



Middlesex  
University  
London

# MAKE YOUR MARK

Your guide  
to GCSEs and beyond

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MAKE YOUR MARK

# Hello...





We know university seems like a long way off. Right now, you might be thinking about coursework, upcoming exams and revision and wondering what's next. Well, you've got some big decisions coming up: will you do A-levels? Or a BTEC, perhaps? What subjects and grades do you need to get into your chosen university, if you even want to go to university at all?

Choosing the best route for you isn't always easy, but it is exciting. There are so many options available and you'll learn loads along the way. Look how far you've come since starting secondary school – just imagine where you could be in five years!



# MAKE YOUR MARK

In this guide, our past and present Middlesex University students will share their education and career stories with you, from GCSE coursework to getting their first graduate jobs. But first, we'd like to introduce you to your six tour guides who'll lead you on the journey from school to university and beyond.

Meet your Middlesex University tour guides:



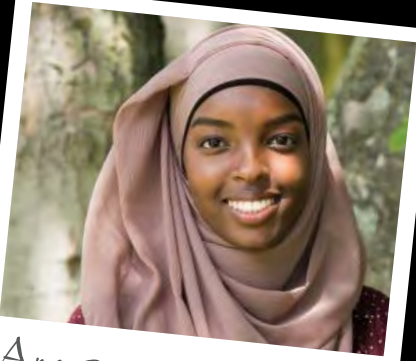
*Ludovica*

Hello, I'm Ludovica and I'm in my final year of a BA Journalism and Media degree. My favourite thing about Middlesex is the sense of community; having every subject on just one campus has helped me meet tons of amazing people and join in many extracurricular activities.



*Yasmin*

Hi, I'm a third-year BA Interpreting and Translation student. University has definitely opened many doors for me. This year, I'll be studying abroad in Prague but before that, I'm spending five months in Brussels in the Council of the European Union's Spanish Translation Unit.



Amran

Amran

Hi, I'm a third-year BSc Biology student. My favourite thing about Middlesex is the opportunities available to us such as the Biology field trip to Mauritius this year; it was two amazing weeks and an invaluable experience.



Andy

Andy

Hi and welcome. I'm Andy, a third-year BSc Adult Nursing student. I chose Middlesex University because of the friendly academic team teaching my course and the fantastic facilities on campus.



Thomas

Thomas

Hi there. I'm Thomas, a second-year BA Business Management student, and I think you're going to love it here. I usually find socialising and meeting people hard, but at Middlesex, everyone's so nice and welcoming that you can't help make new friends.



Aishah

Aishah

Hi, I'm Aishah and I'm in my final year studying BA Sociology with Criminology. Besides studying, I've also had the opportunity to work as a research assistant, student ambassador and Student Voice Leader, which have all helped me develop personally and professionally.

# How to sail through your GCSEs

Maybe you're in Year 11, busy preparing for your GCSE exams, or perhaps you've just started secondary school and you're learning about GCSEs for the first time. Whichever stage you're at, GCSEs are unavoidable and it takes a lot of time and hard work to excel, so how can you make sure you do well on your coursework and year 11 exams without feeling stressed and overwhelmed?

**"Practise.** I know you've heard it a million times but guess what, it works! Do as many GCSE past papers as you can. They help you become familiar with the way questions are asked and the exam time pressure."

**Aishah, BA Sociology with Criminology**

**"Don't quit.** You might find some assignments boring or some lessons hard to relate to, but try your best. In a few years when you go to university you'll be able to select exactly what you want to study, but until then give it all you've got."

**Alkaïos, BA Fine Art**

**"GCSEs form the building blocks that help you build a career in the future.** So, study hard and strive to attain the best results you can as it pays off in the end."

**Andy, BSc Nursing**

**"Create a timetable and keep a checklist so you don't fall behind in revision.** If you're finding it hard to concentrate, leave it for a while and come back to it, but don't wait until the last minute."

**Thomas, BA Business Management**





*Come out smiling*

**"Don't make unrealistic plans but focus on achievable revision goals. Take a break and be positive."**  
**Sabiha, BSc Mathematics**

**"Study and revise as you go throughout the year, rather than leaving it until exam season. You have one shot, so make it count."**  
**Amran, BSc Biology**

# Top 10 revision tips

1

Eat breakfast

---

2

Study at a fixed time

---

3

Spread out your revision, don't cram

---

4

Put your phone away

---

5

Practise past papers

---

6

Ask teachers for help

---

7

Teach someone

---

8

Take regular breaks

---

9

Get some fresh air and exercise

---

10

Sleep

# Boosting your brain power



Everyone can use a little boost, so next time you're hungry, choose one of these study-friendly snacks that are great for your brain and body:

<b>Eggs</b>	Packed with protein and choline, they help improve brain function and memory.
<b>Oatmeal</b>	Oatmeal is high in fibre and protein while being low in calories and fat.
<b>Carrots</b>	Carrots are packed with nutrition, including protein, natural carbohydrates, fibre, calcium and potassium. They're good for your eyes, too.
<b>Peanuts &amp; almonds</b>	They are full of proteins and high in good kinds of fats.
<b>Bananas</b>	Bananas are full of vitamins, potassium and fibre with low salt.
<b>Dark Chocolate</b>	Yes, chocolate can be good for you! Dark chocolate contains antioxidants and helps with the production of endorphins, hormones that make you feel good. Remember, eating in moderation is the key here.

