

FOUNDATION LEARNING PROSPECTUS



BRIDGWATER
& TAUNTON
COLLEGE

BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST | www.btc.ac.uk



WELCOME

You are looking for your next step and we are excited to be able to share with you the fantastic courses, support and progression opportunities available within the Foundation Learning Department.

The Foundation Learning Department is for students with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND), barriers to learning and/or Social, Emotional and Mental Health difficulties (SEMH). The department is an outstanding area of the college offering inclusive courses, and focuses on your next steps in your education, employment, and independence.

The department has courses across all three campuses: Bridgwater, Taunton and Cannington. This prospectus is designed to provide you with course information, including who they are for and what they include.

You will undertake and receive the following on your course:

- A personal tutor
- English and maths development or a qualification
- Tutorial
- My BTC Advantage
- Targets linked to Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) outcomes
- A chance to move towards your aspirations
- Learning Support Assistants (LSA) in the classroom.

You can also check out our website that has even more information about Foundation Learning and the college offer.

I look forward to welcoming you,

Lorna Whitford



Head of Foundation Learning
Bridgwater & Taunton College



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WHAT IS FOUNDATION LEARNING?

Foundation Learning is an outstanding area of the College, with programmes to meet diverse needs of learners and prepare them for their next steps. The department has programmes for learners with Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND), Social, Emotional and Mental Health difficulties (SEMH) and other barriers to learning.

The programmes focus on preparation for working life, independence and higher level programmes. You will have an allocated personal tutor who is the main point of contact for your programme of study and progress.

We have a holistic approach and focus on your progress. We work with your circle of support to assist you to overcome barriers and work towards your aspirations.

MY BTC ADVANTAGE

Flourishing is the name of the game at Bridgwater & Taunton College. We work to give you the best range of options when you complete your programme. To help you achieve this, we have embedded the BTC Advantage into every course to support your personal development, behaviour and welfare.

The BTC Advantage is divided into seven sections:

- Higher aspirations
- More confident
- Effective learner
- Better communicator
- Safer, healthier and happier
- Community minded
- Knowledge and skills.

Your timetable will be made up of lessons that help you to achieve your aim. These lessons all use the BTC Advantage to help you gain a wide range of skills and support you to reach your next steps after education.

FOUNDATION LEARNING



SCAN ME FOR
MORE INFO

SAFER, HEALTHIER AND HAPPIER

“Along with my peers, friends and family I raised money to help buy an Assistance dog. I sometimes find myself in uncomfortable and dangerous situations. Having the help of my dog will benefit my independence and quality of life. She will improve my life for the better.”

Paige Lindley



EFFECTIVE LEARNER

“I am really proud of making handmade chocolates for our Christmas bake sale. It made me proud because I learned how to do something new and develop my cooking skills. My time at BTC has helped me feel more confident. It's helped with my cooking and I really enjoy cooking. We cook every Tuesday afternoon and cake is my favourite thing to make.”

Matthew Williams



COMMUNITY MINDED

“My course allowed me to be creative. I have helped to design and maintain the garden space at the train station and designed a t-shirt supporting autism.”

Amelia (Milly) Sawatzki



HIGHER ASPIRATIONS

“I feel a lot more confident about my future since joining my course, it has opened so many opportunities for me. Initially I couldn't decide which career path I wanted to follow, I enjoyed all of it, but now I know a career in carpentry is right for me. Without being at BTC I don't think I would have been able to make this decision. Thanks to the extra help and one-to-one support, I feel set up for an exciting career.”

Alex Johnson



MORE CONFIDENT

“I'm really proud of the dishes I get to prepare every week, I like seeing people enjoy them in the restaurant. I made beef stew with dumplings and I got positive feedback from a customer which boosted my confidence. We got to takeover the restaurant at Greenway Farm, which was a great experience. All the menu was done by us - a full three courses - served to over 40 people in a real working environment. We've never done that before, but it was such a great experience and went really well.”

Samuel McCarthy



BETTER COMMUNICATOR

“My course has helped build my confidence. I now go to Tesco and buy ingredients on my own, making cooking my own meals all the more exciting. I really enjoyed working in our New To You shop and selling items there, it made me speak with different types of people.”

