enjoy, as well as understand, the basic sciences.
- You are expected to show in your personal statement that you have made some effort to find out what it would be like to work as a vet. You will need to have obtained relevant practical experience, which should ideally amount to several weeks over 2-3 years. The work experience should give you an understanding of what it is to be a vet, and an opportunity to learn about veterinary science. Testimonials and references from practising vets are not required in the first instance of applying.
- Good communication skills are essential. Can you explain complex information simply and coherently?
- You will need to have a logical mind, so that you will be able to formulate questions and solve problems.
- You will need to be self-motivated. Can you set your own goals and show independence of thought? However, you will also need to be able to work well in a team.
- Vets must develop a high standard of professional responsibility. You should show that you are a reliable and conscientious person.
- You will need to be interested in the welfare of animals and people. Can you reassure people, in order to put them at their ease?
- We are also interested to hear about your extra-curricular activities, and general interests, especially where this provides evidence of collaborative engagement with the wider community. How do you contribute to your school or community? Do you have any positions of responsibility? Have you done any voluntary or paid work? What do you do to relax? You should explain what skills you have gained, rather than simply enumerating them. It is essential that you are able to work well with others.
- Certain health conditions may be incompatible with a career in veterinary science. If you have a chronic health problem or a physical disability, you should contact the admissions office who will, in most cases, be able to reassure you that a career in veterinary science is possible. For more information, see the RCVS statement on the essential competences required of the veterinarian.
- It is useful to have a driving licence and access to a car in years 5 and 6, due to the rural location of the clinical part of the Veterinary School.

#### GCSE/Standard Grade

<b>Subjects and grades required</b>	Maths, English and Science at grades A-C
<b>Volume and depth of study (GCE A level or equivalent)</b>	Minimum number required: 3 Number preferred: 3
<b>Tariff score</b>	
<b>GCE A/AS level grade range</b>	AAB



#### BTEC National Diploma (18 units) (not including Early Years)

<b>Acceptability</b>	Acceptable on its own & combined with other qualifications
<b>Required grades</b>	Distinction, Distinction, Distinction
<b>Subjects and grades required</b>	Science, Animal Science, Animal Management





## EMA

EMAs (Education Maintenance Allowances) for conscientious and hardworking students who have good attendance and punctuality.

- EMA is a weekly payment of £10, £20 or £30 a week depending on your household income of up to £30,810 per year.
- The money is intended to help with day-to-day costs when you stay at school, college or a training provider – such as travel, books and
- equipment for your learning programme.
- Most eligible young people will be able to get an EMA for 2 or 3 years depending on how long they take to finish their learning.
- From April 2006, EMA has been extended to those young people on an E2E course or taking a learning programme that leads to an apprenticeship.

**It is easy to apply. You can get an application form by:**

- Calling the national EMA helpline free on 080 810 16 2 19 or,
- By visiting the EMA website at [www.ema.dfes.gov.uk](http://www.ema.dfes.gov.uk) or,
- Asking at a school or college
- Visiting a local Connexions Office

These payments do not affect benefits received by the learner's family, including child benefit



# Who are you?

## Lets find out a little about ourselves:

- [What career will suit your personality?](http://quiz.ivillage.co.uk/uk_work/tests/career.htm)  
[http://quiz.ivillage.co.uk/uk\\_work/tests/career.htm](http://quiz.ivillage.co.uk/uk_work/tests/career.htm)
- [Army parthfinder](http://pathfinder.armyjobs.mod.uk/) (choose the pictuers & findout a little more about yourself, it's uncannaly good!)  
<http://pathfinder.armyjobs.mod.uk/>
- [Careers Explorer](http://www.kent.ac.uk/careers/explorer.htm), get some ideas for jobs.  
<http://www.kent.ac.uk/careers/explorer.htm>
- [Careers Map](http://www.kent.ac.uk/careers/careemap.htm); some info on different careers, ok  
<http://www.kent.ac.uk/careers/careemap.htm>
- [VARK Test](http://www.vark-learn.com/english/page.asp?p=questionnaire); VARK is a questionnaire that provides users with a profile of their learning preferences. These preferences are about the ways that they want to take-in and give-out information.  
<http://www.vark-learn.com/english/page.asp?p=questionnaire>
- [CV Builder](http://www.reed.co.uk/CareerTools/CVBuilder.aspx) (Just fill in the questions & get a MS Word CV, cool!)  
<http://www.reed.co.uk/CareerTools/CVBuilder.aspx>

## Tests

- [Numerical Reasoning Test](http://www.kent.ac.uk/careers/tests/mathstest.htm)  
<http://www.kent.ac.uk/careers/tests/mathstest.htm>
- [Verbal Reasoning - Comprehension Exercise](http://www.kent.ac.uk/careers/tests/verbaltest.htm)  
<http://www.kent.ac.uk/careers/tests/verbaltest.htm>
- [Non Verbal Reasoning Test](http://www.kent.ac.uk/careers/tests/spatialtest.htm)  
<http://www.kent.ac.uk/careers/tests/spatialtest.htm>
- [Spelling & Punctuation Test](http://www.kent.ac.uk/careers/tests/spelling.htm)  
<http://www.kent.ac.uk/careers/tests/spelling.htm>



# C.V.s

One of the strange aspects of academic life is at your interview for University or work, little emphasis will be placed on your academic qualifications. Your qualifications you worked so hard to achieve, will be the key to open the door to the interview, but at the interview the focus is likely to be on what else you have been doing with your life. So just like your post 16 academic choices you need to carefully plan, execute & achieve experiences outside of the classroom.

