

# BRIGHT FUTURES

Our guide to student finance, getting out and about and help for families



October 2021

## IN THIS ISSUE...

### The Student Experience

Why would you go to an open day?

### Getting Out and About

Local bike rides that the whole family can enjoy

### Extra Help

What is the 16-19 bursary?

# Why would you go to an open day?

---

## Meet current students

Chat with current students – hearing about being a student first-hand provides you with a great insight into the reality of what day-to-day life is like. You will also get the chance to meet students who are considering their choices – just like you!

## Ask questions about your course

Course leaders and admissions tutors will be on hand, so ask them any questions you have about your chosen course. How is it structured? What choice of modules is there? Is there opportunity for placements and field trips? What's the style of teaching and assessment? Test their knowledge!

## Take an accommodation tour

Check out the accommodation options, take a tour and find out more from students currently living in halls.

## Explore the campus

Check out the facilities that are important to you and your chosen course, as well as visiting the more general facilities such as the library, the Students' Union (SU) and sports facilities.

## Visit the Students' Union (SU)

Discover more about the hub of student life, and what clubs and societies you can join. The SU offers a place to take time out, relax, gain advice and socialise.

## Get advice on money

Managing your money can be daunting at first, so let the finance team help to prepare you with one of their budgeting workshops or attend a session on applying for student funding.

## Soak up the atmosphere

Finally, it's all about soaking up the atmosphere and trusting your instincts. By attending an Open Day, you have taken the first step towards your future and sometimes you 'just know' if this is the right university for you!

## Getting Out and About

---

We know holidays can be expensive so take a look at this fun-filled list of bike rides that the whole family can enjoy. This week's information comes from the Plymouth University cycle club and students talk about good trails and their experiences.

### Dartmoor

The ability to head off-campus and roam the expansive countryside that surrounds the city in almost every direction makes cycling the perfect activity to go alongside your studies. Few destinations fit the bill better than Dartmoor National Park. It's not for the faint-hearted – if you're not cycling uphill, you're cycling down – but your effort is rewarded with super views. It's around 45 minutes' cycling from Plymouth, so outings of the University's cycling club to Dartmoor are arranged at weekends, when there's more time, says Michael. A cyclist since he was 15, Michael stopped for a few years, but was bitten by the bug again at university. "The cycling club here is a better fit for me than clubs at home – everyone is the same age, with similar interests and schedules. It was very welcoming when I joined."

### Cann Woods

It's been a while since Josh has headed out on the roads in Dartmoor. "I started out in road cycling but I did my first jump on a mountain bike and the adrenaline was addictive," he says. The jumps have kept on coming, many of them in Cann Woods, a hotspot for Plymouth mountain bikers that's accessible from the city via the Plymbridge Woods cycle path. It offers challenging trails for riders of all skill levels. It's where Liam learnt to mountain bike and despite progressing fast in the sport he still enjoys heading up there. "I'd give it 2 out of 5 for difficulty but 5 out of 5 for location. We can ride up here from the University without needing a car."

## Plymbridge Woods

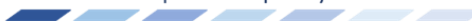
Whether it's as a jumping-off point to explore hidden trails or simply to ride along, this ten-mile traffic-free cycle path is popular with roadies and mountain bikers. Beginning in the north east of the city, it follows the path of an old rail track, climbing through woodland before opening up into gorgeous countryside. Katie loves exploring the off-road trails that spring from it – her only wish is that she had more girls to ride with. “Cycling has been a fantastic way to spend my free time at university,” she says. “It's really important for girls to get involved too, so they know it's not totally a man's sport.” Lucy, a road rider, agrees – there are just two other roadie girls in the club: “I'd say to other girls who are thinking about it – there's nothing to be scared of. The more of you that come along the more likely you'll want to continue.”

## Drake's Trail

Another dedicated cycle route, Drake's Trail has 21 miles of largely off-road tarmac linking Plymouth with the nearby town of Tavistock. It shares ground with the Plymbridge trail, picking up where it ends in Clearbrook and continuing all the way to Tavistock. Given the town's location on the western edge of Dartmoor, the Cycling Club uses it as a more relaxed way to open or close a big ride in the National Park, and it's an excellent facility for beginners looking to get started in a (mostly) car-free environment. It begins in the city and you can pick it up on the Barbican waterfront, which is where Michael and his Club friends meet for a (half-price) coffee at Rockets and Rascals, a bicycle café that sponsors the cycling club and the place to be for cyclists, before or after a ride. “The atmosphere is nice and the coffee's great. Oh, and did I mention the discount on bike maintenance and kit for being in the club?” he says.

## The Hoe

Whatever club you decide to join at university, for many the social aspect is as important as the activity. “It introduces you to a new set of people who have exactly the same interest as you, that's the number one thing,” says Josh. It's the same for Liam, who hadn't done any cycling until university. “I was walking past the Societies Fair in the Students' Union, where I was working,” he says. “It seemed like a good fit and I quickly fell in love with it.” Josh and Liam became fast friends through biking, with a group of eight that ride everywhere together. Whether it's loading up their cars and hitting the purpose-built biking centre of Gawton Gravity Hub, planning summer biking holidays in the Alps, or spending an evening jumping off benches at The Hoe – biking is the glue that holds them together.



# Extra Help – What is the 16-19 bursary?

---

## Overview

You could get a bursary to help with education-related costs if you're aged 16 to 19 and:

- studying at a publicly funded school or college in England - not a university
- on a training course, including unpaid work experience

A publicly funded school is one that does not charge you for attending it, like South Dartmoor Community College.

## What a bursary is for

A bursary is money that you, or your education or training provider, can use to pay for things like:

- clothing, books and other equipment for your course
- transport and lunch on days you study or train

## What you'll get

There are 2 types of 16 to 19 bursary:

- a bursary for students in vulnerable groups
- a discretionary bursary

## Bursary for students in vulnerable groups

You could get a bursary worth up to £1,200, depending on your circumstances and benefits.

### Discretionary bursary

You could get a discretionary bursary if you need financial help but do not qualify for a bursary for students in vulnerable groups. Your education or training provider decides how much you get and what it's used for.

If you're over 19, you'll only be eligible for a discretionary bursary.

Your provider will decide how you get your bursary. You might get:

- an instalment paid by cash, cheque or bank transfer
- things like a travel pass, free meals or books

Some providers also offer one-off payments to cover study trips or travel for university interviews.