

Yeovil
College

YEOVIL COLLEGE

International

A whole world of possibilities

Student Welcome pack



Welcome by Principal James Hampton



Dear Student,

Congratulations and thank you for choosing to come and study at Yeovil College. Yeovil College is a great place for you to study and learn. We pride ourselves on the quality and friendliness of our teachers and the support we provide to all our students. Whatever your learning needs, there will be someone here at college who will be able to help you. We also have a great range of facilities to help you learn as well as opportunities to take part in sport or other enrichment activities.

This is an exciting time with many new challenges and experiences waiting for you here at Yeovil.

If you have any queries that are not answered in this booklet please come to the International Office on site and our staff will happily help you.

I and my team of colleagues look forward to working with you.

Welcome to Yeovil College.

We hope you will enjoy your time with us and that you will find your studies exciting, rewarding and fulfilling. I know that our staff and students will be only too happy to provide support and help you settle into both College and community life.

I look forward to meeting you.

Welcome by Vice Principal -Jayne Lewis



College Facilities

Learning Resource Centre – Designed to support different learner needs, the Learning Centre is equipped with books, journals, online subscriptions, DVDs and over 90 computers and netbooks. Students are supported by knowledgeable and helpful Learning Resource Advisors.

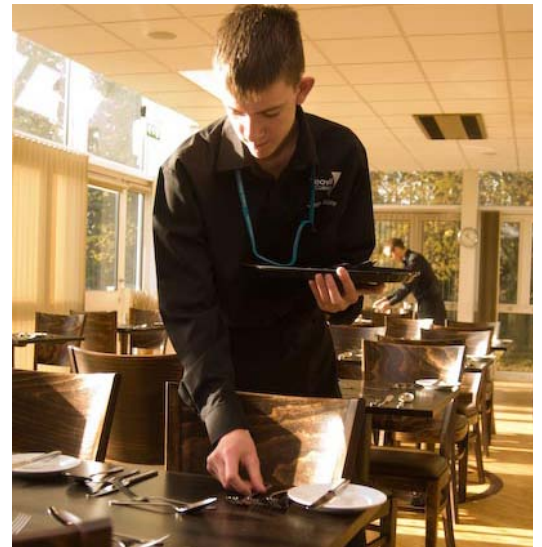
Karen Foster is the LRC manager and she will be happy to support you in the use of our state of the art facility.



Fitness Centre – The fitness centre provides a full range of aerobic and resistance equipments this includes an extensive free weights area.

DaVinci Restaurant – This popular training restaurant is open to students, staff and the public for lunches and themed evenings.

5th Floor Science Centre – This is an outstanding open-plan laboratory suite with computer access, supporting science teaching and learning for the 21st Century. Its unique design has prompted visits from other colleges and it provides a working atmosphere where science can be enjoyed.



The Megabite – The Megabite offers a wide choice of food both hot and cold.

Pure Beauty Salon – This training salon offers an extensive range of treatments to students and external clients.

The Hair Zone – This is a working training salon which offers all the usual treatments available at any hair salon.

Support offered whilst studying at Yeovil College

International Office – this is here to support you in every aspect of your time at Yeovil College. If you have a query and don't know where or who to speak to please come to the office and we will direct you to the right place or person.

Tracey Zimmerman is the Director of Adult & International Students and she will be the person who met you at the airport. "My role is to make sure that you have a culturally rich, educationally stretching and rewarding time here at Yeovil College and I look forward to meeting all of you and getting to know you whilst you are with us."

International Student Ambassadors – We are introducing student ambassadors to the College in 2010/11. Their role will be to help students during breaks and ensure that our international students are an integral part of campus life.

Yeovil College have a strong and dedicated support team which includes:

Personal Tutor - You will be given a tutor who will be your first point of contact within the college. They will help you to settle into college, support you in setting targets and ensuring that you complete work in a timely manner. You will meet your tutor once a week and they will have regular one to one meetings with you.

Health Advisor – works with all students on all aspects of health, providing a service which has been awarded Gold Status under the Respect Initiative by Somerset Primary Care Trust.