# Discover your learning style

We all take in, interpret and understand information in different ways. Some of us learn better by writing everything down, some of us like to draw diagrams and flowcharts, and others prefer to listen to people speak. We all have different learning styles - let's find yours.

Read the questions below and circle the option that best suits you:

- 1. What kind of book do you like to read for fun?**
  - A. A book with lots of pictures
  - B. A book with lots of words
  - C. A book with word searches or crossword puzzles
- 2. When you're not sure how to spell a word, what are you most likely to do?**
  - A. Write it down to see if it looks right
  - B. Spell it out loud to see if it sounds right
  - C. Trace the letters in the air (finger spelling)
- 3. What's the best way for you to learn about how something works (like a computer or a video game)?**
  - A. Get someone to show you
  - B. Read about it or listen to someone explain it
  - C. Figure it out on your own
- 4. What do you find most distracting when you're trying to study?**
  - A. People walking past you
  - B. Loud noises
  - C. An uncomfortable chair



**5. When in a new place, how do you find your way around?**

- A. Look for a map or directory that shows you where everything is
- B. Ask someone for directions
- C. Just start walking around until you find what you're looking for

**6. What do you find most distracting in class?**

- A. Lights that are too bright or too dim
- B. Noises from the hallway or outside the building (like traffic or someone cutting the grass)
- C. The temperature being too hot or too cold

**7. What do you like to do to relax?**

- A. Read
- B. Listen to music
- C. Exercise (walk, run, play sports, etc.)

**8. What are you most likely to remember about new people you meet?**

- A. Their face but not their name
- B. Their name but not their face
- C. What you talked about with them

**9. When you give someone directions to your house, what are you most likely to tell them?**

- A. A description of buildings and landmarks they will pass on the way
- B. The names of the roads or streets they will be on
- C. "Follow me – it's easier if I just show you how to get there"

Now turn to page 15 to reveal your learning style.

# Your learning style revealed



A

**If you mostly answered A, you are a Visual learner.**

You learn by reading or seeing pictures. You can picture what you are learning in your head, and you learn best by using methods that are primarily visual.

You'll find something to watch if you become bored. You may have difficulty with spoken directions and might be easily distracted by sounds.

You are attracted to colour, and to spoken language (like stories) that is rich in imagery.

At university, you would enjoy tutorials where you can discuss issues in detail, libraries where you can read up on your subjects and studios where you can draw.

You should consider degrees in Maths, Physics, Arts, Humanities and Social Science subjects.

B

**If you mostly answered B, you are an Auditory learner.**

You learn by hearing and listening. You store information by the way it sounds, and you have an easier time understanding spoken instructions than written ones.

You often learn by reading out loud because you have to hear it or speak it in order to know it.

You probably hum or talk to yourself or others if you become bored.

At university, you would enjoy lectures and aural classes (where you get to listen to people talking in different languages and repeat it out aloud). You should consider degrees in Music, Languages, Education and Social Work.

C

**If you mostly answered C, you are a Tactile learner.**

You learn by touching and doing. You are a hands-on learner who prefers to touch, move, build or draw what you learn, and you tend to learn better when some type of physical activity is involved.

You need to be active and take frequent breaks, you often speak with your hands and with gestures, and you may have difficulty sitting still.

You like to take things apart and put them together.

At university, you would thrive in practical classes, like working in a studio creating models, or conducting experiments in a laboratory.

You should consider degrees in Drama, Sports, Science, Engineering and Arts.

# After GCSEs: What's your next step?

## Well done!

You've completed your GCSEs.

### What's next?

**Full time education?**

**Apprenticeship?**

**Work or volunteer while  
studying part time?**

### Full time education?

#### **BTEC**

**(Level 3 National Diploma)**

- BTECs are vocational qualifications
- You can combine studying with hands-on, practical learning
- You can study subjects related to a particular sector or industry for two years
- BTECs are assessed through coursework.

### Full time education?

#### **A-levels**

- Subject-based academic qualifications
- You can pick three or four subjects and study them for two years
- In Year 12, you do AS and in Year 13, you do A-levels
- A-levels are assessed through a series of exams and coursework.

Or

#### **International Baccalaureate (IB)**

- IB is a good alternative to A-levels
- You can pick six subjects
- IB is recognised by universities in more than 100 countries



# Further education? Work? Volunteer? Apprenticeship?

## Full time education?

### Other qualifications

#### Access to Higher Education (HE) Diploma

- You have to be at least 19 to do Access to HE Diploma
- It will take a year to complete
- Designed to prepare people without other qualifications, such as A-Levels or BTECs, to go on to study at university

#### AAT Level 3 Diploma in Accounting

- Qualification specific to accounting and finance

#### Cache Level 3 Diploma

- Qualification specific to Health and Social Care, and Education

There are also many other Level 3 qualifications.