Matthew Bussell



KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

“I'm excited about my future and getting a job. BTC has enabled me to take lots of positive steps and I'm proud of achieving skills, such as cooking. My English and maths have improved as well. I now feel more confident working by myself. I know I can ask for help when needed.”

Daniel Wang



COLLEGE LIFE

Studying at college can feel very different from studying at school or at home. We offer plenty of support and opportunities to help you adjust and get involved.

When you join BTC, the chances are that someone else will share your enthusiasm. As a result, there are plenty of clubs, societies and sports activities available for you to enjoy.

We have lots of clubs and societies, including LGBTQ+, chess, Dungeons and Dragons, as well as peer mentoring.

Students also regularly organise one-off events to raise money for charity or increase awareness of a particular issue. For example, through our annual Raise and Give (RAG) events, BTC students and staff have raised £1000s for charities such as St Giles Animal Centre Rescue, Love Musgrove, Rusty Road 2 Recovery and the British Red Cross.

PASTORAL SUPPORT AND ENRICHMENT

Tutorials

As a student at BTC, you will have a personal tutor to support you with your academic progress, your support needs and personal and social development. They will be your main contact at college to support you through your course and next steps. Your personal tutor will also be the main contact for parents/carers to communicate with at college.

You will have a group tutorial every week with your personal tutor. Your tutor will also see you one to one to create and review targets regularly.

Wellbeing support

There are times when personal issues and/or college life can get a bit too much. The Wellbeing team offers you a friendly and safe space to talk, be listened to and be supported. Our Wellbeing Officers can also signpost to other college teams such as BTC Lifestyle, the college Counselling Service, financial advice, Academic Coaches and careers advice as well as external services that can support your mental health and wellbeing.

Trips and visits

It's strange to think it, but some of your strongest memories of college might be of experiences when you were nowhere near a campus! That's because of the trips we organise to interesting and exciting locations, helping you develop your knowledge, skills and gain fresh experiences.

We have ongoing projects with West Somerset Railway, Greenway Farm and Conquest Riding Centre, plus lots of visits throughout the year to places such as Hinkley Point C, Bristol city centre, and Engie Construction.

Transitions

Transition from school to college can be worrying and we are keen to support this process for each individual. Our dedicated Schools Transition Team are on hand to help alongside the curriculum staff.

If you are worried about the transition to college please talk about this in your interview or contact the Schools Transition Team for some advice and guidance on schooltransition@btc.ac.uk or call 01278 455464.

SUPPORTING YOUR LEARNING

Student Support

Our Student Funding and Student Engagement teams are based at every campus. They can help with:

- Student bursaries
- Your wellbeing and mental health
- Enrichment opportunities
- Transport questions.

Please visit our website for more information.

Attendance

Across the whole college we have high expectations for attendance. We support you to have the highest attendance you can at college. 100% attendance is our aim for all students.

We want you to succeed at college so will work with you and your circle of support to get the best possible first start to college.

Transport

There is public transport to all of our campuses, however, if you need extra support to get to and from college you will need to apply for Local Authority transport.

You can apply for this through your Local Authority website. For Somerset County Council the website is; www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-family/school-transport

Additional Learning Support (ALS)

Foundation Learning has its own Learning Support Manager and LSA team. The team work closely with the Foundation Learning tutors to implement a wide range of support. Every course has a LSA within the classroom and small groups of 8-12 students.

If you have received additional support in your previous education and/or have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), please let us know so we can agree any additional support with you.

English and maths

All of our courses include English and maths lessons. This is to help you develop and maintain your skills to support transition into the community, employment and life after college.

Everyone has an initial assessment in English and maths when they start on a course. This will help staff match you to the right qualification in either Functional Skills or GCSE.

Lessons in English and maths make up two half days of your timetable each week.



FANTASTIC FACILITIES

BRIDGWATER CAMPUS
TAUNTON CAMPUS
CANNINGTON CAMPUS



CANNINGTON: CROCKERS

Crockers offers alternative provision and is located at the college's Cannington campus. It enables those with high risk Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) difficulties, who are furthest away from engaging with education, to be able to begin to engage and develop their skills, behaviour and knowledge.