Learner Finance & Welfare – helps with all aspects of transport and finance enquiries. Getting to and from college is important if you are to get the most from your studies.

Derren Butler is the Learner Finance & Welfare Co-ordinator.



Enrichment Activities

Alongside your main study programme we offer enrichment activities. These normally happen on a Wednesday afternoon. They include:

Sporting Clubs and Activities – A number of College teams have achieved success in British Colleges' competitions and individuals have received honours at regional, national and world level. Provision for recreational sports encompass a wide range of activities including: Athletics, Golf, Swimming, Cross Country, Hip Hop Dance, Pilates, Jujutsu, Tennis, Badminton, Hockey, Rounders, Trampolining, Basketball, Fitness, Judo, Volleyball, Cricket, Netball, Football, Rugby and Table Tennis.



YCMTV – YCMTV is our student run TV station, broadcasting weekly through the College's intranet. Any student can get involved and it is a great opportunity for anyone who wants to get Media experience.

Performing Arts – Whether you are interested in performing, administration or providing back stage technical support, you may want to be part of one of the College's productions! The College also has a range of musical events and groups, including the popular 5 Feet Dance Company and New Rhythms, our integrated dance group.

YCSU – Yeovil College Student Union exists to support you in getting the most out of your time at College. We organise various activities including: College parties, live music events and the freshers' fair. We encourage all students to take part in fundraising throughout the year for the College's charities.

OFSTED Key Strengths

Overall College:

- Work-related skills development of learners
- Highly effective links with employers
- Good academic and pastoral support for learners

For Science & Maths department:

- Very good achievement of high grades
- Highly effective teaching & learning activities in many lessons
- Well designed accommodation for practical science

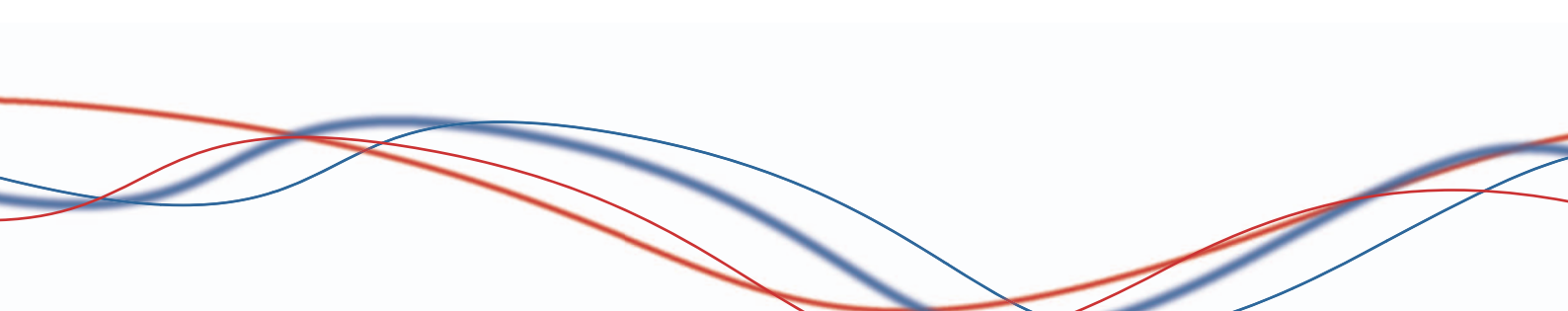
For Business department:

- Good use of information and learning technology to help learners to improve their work
- Responsive provision to meet learner needs
- High success rates

2009 Results

Students took A Levels in 28 subjects and excellent grades were achieved in a number of academic areas. 100% of students studying A Level Physics gained A to C grades, as did 92% of English Literature students, 93% of English Language students, 82% of Chemistry students and 80% of Further Maths students.

Yeovil College students also excelled in Vocational subjects and included 100% pass rates in BTEC National Diplomas (level 3) in Business, Art & Design, Media Production, Performing Arts, Sport, Travel & Tourism and Manufacturing Engineering. Many of these students went on to study further at University.