## Apprenticeships?

Apprenticeships are similar to work-based training, where you have a paid job and you are working towards a qualification

You won't have to pay for your training – it will be paid by the government and your employer

There are different levels of apprenticeships so entry requirements vary, but you have to be 16 years and older

The easiest way to search and apply for an apprenticeship is through the Apprenticeship website - [www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](http://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)

## Work or volunteer while studying part time?

You can combine work, training or volunteering with part-time studies. Further Education colleges offer a wide range of training courses and you may also be able to study A-levels and BTECs part time.

# Sixth form goals: How to ace your A-Levels/BTECs

The transition from Year 11 to sixth form or college isn't always easy. You'll need to make new friends and get used to different teachers, and you'll find your work more challenging than before. But don't worry; with a bit of helpful advice from our Middlesex students and graduates, we're sure you'll thrive at sixth form.

**"Surround yourself with positive influences.** This is a really important time in your life and your friends have a big impact on your education, so hang out with people who want to succeed just as much as you do."

**Thomas, BA Business Management**

**"Always be on top of your work.** If you put it off until exam time it'll be too late, so learn now and revise and practise during exam time."

**Sabiha, BSc Mathematics**

**"Try to find your passion and explore it.** If you do not have any right now, try as many new things as possible. It makes a job a lot easier if you do what you love."

**Piotr Domek, Management graduate and Senior Consultant at PwC**

**"Pay attention.** Often during your education, you think you're learning things that will never be useful later in life, but actually they do matter. So concentrate on the basics and the principles."

**Ben Doran, Computer Science graduate and Head of Technology at MullenLowe Profero**

Nothing  
worth having  
comes easy

**"Take time to really reflect on what you study, since your course might kick start your future.**

Don't forget, the world is waiting for your innovative ideas. Don't give up and you'll thrive in future."

**Nadira Irdiana, Politics graduate and Gender Specialist at Plan International**

**"Ask questions when you need to, however trivial they may seem to you.**

You have nothing to lose by asking."

**Amran, BSc Biology**

# Your options. Your choice.



## Sixth Forms/ College

- A-levels
- BTEC Level 3 National Diploma
- Access to Higher Education (Diploma)
- AAT Level 3 Diploma in Accounting
- CACHE Level 3 Diploma

and similar other Level 3 qualifications

## Continue studying

(University or further education colleges)

## Gap Year/ Volunteering

Get out of your comfort zone and experience new cultures by volunteering abroad

Meet new people and make new friends

Develop your interpersonal skills

You can continue your studies when you return

## Apprenticeships

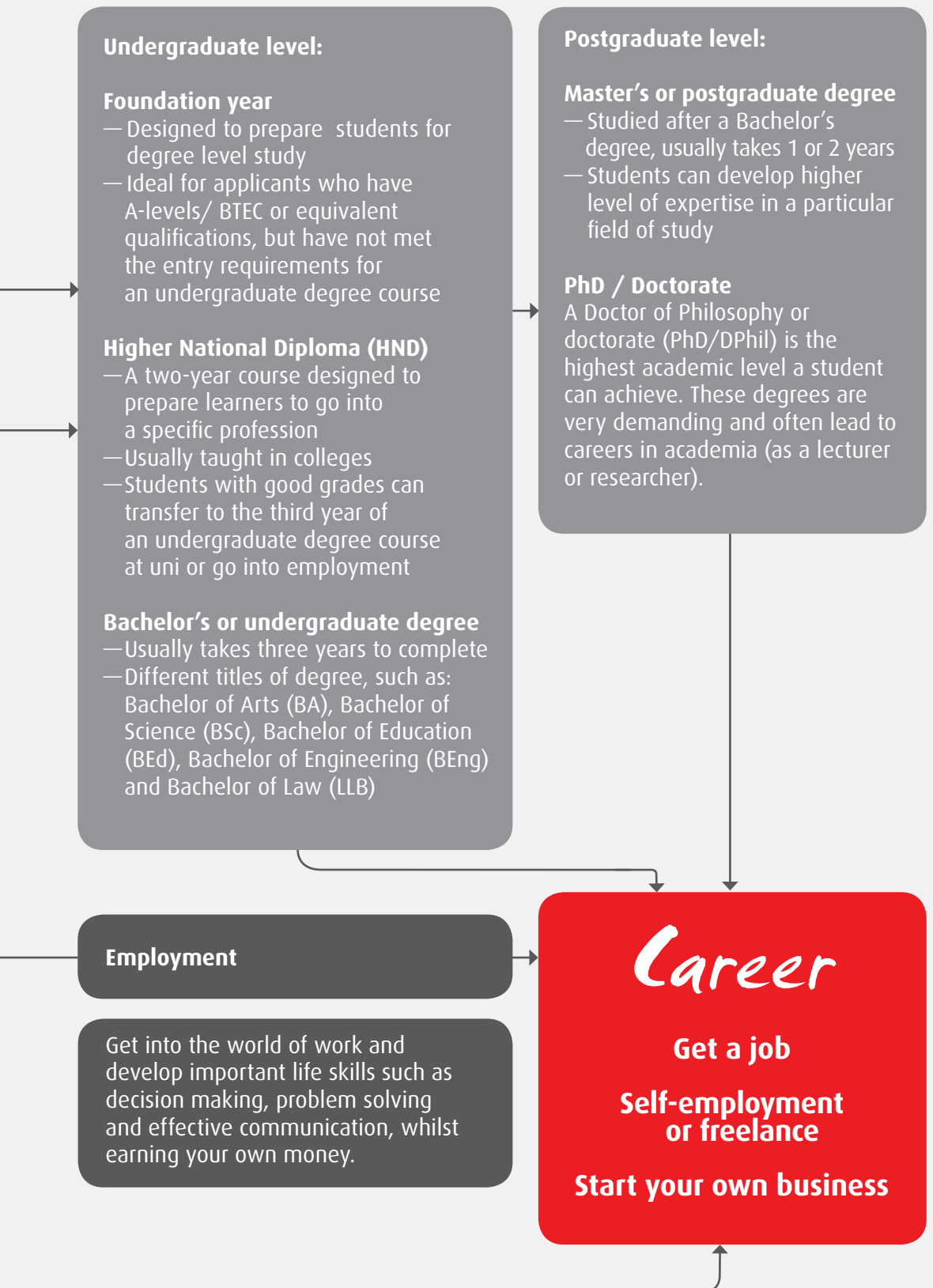
Get practical experience in an industry environment while working towards a qualification and earning a salary