The facilities are designed to provide a conducive learning environment for students, while also catering to their social and physical health needs. For us, the success of our students always comes first. By investing in our built environment, we're investing in your future.

Crockers offers a range of courses for groups of 4-6 up to groups of 12 with high levels of specialist SEMH support. These courses focus on transitioning and reengaging students, focusing on their aspirations and planning towards them.



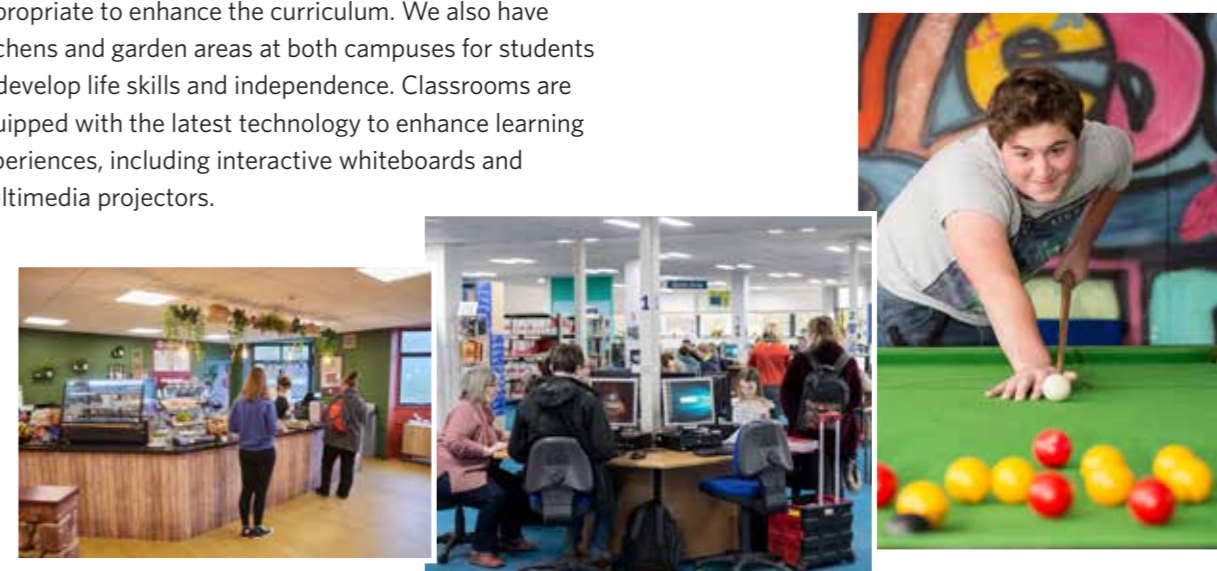
BRIDGWATER & TAUNTON

Having modern and well-maintained facilities is essential to support students' learning and their overall college experience. We ensure all our facilities are accessible and accommodating for students with disabilities or other barriers to learning, and promotes inclusivity helping students achieve their full potential.

Our social spaces provide students with a place to relax, unwind and interact with their peers. These facilities are designed to ensure students have a well-rounded experience while studying at college. We also have food outlets that offer a variety of meals and snacks, catering to different dietary requirements.

We pride ourselves on offering top-quality teaching areas across all of our campuses. At both campuses Foundation Learning access the vocational areas where appropriate to enhance the curriculum. We also have kitchens and garden areas at both campuses for students to develop life skills and independence. Classrooms are equipped with the latest technology to enhance learning experiences, including interactive whiteboards and multimedia projectors.

We have support services such as wellbeing, counselling and learning support assistants on site which we believe enhances the overall quality of life for students and staff.



THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Let's assume you've done your research and know that we're the right college for you. Now you just need to apply, it's very straightforward. Follow our guide and you'll be here in no time at all.

TOP TIPS SEE BELOW

We use email to keep you in the loop and occasionally a letter, text message or phone call, so please make sure the email you give us on your application form is one you check regularly (preferably your personal email, not your school email).

1 | APPLYING

1 | APPLYING

We encourage you to submit your application online at www.btc.ac.uk but you can pick up an application form from the the main reception of every campus. Please let us know on the application form if you have an EHCP.

2 | EHCP CONSULTATION

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If you have an EHCP your Local Authority will need to go through a consultation with BTC. In your last EHCP annual review please ask for BTC to be consulted.