Draft Timetable

	9:30-10:30		10:45-12:15		1:15-2:45		3:00-4:30
Monday	English - Speaking and Listening	Break	English - For Academic Purposes	Break	A Level Teaching	Break	A Level Teaching
Tuesday	Chinese		Chinese or Visits		Cultural Visits		Cultural Visits
Wednesday	English - Speaking and Listening		English - For Academic Purposes		Enrichment Activities		Enrichment Activities
Thursday	Chinese		Chinese		Experimental English		A Level Teaching
Friday	English - Reflective study		A Level Teaching		Tutorial		Chinese

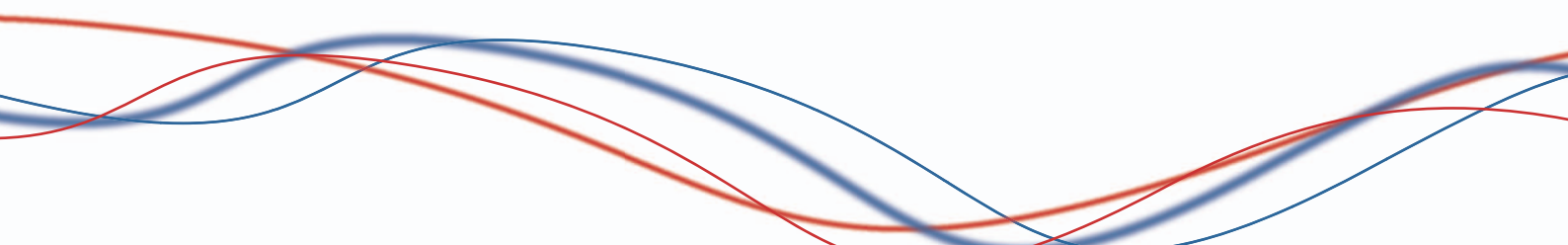
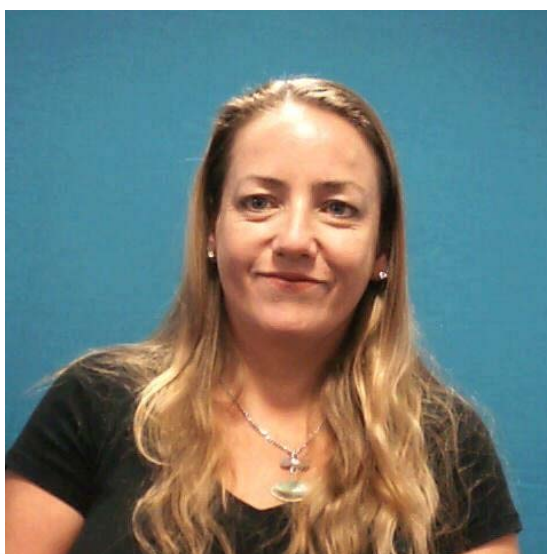
This is an example of what your timetable may look like. This will be confirmed during your induction week.

The college is split into seven faculties and you will be looked after predominantly by two of these; The Faculty for Humanities and Science and the Faculty for Preparation for Life and Work.

Faculty Director of Preparation for Life and Work – Lorraine Burchell

Welcome to the Faculty of Preparation for Life and Work where our fully qualified and very experienced lecturers will help you to improve your skills in English. Whatever your future plans – whether work or further study, we will be here to support you in your learning and to ensure your time at Yeovil College is rewarding and fun. Our English programmes are individually designed to meet your needs and you can find some examples of our English programmes below.

We look forward to welcoming you and working with you very soon.



What will my English Programme include?

All of our English programmes are specifically tailored to meet the needs, interests and ambitions of our students. Our fully qualified Lecturers can deliver an exciting mix of skills study, including Speaking and Listening, Reading and Writing skills, English and ICT, English for Business and English for Academic purposes. We welcome and work with learners from across the globe and help our students to integrate themselves successfully into English life with individualised sessions delivered on Community and Culture. We look forward to working with you.