You can apply for Higher Apprenticeships (which can lead to HND) or Degree Apprenticeships (equivalent to a full undergraduate degree)

Apprenticeship trains you for a specific job so make sure you're happy with the industry and you have plenty of development opportunities in the future.

You can search and apply for apprenticeship by visiting: [www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](http://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)





# Six reasons you'll have a blast at uni

It probably seems a bit scary right now, but university just might be one of the best times of your life. You'll meet new people, try new things and unlock the door to loads of exciting careers, plus you'll pick up really useful, transferable skills that will serve you well in the future, no matter what job you do. But don't just take our word for it. We asked a few Middlesex students what they loved most about university:

"It's not just about studying the subject you love, **it's also about meeting new people from all over the world** and making new friends. Through study abroad opportunities, you can immerse yourself in learning about new cultures and languages."

**Yasmin, BA Interpreting & Translation**

**"You have more opportunities than ever before.**

If there's something you've always wanted to try, university is the place to try it. Gain new skills, broaden your knowledge, be creative and study how and where you want. The choices are endless."

**Andy, BSc Nursing**

**"You forge relationships that will last for many years to come,** and they'll be a useful link to the career you'll soon be building."

**Matt, BA Illustration**

**"You have newfound freedom but you still have financial support and a bit of structure,** so you don't get thrown completely in at the deep end. It's all the fun of being a student mixed with the freedom of being an adult."

**Thomas, BA Photography**

**"Everything is on you.**  
You have control of your  
life, study, work, the food  
you eat and how you  
spend your time. Enjoy it."

**Sabiha, BSc Mathematics**

**"You'll experience so much.**

It's the one place you get to socialise,  
learn, challenge, explore, adapt, work,  
critique, improve, achieve, progress and  
expand – all in one place."

**Aishah, BA Sociology with Criminology**

*The time of your life!*

# How university can kick start your career

Loads of our graduates go on to take up terrific roles in leading organisations around the world after they leave Middlesex. We asked some of them how their degree course helped them make it to the top.

Are you thinking of a career in nursing, medicine, dentistry, law, science or the environment? You'll need a university qualification in order to enter the profession.



Steve

"I had to have the Environmental Health degree in order to become a member of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health and work towards full qualification as an Environmental Health Officer."

Steve Kasako, BSc Environmental Health graduate and Environmental Health Technical Officer at London Borough of Harrow

No matter what degree you study, you'll gain key transferable skills that will help you in any career.



Clarissa

"I would definitely not be here today if it weren't for my years at Middlesex. Some of the modules helped me develop analytical and management skills, while others taught me soft skills like team work and even shaped my personality."

Clarissa Mascheroni, BA Business Management graduate and eCommerce Marketing Manager at Mail Newspapers



## Did you know?

**On average, graduates earn £12,000 a year more than non-graduates.**  
(Source: Office for National Statistics)

You'll make really useful contacts at university, from expert lecturers to passionate classmates, and they just might help you get your first job in the industry.

"Don't underestimate the power of networking. Speak to your family, friends, fellow students and work colleagues. They can provide you with helpful feedback and advice, and you can learn about different careers and opportunities you wouldn't have known about otherwise."

Natalia Dziedzic, BA Law graduate  
and Forensic Analyst at Deloitte UK



You can develop in-depth knowledge and skills in the subject of your choice, which will help you start your career in a related subject area.



"I was always passionate about the security aspect of computer science, be it operating systems or database and network security. In my degree I chose to focus on security related topics. For my final-year project, I built a holistic data security system. All the knowledge and skills I developed helped me secure a job at IBM as security advisor."

Youssef El Malty, BSc Computer Science  
graduate and Head of Cyber Security at IBM

# Discover Middlesex University





40,000+

Middlesex students worldwide



REF 2014

The best modern university in London  
for research power (REF 2014)



132

nationalities represented by students  
at our London campus.