3 | THE INTERVIEW

3 | THE INTERVIEW

You will be invited to an interview by email, please make sure your application form has an up-to-date email address. Your interview will be with a member of the Foundation Learning team at the campus you have applied for. They will ask questions to make sure it is the right course for you.

4 | TRANSITION

4 | TRANSITION

Our BTC School Transition team will be able to talk to you about any additional time you need for us to get to know you and you to get to know us. Please contact them on ALStansitions@btc.ac.uk or call **01278 455464** and ask to speak with them.

5 | OFFER

5 | OFFER

After your interview, we will email you an offer of a place. You will need to accept this offer by responding to the email.

6 | ENROLMENT

6 | ENROLMENT

You will be emailed to enroll with the college. This will include filling in your information and sending us a photo. Don't worry if you find this difficult, we can support you to do this onsite when you start your course.

CHOICES FOR INDEPENDENCE

Who is this course for?

This course is for individuals with profound and multiple learning difficulties or severe learning difficulties who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

What is the course about?

The aim is to prepare students for adulthood by developing:

- Communication skills
- Life skills.

How does the course work?

This is a 3 day a week course that has a multi-sensory approach with real life experiences and opportunities to make choices, these will include:

- Cooking and life skills
- Accessing the community
- Accessing the college facilities
- Interactive communication
- Horticulture
- Sensory learning.

You will be assessed through staff feedback, photos and videos.

What are your next steps?

On completion of your course you may be able to transition into adult life through a circle of support and/or adult social care.



MORE
CONFIDENT

"I couldn't be prouder of the students who are new to the game of Boccia, this was their first ever competitive game. They were outstanding and represented the college impeccably from start to finish, showing competitive spirit and good sportsmanship. They are looking forward to competing in the National Finals in Nottingham and hoping to bring the trophy home."

Jane Irons | Foundation Learning, Curriculum Manager
Bridgwater & Taunton College



COMMUNITY MINDED

"The students have worked tirelessly to help revitalise the West Somerset Railway garden. The group are a credit to the College and should be very proud of their achievements."

Roby Greenslade | Deputy Stationmaster
Watchet Station

PATHWAYS TO INDEPENDENCE

Who is this course for?

This course is for individuals with Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) who need support within their lessons to develop independence.

What is the course about?

The aim is to prepare students for adulthood by developing:

- Communication skills
- Personal and social development
- Life skills
- Independence
- Self-confidence
- Employability skills.

How does the course work?

The course is 4 days a week and offers a variety of vocational subjects, access to the community and practical experiences with an emphasis on independence. You will build transferable skills to support you towards your next steps.

A timetable may include:

- Cooking and life skills
- Community access
- Active lifestyle
- Social communication
- Horticulture
- Group and individual work experience or volunteering
- Social enterprise and employability
- English and maths development.

You will be assessed through staff feedback, photos, videos and written work.

What are your next steps?

On successful completion of this course you may progress onto an Entry Level course with increased independence in Foundation Learning. You may transition into adult life through a circle of support and/or adult social care. Alternatively, you may move on to work based learning courses such as a Supported Internship or Supported Employment outside of college.



HIGHER ASPIRATIONS

"Poppy made huge progress as a student with BTC, academically, socially and emotionally. She was a fantastic student to teach and a great role model to other students. Poppy's peers profited from her knowledge, and her determination led her onto a fantastic opportunity, she's studying Education at Winchester University."

Christa Gambier | Foundation Learning, Lecturer
Bridgwater & Taunton College

MULTI TRADE

Who is this course for?

This course is suitable for individuals who are undecided on their future, have barriers to learning and need an entry point to college to support their next steps.

What is the course about?

The aim is to develop an individual's:

- Vocational skills
- Employability skills
- Personal and social development
- Transferable skills.

How does the course work?

The course is 3 days a week and offers a variety of vocational subjects to prepare you for Level 1 programmes at college.

A timetable could include:

- Motor vehicle
- Construction
- Sport
- Hair and beauty
- Health and social care
- Culinary skills
- Land-based studies / horticulture
- English and maths development.

You will be assessed through written work, staff feedback and photo and video evidence.