Monday 9.30am to 10.30am - 1 hour Speaking and Listening Skills for British Life

- Social Discussion Skills – Joining in the conversation, and meeting and greeting new friends
- Telephone skills
- Questioning - Techniques and Etiquette
- Community and Culture – Hobbies and Sports
- Community and Culture – History and geography
- Understanding Accents

Monday 10.45am to 12.15pm 1.5 hours - Reading and Writing Skills for Academic Purposes

- Background reading and summarising skills
- Understanding and writing reports
- Understanding and presenting data
- Assignments – planning and structuring
- Assignments – writing and referencing
- Assignments – proof reading and editing

Wed 9.30am to 10.30am 1 hour - Speaking and Listening Skills for Academic Purposes

- Academic vocabulary, terms and phrases
- Preparing and Making Presentations
- Making sense of radio, TV and internet resources
- Academic Discussion Skills – Turn taking, interrupting, clarifying and making your point
- Listening and Note Taking – the combined skill
- Interview skills – applying for courses and jobs

Wed 10.45am to 12.15pm 1 hour - Reading and Writing Skills for English Life

- Comparing Writing Styles – formal and informal
- Media and Communication – comparing and understanding newspapers, websites, magazines and journals.
- Using and understanding idiomatic language
- Reading for specific purposes, e.g. prescriptions, visitor information, instructions
- Writing for specific purposes, e.g. letters, post cards and instructions
- Diary and journal writing using reflective practise – studying examples and planning your own

Thurs 1.5 hours - Experiential English – Mixed skills focus on speaking and understanding, reading and writing, based on the learners' experiences of their off site trips of the week.

- Learners will keep a learning diary/journal, written in English, of their 12 weeks in England.
- Learners will discuss and share experiences using their speaking and listening skills.
- They will also read about, answer questions on and generally prepare for their off site visits the following week, thus combining all four English skills with learning about our community and culture.

Friday 9.30am to 10.30am 1 hour - Reflective Practice

- An opportunity for the learners to update their personal networking site diaries and blogs so that friends and family can share in their learning journey.

University Opportunities

Many of our students are successful in gaining places at universities throughout the UK including Oxford, Cambridge, Bristol, Southampton and other prestigious institutions. You will be given lots of support and advice as you make your university choices and as you complete your UCAS application. At Yeovil College we offer a dedicated advisor to help you complete your applications. You will have the opportunity to visit universities during open days, including Oxford and Cambridge, take part in university information sessions at College during the year and the Higher Education Days.

Last year, more than 285 Yeovil College students gained places at universities across the UK including: Oxford, King's College, Reading, Warwick, Manchester, Cardiff, Plymouth and Bournemouth.

Many of our students choose to study locally at our University Centre in Yeovil. We can offer a wide range of courses both full and part-time. Our aim is to provide you with the opportunity to achieve your full potential and gain a work-related university qualification. Most of our courses allow you to retain significant levels of employment whilst studying (up to maximum allowed by Border Agency regulations). This not only helps to reduce student debt but also provides opportunities to link theory with practice.



Important Things to Remember

Punctuality and attendance are very important. You need to be at lessons at the stated time. We will provide you with a map and someone to help you initially. Absence without a valid reason will be looked at very seriously and will have to be reported to the Border Agency if over 5 days.

Religion – The UK has many people practising numerous religions. We have a chaplaincy team at the College who will help you find your nearest place of worship. The UK is a multi-cultural society and most areas welcome ethnic minorities into their communities. However, if you do experience any racial prejudice either in the college or outside please speak to our Welfare Officer or the International Office.

Travelling – We would encourage you to explore the UK whilst here. The college may organise some trips for you but it is also fun to visit places independently. The International Office will hold various brochures and offer suggestions of good places to visit.

Staying Healthy – To keep healthy in the UK is the same way as you would do at home. Eat healthy foods, exercise regularly and make sure you get enough sleep. Obviously the food here may be different and it may take time for you to become accustomed to it. Every day try to remember to eat:

- lots of fresh fruit and vegetables
- bread, pasta, rice, noodles or potatoes
- some protein – meat, fish, lentils or beans
- dairy products or calcium rich food – milk, cheese, yoghurt or soya.

