

top tips for choosing a higher education course & provider as a BTEC student

from university admissions teams

Check...

- Application deadlines - try to apply well ahead of time! Your college will likely also set a deadline
- The full official name of your BTEC qualification and how many A Levels it is equivalent to using the [UCAS tariff calculator](#)
- The entry requirements, which will be either a UCAS tariff score or a combination of Distinction, Merit and Pass grades
- The modules, teaching methods, assessment methods and final qualification of any course you're considering applying for
- Travel time from where you'll be living (home, university accommodation, private accommodation like a houseshare or flatshare?) to where you'll spend most of your time (like lecture halls, the library, students' union and sport facilities)
- Costs of living compared to any student finance you will be applying for
Any available bursaries or scholarships for your chosen course and/or place of study - you can look [here](#) and on individual university websites

Consider...

- What you enjoy about your BTEC and any particular units that interest you
- Your skills, personality and passions and how they could align to a course, career or both
- Different universities may offer similar sounding courses, but the content and assessment could be completely different, so always check you're applying for a course that suits you
- Are any of the courses you're interested in accredited by a professional body? For courses in areas like healthcare and engineering this can be beneficial for your future career so you'll want to know
- How much of the course is made up of contact hours (lectures, tutorials, labs, seminars etc) and how much is driven by independent learning. You'll need to look at the course page on each university's website to find this for each specific course, but generally you can expect subjects like English and history to have more independent learning, whereas science and maths subjects will have a lot of contact hours
- Will the timetable be delivered face to face, online or mixture?
- Trips, study abroad or work experience opportunities that are part of the course
- The facilities and social life on offer
- Support on offer – this could be academic, financial or disability and/or mental health support
- Graduate destinations - universities will often publicise their alumni destinations

Chat to...

- > Family & friends
- > Teachers
- > Personal tutors
- > Careers advisors
- > Current students from a university or course you're interested in. You can use the UCAS chat function [here](#) (this is powered by UniBuddy)
- > Student ambassadors
- > [Luna the bot](#) from What Uni

Where to research

[UCAS Hub](#)
[UCAS Course Search Tool](#)
[Discover Uni](#)
[Complete University Guide](#)
[WhatUni](#)
[The Student Room](#)
[The Scholarship Hub](#)
[National Careers Service](#)
[Prospects](#)