What are your next steps?

On completion of your course you may progress on to study a Level 1 or 2 course at BTC, based on a successful interview. You may also want to look at other options such as a work based learning course for example a Traineeship or Apprenticeship.





SAFER, HAPPIER HEALTHIER

"Participating in social and enterprise events has a positive impact on the wellbeing of individuals, especially for students who are developing their social and professional skills. It provides an opportunity for individuals to socialise, connect with others, and build relationships as well as having a positive impact on their self-esteem and confidence."

Blossom Wyson | Foundation Learning, Curriculum Manager
Bridgwater & Taunton College

TRANSITION PATHWAYS

Who is this course for?

This course is designed for those who need a safe and nurturing environment to be able to develop their confidence and self-esteem before transitioning onto other college courses. Students on this course usually need support with their mental health and anxiety.

What is the course about?

The aim is to:

- Increase self-esteem and confidence
- Develop resilience
- Increase independence
- Prepare you for higher level study across the college
- Develop life skills
- Develop social communication skills.

How does the course work?

The course is 3 days a week, that includes a variety of learning opportunities including:

- Community access
- Meal planning and cooking
- Independent living skills
- Personal and social development
- Wellbeing development
- Volunteering projects and work experience
- Vocational tasters to higher level programmes
- English and maths development.

You will be assessed through staff feedback, employer feedback, photos and videos as well as written work.

What are your next steps?

On completion of the course you can apply for Level 1 and Level 2 courses, seek employment or apply for a work based learning course such as a Supported Internship or Apprenticeship.



STEPS INTO FURTHER EDUCATION

Who is this course for?

This course is for those who have found it difficult to attend and/or engage in school as well as struggle to develop behaviours for learning.

What is the course about?

The course aims to:

- Develop and support your Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) and behavioural needs
- Increase engagement and attendance
- Develop transferable skills
- Prepare you for your next steps in education
- Develop aspirations
- Increase confidence and self-esteem.

How does the course work?

The course is a minimum of 1 day a week but aims to increase the amount of time at college over the academic year. Timetables may include:

- Teambuilding and communication development
- Practical skills projects
- Vocational tasters
- Personal and social development
- English and maths development

You will be assessed through photos, videos, staff feedback and written work.

What are your next steps?

On completion of this course you will be able to increase your engagement and attendance in education and move onto full time course at college.

BETTER COMMUNICATOR

"Jesse's work placement at the Artteazen Café is allowing him to thrive. This opportunity is a highly supportive placement with an understanding environment and has seen Jesse's speech become clearer and he is able to express himself more."

Helen Haussman | Foundation Learning, Senior Work Placement Coordinator
Bridgwater & Taunton College





EFFECTIVE LEARNER

"Our primary role as a college is to prepare young people of all ages and abilities for the modern world of work. We cannot stress highly enough the importance of real-life experience, where students, some of whom face highly challenging situations in their personal lives, are able to take their learning outside of the classroom in locations including Greenway Farm."

Jason Gunningham | Assistant Principal for Land-based, Sport and Foundation Learning
Bridgwater & Taunton College

CULINARY SKILLS

Who is this course for?

This course is suitable for individuals who are interested in catering and hospitality, have barriers to learning and are not ready to complete a Level 1 programme.

What is the course about?

The aim is to develop an individual's:

- Culinary skills
- Hospitality skills
- Budgeting and monetary skills
- Employability skills
- Personal and social development
- Transferable skills.

How does the course work?

The course is 3 days a week and includes a variety of learning opportunities including:

- Weekly Red Apron Kitchen, making and selling food to staff and students
- Meal planning and budgeting
- Culinary skills for professional cookery
- Independent living skills
- Personal and social development
- Individual and group work experience
- English and maths development.

You will be assessed through staff feedback, employer feedback, photos and videos as well as written work.

What are your next steps?

On completion of this course you will be able to apply for a Level 1 Catering and Hospitality course at our Taunton Campus, apply for work-based learning courses or seek employment in Catering and Hospitality roles.



SUPPORTED INTERNSHIP

Who is this course for?

This course has been designed for individuals with an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) who are motivated to work. Usually, students have been in further education for 1 or 2 years before progressing onto this course.