Legal Drinking Age – In the UK you must be 18 years old to purchase alcohol.

Mobile Phones – You will need to check with your mobile phone provider to see if your phone will work in the UK. If not, you can buy a pay-as-you-go phone for as little as £20 and then you can buy time as you need it.

Shopping

Food – Yeovil has 5 main supermarkets – Asda, Morrisons, Tescos and Lidl. Tescos & Asda have 24 hour opening (closed Saturday night). Supermarkets offer good value for money and often have really good offers on some goods. Most supermarkets have an International aisle where you may be able to find familiar food to home.

Shoes – Yeovil has many shoe shops in the main centre (Faith, Clarkes, Stead & Simpson) and a large Brantanos on the outskirts. Most open 9am – 5pm.

Clothing – The Quedam centre in Yeovil homes Monsoon, River Island, Burtons and Dorothy Perkins. Middle street also has Lime and Primark. As an alternative to these shops there are many charity shops in Yeovil town centre and you can pick up good bargains if you shop around. Tesco and Asda both have clothing sections as well.

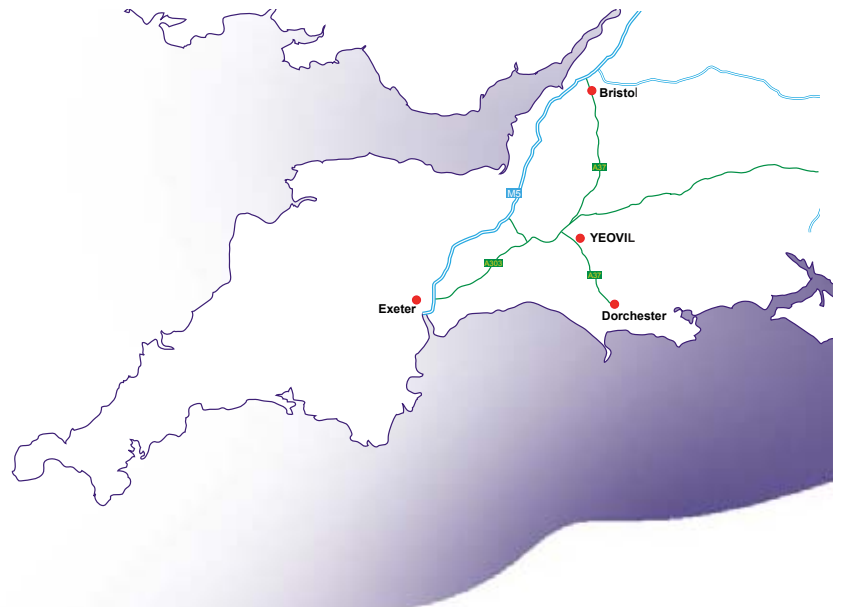
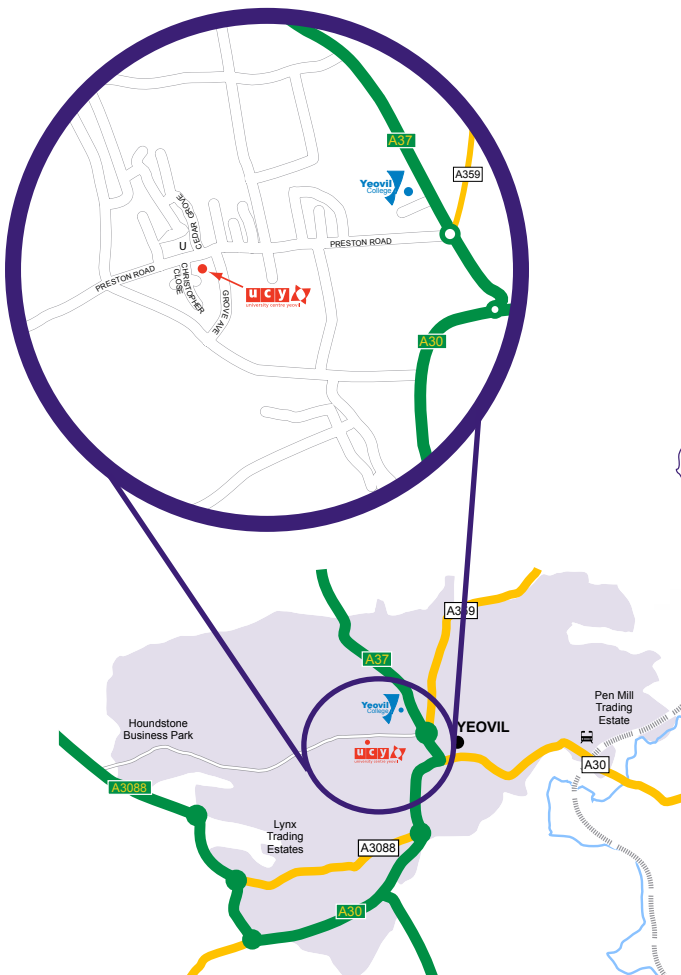
Chemists – In the main centre there is a large Boots store; within this store there is also an NHS Direct walk in centre where you can see a doctor. You will need to take your health insurance documents with you if you need to see a doctor. There are other pharmacies around Yeovil and the surrounding villages.

