

BRIGHT FUTURES

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

July 2021

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What is it like at university?

Have a question about higher education? Why not ask a student ambassador or a member of staff who will be happy to help? By using the following link you can do just that!

<https://nextstepssw.ac.uk/>

Not sure what to ask? Try using this list of questions to get you started;

General choices

- Should I go to university if I don't know what career I want?
- How can I tell if a university is a good choice for studying a particular subject?
- What are the benefits of a gap year?
- What happens if I start a course and find I don't like it?

Courses

- What have your course highlights been?
- What job/career are you aiming for?
- What support is there if you get stuck with your studies?
- How much pressure is there on your course?

Student life

- How has lockdown been for you as a student?
- Do you have any tips for using shared accommodation?
- What happens when I first get to university? I am worried about finding my way around?
- Who can I speak to at university if I need support?
- How can I find out what clubs/societies there are, as making friends is important to me?
- What is a student union?

Student finance

- What is a bursary?
- Do you have any tips for living on a budget?
- Can I work at the same time as studying?
- What money is available to me through Student loans?
- How would I pay it back?
- Does the course you are on have any extra costs?
- Who do I speak to for individual help with finance?

University applications

- I'm in year 12. When should I start thinking about my personal statement?
- How do I start writing my personal statement? What did you write about?
- What was your university interview like?
- Did you have anything extra to do (portfolio, pre-exam etc.)?
- What happens if I don't get the grades I was aiming for?
- What is clearing?

Getting Out and About

We know holidays can be expensive so we've developed a fun-filled list of free activities and ideas that the whole family can enjoy.

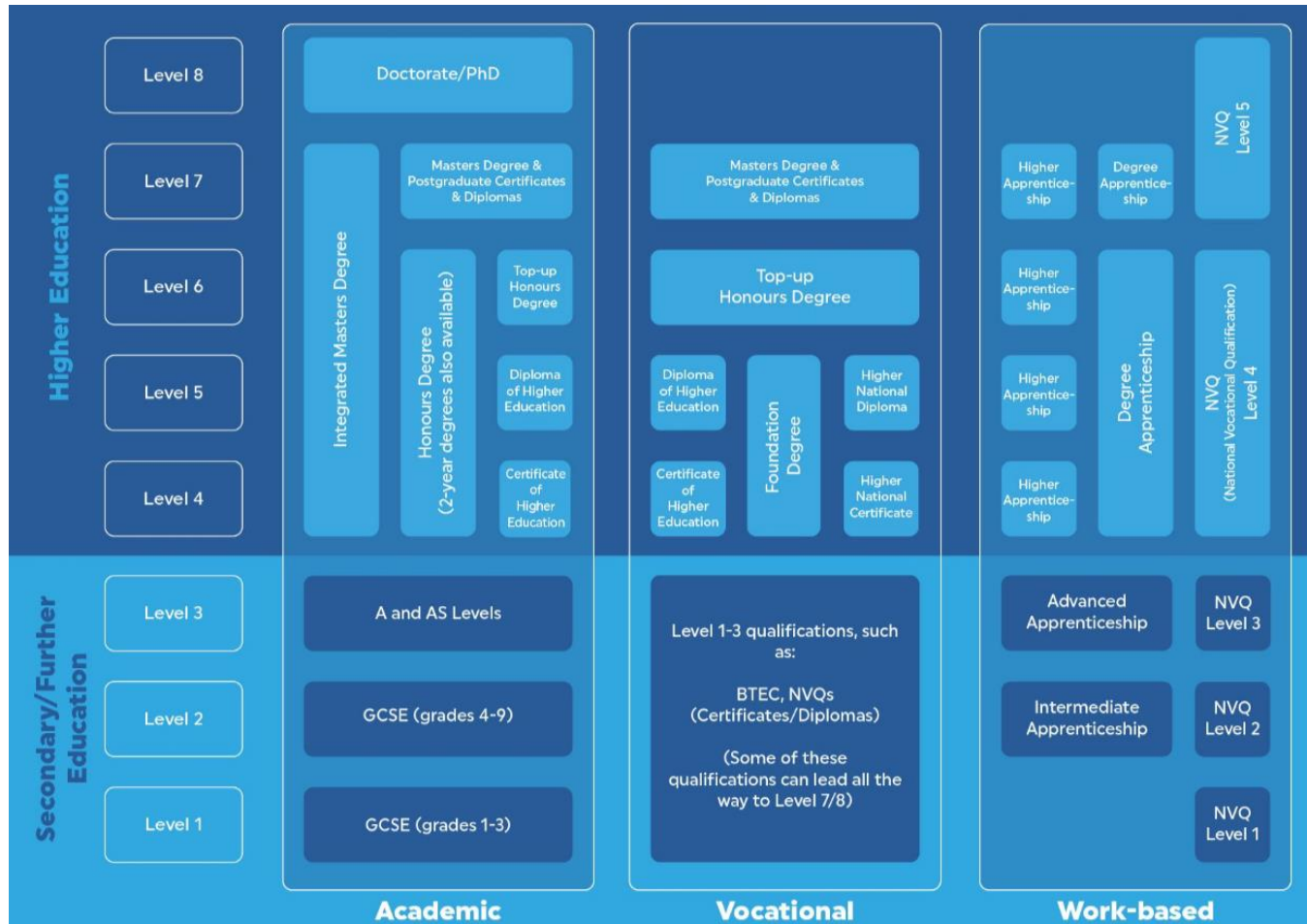
From wildlife enthusiasts to adventurers and those who just want a stress-free day out, our list of free things to do in South Devon is designed to give you plenty of choice - and apart from transport, parking and maybe the odd treat like a local ice cream, they're all free



1. Visit the [Tumbling Weir](#) in Ottery St Mary
2. Walk along the [Grand Western Canal](#) at Tiverton and see if you can spot a horse drawn barge
3. Find out about the history of Exeter on a [Red Coat Guided Tour](#)
4. Walk the [South West Coast Path](#), there are some stunning stretches like Seaton to Branscombe and Torcross to Start Point
5. Visit [Dawlish](#) and look out for the famous Black Swans
6. Build a den at [Haldon Forest Park](#) with dead wood and branches
7. Visit the picturesque town of [Bampton](#) which is home to almost 100 listed buildings and structures
8. Meet the hundreds of donkeys at The [Donkey Sanctuary](#) in Sidmouth
9. Explore the [Ludwell Valley Park Trail](#), a one and a half-mile route around Ludwell Valley Park.
10. Visit the Grade II listed town house of the [Thelma Hulbert Gallery](#)

Extra Help – Making sense of qualifications

If you're beginning to think about higher education, trying to understand the difference between all the qualifications can be confusing. That's where the chart below can help. We've listed some of the most common qualifications in terms of what level they are and where they can lead.



Please note that not all qualifications are listed here, and the chart should be used as a guide only.