What is the course about?

The aim of the course is to:

- Transition young people into paid employment at the end of the course, wherever possible
- Develop employability skills
- Develop work ethic
- Increase independence.

How does the course work?

You will spend a small amount of time in college and the majority of your week with an employer. The course offers a variety of employability learning opportunities including:

- Internship placement(s) with an employer
- Employability lessons
- Social Enterprise projects
- Visits to and from employers
- Mock interviews
- English and maths development.

You will be assessed through staff feedback, employer feedback, photos and videos as well as written work.

What are your next steps?

On completion of your course you will have the skills to go into paid employment, continued supported employment or study a work-based learning course such as a Traineeship or Apprenticeship.



HPC SUPPORTED TRAINEESHIP

Who is this course for?

This course is for individuals with SEND or Autism who are motivated to work. Usually, students have been in further education for 1 or 2 years before progressing onto this course.

What is the course about?

The aim is to:

- Transition young people into paid employment at the end of the course wherever possible
- Develop employability skills
- Develop work ethic
- Increase independence
- Develop nuclear behaviours
- Pass a health and safety and environment test.

How does the course work?

This is a 13 week course. You will spend 5 weeks in training to prepare you for working at Hinkley Point C, following this you will undertake an 8 week work placement.

The course offers a variety of employability learning opportunities, including:

- Traineeship placement with a Hinkley Point C contractor
- Employability lessons
- Visits to and from employers
- Mock interviews
- English and maths development
- Job coaching.

You will be assessed through staff feedback, employer feedback, photos and videos as well as written work.

What are your next steps?

On completion of your course you will have the skills to go into paid employment, continued supported employment or a work-based learning course such as an Apprenticeship.



SUPPORTED INTERNSHIP PROJECT SEARCH MUSGROVE HOSPITAL

Who is this course for?

This course is for individuals with an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) who are motivated to work. Usually, students will have been in further education for 1 or 2 years before progressing onto this course.

What is the course about?

The aim is to:

- Transition young people into paid employment, within the hospital, at the end of the course, wherever possible
- Develop employability skills
- Develop work ethic
- Increase independence.

How does the course work?

This is a 5 days a week course and you will be based at Musgrove Hospital for the majority of your week. You will take part in work placement rotations to develop your skills and have lessons at the beginning and end of your day. The course offers a variety of employability learning opportunities including:

- Internship placement at Musgrove Park Hospital
- Employability lessons
- Visits to and from employers
- Mock interviews
- English and maths development
- Job coaching.

You will be assessed through staff feedback, employer feedback, photos and videos as well as written work.

What are your next steps?

On completion of your course you will have the skills to go into paid employment, continued supported employment or a work-based learning course such as a Traineeship or Apprenticeship.

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

"Since the introduction of the Project SEARCH programme at Musgrove Park Hospital in 2015 we have supported dozens of young people to grow, develop and realise their potential in the work environment, with many going onto paid employment after the programme. They breathe life into the corridors of our hospital, and it is a pleasure to host these students."

Hayley Peters | Chief Nurse
Musgrove Park Hospital



TRANSITION TO FURTHER EDUCATION

Who is this course for?

This course is for individuals who are unable to engage in a mainstream campus and need support to develop their behaviour, confidence and self-esteem. Those on this course usually need additional support with their mental health and/or behaviour for learning and have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

What is the course about?

The course aims to:

- Develop and support your Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) and behaviour needs
- Increase engagement and attendance
- Develop transferable skills
- Prepare you for your next steps in education
- Develop aspirations
- Increase confidence and self-esteem.

How does the course work?

This is a 3 day a week course where you will be in a group of 4-6 students with high levels of support.

After initial assessment, you will be supported to participate in the following opportunities:

- Cooking
- Life skills
- Construction/workshop skills
- Horticulture
- Sport
- Creative arts
- Personal and social development
- Social communication development
- English and maths development.

You will be assessed through staff feedback, photo and video evidence as well as written work.

What are your next steps?

On completion of this course you will be able to move into a larger group with reduced support at college, apply for work-based learning or seek employment.



ENTRY TO LAND-BASED STUDIES

Who is this course for?

This course is for individuals who have Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) difficulties who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and want to develop land-based industry knowledge and skills.