4 campuses

in London, Dubai, Malta and Mauritius.



£200m +

invested to transform our campus



Open 24/7

Sheppard Library – Open 24/7, free WiFi,  
free printing and free e-books

Take a virtual tour of Middlesex University  
by visiting [makeyourmark.mdx.ac.uk/  
virtual-tour](https://makeyourmark.mdx.ac.uk/virtual-tour)

# Study what you love

At university, people from all backgrounds with all sorts of skills and strengths come together to study what they love. If you choose a subject you're passionate about, you'll get so much out of your experience, improving skills you already have and discovering new ones, and pushing the boundaries and realising how capable you really are.

You'll have the experience of a lifetime, so get started now by thinking about your interests and hobbies and finding the perfect course for you.

In the upcoming section, current students and graduates will provide a first-hand account of studying at Middlesex University. Find out what's it like studying:

- Art and Design courses
- Business courses
- Education, Healthcare and Social Work courses
- Law and Social Sciences courses
- Media and Performing Arts courses
- Science and Technology courses



MAKE YOUR MARK

Go your own way



# Art and Design courses



# ANIMATION

"I've developed a more personal style"

**Giulia, BA Animation**

## Student's work

Right: David Sovic

Bottom right: Giulia Riva

## Possible careers

Animation director  
2D/3D animator  
Stop motion animator  
Games animator  
Modeller  
Compositor  
Motion graphics designer

## Related courses

3D Animation & Games BA  
Graphic Design BA  
Illustration BA

If you dream of bringing your drawings, or someone else's, to life on screen, whether it's for TV shows, film, computer games or ads, studying animation is a fantastic way to develop your production skills, industry knowledge and unique vision as an artist.

### Giulia says:

I've just finished my second-year project, 'Do You Remember?', which is about two sisters reliving their childhood memories together. It took months of work, but the reward comes from people's reactions when they watch it for the first time. It pushes me to do more. I'm fascinated by every technique I've learnt, but I don't have a distinct style yet. However, if I look back to when I started, I have definitely developed a more personal style. I am getting there!

Learn more about Giulia's work at [makeyourmark.mdx.ac.uk/giulia-riva](http://makeyourmark.mdx.ac.uk/giulia-riva)

### I want to study Animation. What should I do?

Start building your portfolio. If your Art GCSE, A-level or BTEC doesn't focus on drawing, don't worry – just set your own projects. Create some characters, draw some storyboards and do some sample animation. Remember to keep sketchbooks to show your thought process.





# FASHION

Love fashion? Step this way! Middlesex University fashion graduates have gone on to work with Kylie Minogue, Lily Allen and Rihanna, so who knows where it could take you.

## Ellie says:

I love how broad my course is. From styling to film making, you have the opportunity to really experiment within different areas of fashion communication and develop your personal style. In second year, we have a compulsory six-week work placement module. I spent my time as the marketing intern for menswear designers AGI & SAM. I had to shoot and make the look book (a set of photos displaying a fashion designer's new collection) for buyers at the Paris showrooms. The work placement was tough but well worth the industry experience I gained.

## I want to study Fashion. What should I do?

Start building your portfolio. Create your own clothes, do lots of design work, and photograph your friends wearing your designs. Write a fashion blog to show off your passion and knowledge.



## My work placement:

"I shot and made the look book that was given to buyers at Paris showrooms"

**Ellie, BA Fashion Communication and Styling**

## Student's work

Left: Flossie Thorpe-Baker  
Bottom left: Olivia Overton

## Possible careers

Stylist  
Designer  
Fashion photographer  
Fashion editor  
PR consultant

## Related courses

Fashion Design BA  
Fashion Textiles BA  
Fashion Communication & Styling BA  
Design crafts BA  
Photography BA



# FINE ART

"I love every moment I'm able to spend in the studios"

**Alkaios, BA Fine Art**

## Student's work

Right: Dean Jarvis

## Possible careers

Artist  
Curator  
Photographer  
Digital media professional  
Art therapist  
Designer  
Gallerist

## Related courses

Illustration BA  
Photography BA  
Animation BA  
Graphic Design BA

Learn to see the world through an artist's eyes. Fine artists use skill, imagination and a sense of adventure to create original works in various mediums, like painting, sculpture, installation and collage.

### Alkaios says:

My favourite thing about my course can be narrowed down to one word: freedom. We don't have set projects, so we set our own barriers and ways of overcoming them.

My specialism is video art and film making. For my final project, I made a film inspired by the ancient Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice. But I don't have one favourite project, I love every moment I'm able to spend in the studios.

### I want to study Fine Art. What should I do?

Start building your portfolio. It should contain life drawings, artwork or photos of installations or sculptures. Don't forget to include drafts, sketches and notes that will show us the way you think and work.



# GRAPHIC DESIGN

Ever looked at a magazine cover and thought, 'I could do that', or created your own font when you couldn't find one you liked? A graphic design career might be on the cards. You'll learn to communicate ideas clearly and effectively through a huge range of techniques, formats and media, like magazine design, branding, web design, printmaking and typography.