## Extra-Curricular Opportunities

There is a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities which enhance students CVs and help them to develop leadership qualities:

We can put students in touch with organisations such as BSES, VSO etc.

B.S.E.S. (British Scientific Exploration Society) expeditions are promoted. They are often run in the summer holidays, so can be folded into the school year without the need of 'a year out'.

- British Sport's Trust, Sports Leader's Awards.
- AAA 5 Star Awards
- Duke of Edinburgh Awards.
- Public Speaking Certificates.
- St. John's 1st. Aid.
- Poetry Society Awards.
- University of Cambridge Modular Computing Exams.
- Drama Examinations.
- Netball certification.
- Royal Marines Commando Course.
- Expressive Arts Examinations (Oxford & Cambridge)
- M.C.S. Nursery/Classroom/Sports/Drama Assistant's certificates.
- Football Ass. Soccer Awards.
- British Assoc. Gymnastic Awards.
- Basketball Ass. Championship Awards.
- Rugby Skills Awards.

V.S.O. (Voluntary services Overseas) often does require a year out, but organisations such as these are established routes to character building and broadening a students experience prior to university.

The Schools Career's Officer is pleased to discuss the pupil's future career and prospects with both Students and Parents.

## Work Experience

This is a valuable part of each student's development and periods of work experience can be arranged to assist student's in their choice of career.

We have links with Exeter University's Peninsula Medical School which provides a rich experience for students considering medicine, National Health Service Careers etc.



## C.V.s Contined

What are you involved in outside of school, such as:

- casual jobs
- Providing child care
- Sport
- volunteer work
- a creative hobby.

Perhaps you have a special skill or talent that could lead to an occupation?



# Links

- [MCS Careers Links](http://www.MagdalenCourtSchool.co.uk/Careers/)  
[www.MagdalenCourtSchool.co.uk/Careers/](http://www.MagdalenCourtSchool.co.uk/Careers/)
- [UCAS your subject](http://www.ucas.com/seps/profiles/)  
[www.ucas.com/seps/profiles/](http://www.ucas.com/seps/profiles/)
- [Stamford Test](http://www.ucas.com/students/choosingcourses/choosingcourse/stamfordtest) (I don't like it much!)  
[www.ucas.com/students/choosingcourses/choosingcourse/stamfordtest](http://www.ucas.com/students/choosingcourses/choosingcourse/stamfordtest)
- [Choose your course](http://heg.tonbridge-school.co.uk/course/index.usml)  
<http://heg.tonbridge-school.co.uk/course/index.usml>
- [Choose your university](http://heg.tonbridge-school.co.uk/university/index.usml)  
<http://heg.tonbridge-school.co.uk/university/index.usml>
- [The UCAS procedure](http://heg.tonbridge-school.co.uk/ucas/index.usml)  
<http://heg.tonbridge-school.co.uk/ucas/index.usml>
- [Finance](http://heg.tonbridge-school.co.uk/finance/index.usml)  
<http://heg.tonbridge-school.co.uk/finance/index.usml>
- [Gap Year](http://heg.tonbridge-school.co.uk/gapyear/index.usml)  
<http://heg.tonbridge-school.co.uk/gapyear/index.usml>
- [HotCourses](http://www.hotcourses.com)  
[www.hotcourses.com](http://www.hotcourses.com)
- [Interactive careers education and guidance on line](http://www.fasttomato.com)  
[www.fasttomato.com](http://www.fasttomato.com)
- [Advice on job hunting and claiming benefits](http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk)  
[www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk](http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk)
- [Find out how apprenticeships can work for you.](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)  
[www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)
- [Prospects](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)  
[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)
- [Conexions](http://www.connexions-direct.com)  
[www.connexions-direct.com](http://www.connexions-direct.com)



# Acronyms

NVQ: National Vocational Qualification  
On the job training, going into college say 1 day a week  
NVQ; National Vocational Qualification  
FE; Further Education, 6th form College  
HE; Higher Education, College or University  
NQF; National Qualification Framework  
WBL; Work Based Learning  
NAS; National Apprenticeship Service



[http://www.nfer.ac.uk/emie/content.asp?id\\_content=363](http://www.nfer.ac.uk/emie/content.asp?id_content=363)