What is the course about?

The course aims to:

- Develop and support your Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) and behaviour needs
- Develop strategies to manage behaviour
- Increase academic attainment
- Develop independence
- Acquire knowledge and skills in land-based industries.

How does the course work?

This is a 3 day week course that includes a variety of practical and classroom learning experiences, including:

- Horticulture
- Conservation and landscaping
- Small animal care
- Construction/workshop skills
- English and maths development
- Life skills
- Social communication development.

You will be assessed through videos, photos, staff feedback and written work.

What are your next steps?

On completion of this course, you will be able to apply for a Level 1 course in a related subject. You may also wish to apply for a work-based learning programme such as an Apprenticeship or seek employment.



AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE PATHWAY TO EMPLOYMENT

Who is this course for?

This course is for individuals with an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) who may need support to transition into employment. Usually, students will have been in further education for one year before progressing onto this course.

What is the course about?

The aim is to:

- Develop skills in real-life employment opportunities to prepare you for the workplace
- Develop employability skills
- Develop work ethic
- Increase independence.

How does the course work?

The course centres around a work placement that is at least 2 days per week. You will also spend at least 1.5 days a week at college developing English and maths skills, employability skills and attend tutorials. Our dedicated staff work with you to identify a placement match with Avon and Somerset Police. You are supported throughout the process to ensure you have the best chance to succeed.

The course offers a variety of learning opportunities including:

- Work Placements at Avon and Somerset Police
- Employability lessons
- Visits to and from employers
- Mock interviews
- English and maths development
- Job coaching.

You will be assessed through staff feedback, employer feedback, photos and videos as well as written work.

What are your next steps?

On successful completion of your course, you will be prepared for a Supported Internship Programme, gain sustainable paid employment or a work-based learning course such as a Traineeship or Apprenticeship.



NEWS



Winners of the Social Mobility Award 2023

BTC were awarded Silver in the Social Mobility Awards for 2023. The awards were established to recognise and encourage action that will promote and increase social mobility within Britain's companies and institutions. The awards recognise best practice and innovation, celebrate excellence and achievement and elevate social mobility as a cause equal to the level of other diversity issues.

Jason Gunningham, Assistant Principal said,
"We are honoured to receive the UK Social Mobility Award, a recognition of our commitment to fostering a culture of inclusivity and equal opportunity. This accolade reaffirms our dedication to providing a transformative educational experience, where every student can aspire and achieve their full potential, regardless of their background."

Charlie reached the finals of the SEBP Awards

Charlie was nominated as a finalist in the Supported Employee of the Year category in the Somerset Education Business Partnership Awards 2023.

Charlie, joined Wilson James through the Supported Traineeship Programme and works for the Construction Logistics team on Hinkley Point C. The programme supports individuals with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) or who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

Lorna Whitford, Head of Foundation Learning said,
"It is absolutely fantastic that Charlie was a finalist for this amazing award. Charlie is such a great example of how the partnerships with employers, supported employment agencies and education can jump start a career for a young person with SEND."



Ciaran wins the BTC Principal's Prize

The Principal's Prize is awarded to a student who has made an individual outstanding contribution to the college. They will have gone above and beyond on their course, made an impressive personal progression throughout their time at BTC, embraced the college values and stood out in all areas. There were nominations from across the college but this year's winner was Ciaran Perry-Mellett, a Learning for Life and Work student.

Jane Irons, Deputy Head of Foundation Learning said,
"Ciaran is a remarkable student, actively engaging in various roles including class representative and ambassador. He excels in giving tours, representing foundation learning during events, and volunteering for fundraising efforts, notably aiding the Ukrainian fundraising day. Ciaran's deep understanding of MY BTC values underpins his contributions, consistently leading to positive outcomes."

FAQs

You're not the only one with questions. Below are answers to some of the questions we've been asked before. However, if you have questions that aren't answered below please contact our Information & Advice team on 01278 441234.



What happens during my last year at school?

During the autumn term you will have the opportunity to, attend open events at the college, receive school careers advice and guidance, undertake an EHCP annual review with your current school - make your post 16 preference choice clear. Your school will send annual review paperwork to your Local Authority.