## I want to study Graphic Design. What should I do?

Start building your portfolio. Create some classic book covers, design posters and magazine covers and spreads. Include some paintings and life drawing, too.

"Graphic Design isn't what I thought it would be. It's way better than I ever imagined"  
**Melanie, BA Graphic Design**

## Melanie says:

BA Graphic Design is diverse and offers a real spectrum of possibilities. If you can't decide between photography and illustration, this course is perfect because it covers both. My favourite aspect is the facilities we have access to, from our regular studio open almost 24/7, to the amazing printmaking and photography studios and 3D workshops.



## Student's work

Left: Kuzmickaite Auste

Bottom left: Meritt Hettwer

## Possible careers

Web designer  
Graphic Designer  
Brand identity developer  
Illustrator  
Creative director  
Art director

## Related courses

Illustration BA





# ILLUSTRATION

## Why I love my course

"I feel privileged to be doing a degree where I can flex my creative muscles on a daily basis"  
**Matt, BA Illustration**

## Student's work

Right: Alex Moore

Bottom right: Nicole Cowan

If your teachers are always telling you to 'stop doodling!', and you love the idea of seeing your own original drawings on book covers, in magazines, on packaging or in adverts, an illustration course is the perfect way to unlock your natural talent and develop your unique style.

### Matt says:

I love the fact that I get to draw every day. I actually used to be an actor for eight years prior to my degree, but when I got back into painting and drawing I decided I might like to pursue a career in concept art. I discovered that having a degree in Illustration is useful for that career path.

## I want to study Illustration. What should I do?

Start building your portfolio today. Create some book covers, illustrate articles from magazines, create a graphic novel or comic, or draw a storyboard for an animation. Include drafts and sketchbooks, too.

## Possible careers

Illustrator  
Editorial illustration

## Related courses

3D Animation & Games BA  
Animation BA  
Fine Art BA  
Graphic Design BA



# INTERIORS (ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN)

Do you love decorating your room? When you visit restaurants, museums, galleries and shopping centres, do you imagine how you could redesign the interior space or remodel the building's architecture? If so, Interior Design and Architecture might be for you.

This course pushes the boundaries and challenges the definition of the word 'interior'. It'll inspire you to experiment and test out ideas to create innovative spaces where people might shop, study, explore or live. You'll learn to develop individual creativity and originality, as well as build communication, organisational and problem-solving skills.

## I want to study Interiors. What should I do?

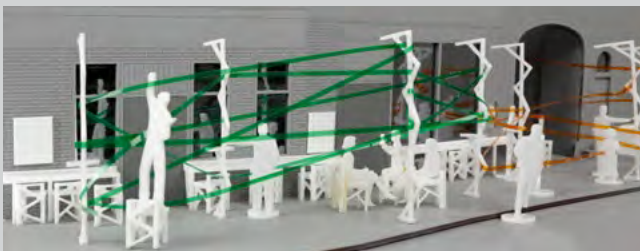
Start building your portfolio now. Photograph or draw interior spaces you find interesting, make 3D models, or design an interior space to fit a theme or meet a specific purpose. Include your notes, drafts and sketches too.

"The course provides the opportunity to learn about architecture without neglecting the artistic side of the process, which is exciting"  
**Angeles Martinez,**  
**BA Interior Design**

## Student's work

Left: Darta Liepkalne

Bottom left: Polyvios Miliotis



## Possible careers

Interior Designer  
Interior Architect  
Interior Decorator  
Exhibition Designer  
Space Planner

## Related courses

Interior Design BA  
Interior Architecture BA

# PHOTOGRAPHY

"You can explore your own ideas and discover something that surprises even yourself"

**Thomas Wynne, BA Photography**

## Student's work

Right: Robin Lambert

Bottom right: Hannah Nagle

## Possible careers

Photo-journalism  
Art direction  
Sport photography  
Still life photography  
Editorial photography  
for magazines

## Related courses

Fine Art BA  
Graphic Design BA  
Fashion, Communication  
and Styling BA

Studying photography is like learning a new language. You'll develop a critical eye and a new way of seeing the world around you, and discover how visual communication shapes, and is shaped by, history, culture and society.

### Thomas says:

My favourite project was the one from my final year where we had an open brief (instructions for a creative task). Whilst the majority of projects until then had been set briefs, this was the first time I was able to explore a subject that really interested me and produce work in my own way.



### I want to study Photography. What should I do?

Start building your portfolio. Set your own projects - create a range of portraits on a theme, organise a themed fashion shoot or create a photo-story for a magazine. Do some research to find out who takes the photos you like so you can talk about them during your interview at university.





# Business courses



# ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

"My course equipped me to get a placement at the world's number one audit and accountancy firm"  
**Sarah Iman, Trainee Auditor, Deloitte**

## Two minutes with Middlesex graduate Sarah Iman...

### Why did you choose your course?

Accounting is a very reputable profession and I've always been interested in a finance career, so studying accounting and finance at university was a stepping stone.

### How did your course at Middlesex help you get where you are today?

My course equipped me with the knowledge and skills I needed to get a placement at the world's number one audit and accountancy firm, Deloitte. My priority now is to become an ACA-qualified chartered accountant.