Books & Stationery – WHSmiths, Waterstones and Ryman's are all within the main shopping area. Waterstones and WHSmiths will order books in if they don't have them in stock. All of the supermarkets also have stationery sections. To send postcards or letters home it will cost about 70p.

Where are you studying?

The United Kingdom consists of Great Britain and Northern Island. Great Britain consists of England, Scotland and Wales.

Yeovil is in the South West corner of England.



Yeovil is a vibrant market town with a population of 40,000 situated at the southern boundary of Somerset, 130 miles from London, 40 miles south of Bristol and 30 miles from Taunton. London is 2.5 hours away from Yeovil by train.

Yeovil – The Heart of the Country ... The Mind of a City. The town is set on the Somerset/Dorset border and has a rapidly expanding town centre. Visitors to Yeovil will find an excellent selection of shops, sports facilities, theatres and leisure amenities. The beautiful Country Park offers relaxing walks and is within 5 minutes of the bustling town.

Yeovil has been nationally recognised for its crime prevention initiatives and holds the Safer Business Award. It is welcoming and safe place to shop and have fun.

Economically, Yeovil is on the verge of some very exciting new developments, which should ensure that it remains a significant place to visit and live for many years into the future.

For more information about Yeovil please visit the Yeovil website: www.yeovil.town.com

Weather

This is a popular topic with British people probably due to the fact that our weather is very changeable. We suggest that you always carry an umbrella even if it is sunny in the morning. Layers of clothes make it easier for you to adapt to the changing temperatures that can happen in a normal day.

Typical Rainfall and Temperature for Great Britain

The other thing that you may notice is that our hours of daylight changes depending on the time of year. If you are studying in winter it may not get light until 7.30am and be dark again by 4pm!

Holidays

In England we have specific days called Bank Holidays when most businesses and schools close. The following is a list of those in 2010/2011.

Summer Bank Holiday	30th August 2010
Christmas Day Bank Holiday	27th December 2010
Box Day Bank Holiday	28th December 2010
New Year's Day Bank Holiday	3rd January 2011
Good Friday	22nd April 2011
Easter Monday	25th April 2011
Early May Bank Holiday	2nd May 2011
Spring Bank Holiday	30th May 2011
Summer Bank Holiday	29th August 2011
Boxing Day Bank Holiday	26th December 2011
Christmas Day Bank Holiday	27th December 2011

The college term times are:

6th September 2010 – 20th October 2010
2nd November 2010 – 17th December 2010
4th January 2011 – 17th February 2011
28th February 2011 – 8th April 2011
26th April 2011 – 27th May 2011
6th June 2011 – 22nd July 2011

Yeovil College
Mudford Road
Yeovil
Somerset BA21 4DR
England
www.yeovil.ac.uk
+44 (0)1935 845428