During the winter term you will, make an application to college and attend open events if you haven't already done so or require further support. Your Local Authority will consult with the college about your EHCP and, if necessary, other post 16 providers. BTC will respond to the consultation confirming if we can meet the needs within this. If we determine we can meet your needs, you will be invited to attend an interview.

During the summer term you will, undertake an interview for the course you have applied for. You will receive an offer for a course which best supports your needs. You will be invited to taster session for your course.

Over the summer holidays you will receive joining instructions and enrolment details, these will be emailed to you and will need to be completed before you start college in September.

Am I able to view the facilities before I start?

Yes, we hold regular Open Events. You will also be able to look around at your interview and on any taster sessions you attend.

What is an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)?

An EHCP is a document all about you and how to support you in Education, Health and Care. It helps a college make sure you are matched to the right course with the right level of support.

How do the Local Authority know which college to send my EHCP to?

In your Annual Review, make sure you speak about which post 16 education you would like to go to. Your current school will be able to include this information in your Annual Review paperwork.

What happens with my EHCP when I go to college?

The transition of an EHCP from a school to a college needs to go through a consultation process. The Local Authority should send an EHCP to the college so we can make sure we can meet the needs written in the EHCP.

What qualifications do I need for my course?

You do not need to have any qualifications to start the majority of our courses in this prospectus. The staff will find out more about you and will match you to the best course to support your needs at the right level that you are working at. You will need an Education, Health and Care Plan for some of the courses. The course information pages will give you more detail about this.

Will I need to have an interview?

Yes, these are all face to face and held on the relevant campus with the course tutor. We encourage you to come along with a family member or someone who can support you. The interview is an informal chat with you and a parent/carer. Don't worry, the tutors are really friendly and just want to get to know you better.

Do I have to wear a uniform?

No, we do not have uniforms at college. If you are in a lesson in a workshop or kitchen, you will need to wear Protective Personal Equipment (PPE). You will also get a lanyard, this needs to be worn everyday you are at college.

What time will I start and finish on a college day?

Foundation Learning courses start at 9am or 9:30am and either finish at 3pm or 3:30pm.

What will my timetable be like?

Foundation Learning courses are all different in length. You will get information in the summer about your start day and what your timetable looks like. It will include English and maths, a tutorial and lessons that relate to your course.

I am nervous about joining college as I have no friends there.

Staff in Foundation Learning are supportive and will help you make friends in your group. They will also encourage you to be independent at break and lunch times so you can have time with the new friends you make.

Where will my course be taught?

Usually, it will be the closest campus to where you live. Speak with staff at interview for options or you can call **01278 441242** or email **LBSFadmin@btc.ac.uk** to ask for more information.

How will I be assessed on my course?

All our courses are assessed through Reviewing and Recording Progress and Achievement (RARPA) as a non-accredited assessment. This will include teacher feedback, photo and video evidence, self-assessment and written work.

You will also have the opportunity to complete an English and/or maths qualification. You will need to do an exam to pass these and your lessons will support you to prepare for this.

Where can I buy food at college?

We have a restaurant on every campus. You can buy snacks, drinks and cold and hot meals. If you get a bursary you can get a free hot meal with a drink. Free meals are added to your student card to pay with.

Are there any bursaries and grants available?

You can apply for the Learning Support Fund with help from Student Support. This will support you with the costs of your course materials, trips and equipment.

Will I have access to Learning Support?

There will be one Learning Support Assistant (LSA) per class, and we also have small groups sizes of 8-12. Some groups may need additional support and this will depend on your EHCP.

Every effort has been made to ensure the information in this prospectus is fair and accurate at the time of print (March 2023). We made every effort to publish up-to-date information on our website - www.btc.ac.uk.

Bridgwater & Taunton College reserves the right to amend information at any time.

Thank you to all the students and staff who have granted permission for images and quotations to be reproduced in this publication.

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GET IN TOUCH

Bridgwater Campus

Bath Road, Bridgwater
Somerset TA6 4PZ

Taunton Campus

Wellington Road, Taunton
Somerset TA1 5AX

Cannington Campus

Rodway Farm, Cannington
Somerset TA5 2LS

01278 441234
info@btc.ac.uk



For more Info
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www.btc.ac.uk
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code

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