### What advice would you give to your younger self?

Never give up. There are going to be setbacks, and you might not get what you want straight away, but keep trying.

## I want to study Accounting and Finance. What should I do?

Although it's useful, you don't need to study Accounting at A-level or BTEC. The most important thing is that you get good grades and develop your critical and analytical skills. Get some work experience if you can, and develop some commercial awareness by reading quality newspapers or websites.

## Possible careers

Chartered accountant  
 Tax advisor  
 Retail banker  
 Management consultant

## Related courses

Business Accounting BA  
 Banking & Finance BSc  
 Business Management (Finance) BA





# BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

## Five minutes with a second-year student Thomas...

### Why did you choose to study Business Management?

I've always wanted to run my own property development business, and my sixth form teacher said a university degree would be a great way to learn about different areas of business.

### What surprised you the most about your course?

I expected the exams to be long and complicated; I have dyslexia so it can be hard for me to process long passages. But actually they were almost all multiple-choice online tests. It was much more relaxing.

### What's your plan after graduation?

I already have a job lined up actually, and I have a 20-year business plan worked out. Middlesex has taught me a lot, particularly about marketing and thanks to my course, I think I'll be a better manager in future.

### I want to study Business Management. What should I do?

Whilst Business Studies might be helpful, you don't need to study any specific subject at A-level. You do need good grades and plenty of enthusiasm. If you can, get some experience in a business setting and keep up to date with what's happening in the world of business.

"I already have my 20-year business plan worked out"

**Thomas, BA Business Management (Marketing)**



## Possible careers

Management consultant  
Retail manager  
Human resources officer  
Marketing executive  
Logistics and distribution manager

## Related courses

Business Accounting BA  
International Business BA  
Business Management  
(Human Resources) BA

# ECONOMICS

## What I love about my course

"We discuss the reasons behind our actions and how they impact on the economy"

**Alice, BSc Economics**

How can we predict consumers' behaviour? What was the lasting impact of the financial crisis in 2008? The answers to these questions and the economic principles behind them play a crucial role in every aspect of society. Economics at Middlesex arms you with the knowledge and techniques you'll need to address them head on.

This year I am working on a 20-page investment portfolio for one of my modules, which means I'm learning how to do Bloomberg analysis (real-time financial data analysis) and I am starting to apply the theory I learnt throughout my degree regarding financial markets to real life.

### Alice says:

The best thing about studying Economics at Middlesex is the level of support provided by the lecturers and the free online textbooks. I also like our proximity to central London and its modern facilities.

### I want to study Economics. What should I do?

Though not essential, Economics is a useful subject to study before university. If you're hoping to study Economics BSc and not the BA, doing Maths and/or Statistics at A-level/BTEC is helpful. Develop commercial awareness by reading business sections of quality newspapers and websites.

## Possible careers

Economist  
Chartered accountant  
Financial risk analyst  
Investment analyst

## Related courses

Accounting & Finance BA  
Business Accounting BA  
Banking & Finance BSc  
Business Management (Finance) BA



# HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

## Rowena says:

My course was very practical. I particularly loved one module where a group of us became consultants to a charity based in north London, and had to advise them on a number of issues. It was a fantastic opportunity to apply the theory I learnt in my course to a real-life situation.

Getting into Disney was my big career break. I worked very hard to secure my place there as a Learning Development Administrator and got fast-tracked through the company. The education and range of skills I developed whilst I was at Middlesex definitely played a role in my career progression.

## I want to study HRM. What should I do?

You don't need to study any specific subject, although it is useful to do Business and/or Psychology at A-level or BTEC. You need to have a genuine interest in working with people. Get some work experience that helps you develop good interpersonal skills.

"Every bit of theory I learnt has had an application in my working life"

**Rowena James, BA HRM graduate and Future Talent Manager at BskyB**



## Possible careers

Human resources officer  
Employee relations officer  
Training and development manager  
Recruitment consultant  
Management consultant

## Related courses

Business Management (Human Resources) BA  
Business Management BA  
International Business BA

# TOURISM

"My placement was a real cultural exchange"

**Ivelina, BA  
International Tourism  
Management**

There's more to tourism than package holidays and selfie sticks. The degree course explores tourism's impact on an ever-changing world, plus you'll graduate with transferrable skills like analytical thinking and how to present business ideas confidently.

## **I want to study Tourism. What should I do?**

As well as good grades, an interest in news and world affairs is an advantage. Any work experience in a people-centred role or anything related to geography, politics, policy-making or the voluntary sector would be very useful.

## **Ivelina says:**

After the second year of my degree course, I took a year out and spent a year in Brussels doing a work placement with MCI Group, the world's biggest conference planning company. I decided to do an internship abroad because I wanted to challenge myself with a new adventure and experience a new way of life.

Going abroad and meeting new people helps you see your future from a different perspective; you discover this vast range of opportunities for personal and professional development. I feel now I'm able to make much wiser decisions for my future.

## *Possible careers*

Tourism officer  
Tour manager  
Hotel officer  
Event organiser  
Marketing executive

## *Related courses*

International Tourism  
Management (Spanish/  
Mandarin) BA  
Marketing BA  
Business Management BA





# Education, Healthcare and Social Work courses



# PRIMARY EDUCATION

## Why I love my course

"As a teacher, you can make a difference no matter how big or small"

**John, BA Primary Education**

You never forget your favourite teacher. Maybe he was the first person to tell you what a great artist you were. Maybe she pushed you on when she knew you could do better, even if you didn't. Now imagine doing that for your own class. Teaching is an enormously rewarding career, where every day is different and you never stop learning.

### John says:

I really want to be a teacher. I think teaching is a great profession where you can help young people and make a difference to their lives no matter how big or small.

The best thing about my course is the seminars (small study groups). They're always practical and interactive, with lots of collaborative group work. You also get good support from lecturers and tutors.

## I want to study Education. What should I do?

It's essential that you have at least two weeks' work experience in a UK or Republic of Ireland primary school, and half of that must be completed before attending your Middlesex interview as we'll ask about it.

You'll need to study at least one National Curriculum subject (which includes Art & Design, Computing, Design & Technology, English, Geography, History, Languages, Mathematics, Music, Physical Education and Science) at A-level or BTEC.

## Possible careers

Primary school teacher  
Teaching assistant  
Head teacher

## Related courses

Early Childhood Studies BA  
Education Studies BA





# INTERPRETING AND TRANSLATION

Interpreters and translators are in high demand, particularly from international organisations like the United Nations. If you love languages and enjoy helping people understand and communicate, this degree could be perfect for you.

## **I want to study Interpreting and Translation. What should I do?**

You should be thinking about studying an A-level/BTEC in your chosen language. You should have a passion for languages, and it'll be useful to get some experience of working within that language by visiting the relevant country.

## **Yasmin says:**

At a young age I started interpreting for my Spanish family members (I speak native-level English, Spanish and Catalan), and I realised I could help other people in the same way.

I love the fact that this course is so practical. We often get to have seminars with professionally qualified translators who give us tips on the industry. We are also shown how to use CAT tools (a computer programme used in translation), which are critical for careers in the translation industry. Not long ago, we visited the European Commission's Interpretation and Translation units in Brussels. It was an opportunity to see one of the best institutions a translator or interpreter can work at. And this year, I will be spending five months there as part of my work placement.

"We visited the European Commission's translation units in Brussels"

**Yasmin, BA  
Interpreting  
and Translation**

## *Possible careers*

Translation  
Audiovisual translation  
Publishing  
Teaching  
Advertising  
Public relations  
Multilingual administration



# MIDWIFERY

## My NHS placement

"I give advice and check that women and their babies are healthy"

**Tahi, BSc Midwifery**

## Tahi says:

Half of my study year is devoted to six-week placements, usually at Barnet Hospital in north London. I help to look after women who are pregnant or giving birth, and also for the first few weeks of the postnatal (after childbirth) period.

The role is mostly about giving advice, checking that women and their babies are healthy, and putting them in contact with the right people if they need support or treatment. I also practise clinical skills, like observations (e.g. checking pulse, blood pressure and temperature), taking blood, and dip-testing urine.

In addition, I work on my PAD – Practical Assessment Document. It's a record of everything we do during placements and it acts as a guide for everything we need to learn. It's been the most useful tool for helping me apply my theoretical knowledge to real world experience.

## I want to study Midwifery. What should I do?

You need to have good grades, basic knowledge of midwifery, awareness of current issues in the National Health Service and experience of caring for others. Reading the *British Journal of Midwifery* or *The Practising Midwife* is a great way to familiarise yourself with the profession. Try to build up some experience in a care environment, like a hospital or the voluntary sector.

## Possible careers

You could work as a midwife in an NHS or private hospital (in antenatal, labour and postnatal wards or neonatal units), or in local clinics, children's centres, GP surgeries and the community.

## Related courses

Nursing Studies BSc  
Professional Practice  
in Nursing BSc  
Healthcare Science  
(Cardiac Physiology) BSc  
Social Work BA



# NURSING

## I want to study Nursing. What should I do?

Demand for places is high, so selection is competitive. If you're shortlisted, you'll be invited for a numeracy and literacy test, followed by an interview where you'll need to demonstrate a keen interest in a nursing career as well as a caring, professional approach to your work. All applicants need to demonstrate experience of working at some level, and whilst this does not have to be in the field of health care, it will certainly be an advantage.



## Two minutes with a nursing student Andy...

### What's your favourite thing about your course?

Clinical placements. They give us an opportunity to develop essential nursing skills, and to practise them on real patients. Placements are arranged by the University and we're partnered with most NHS and private hospitals throughout north London.

### Tell us about your practical placements.

My entire course is mixed between theory blocks and clinical placement blocks, with all of the clinical placement time spent working in hospitals, the community or other healthcare settings. During placements, we're assigned a mentor and a co-mentor (a qualified nurse, usually senior) to look after us.

The placements follow a document that allows us to capture all interactions with clinical staff and record achievements. It forms proof of the clinical skills we've learned.

"Good organisational skills and timekeeping, excellent communication, professionalism, compassion and trustworthiness are important qualities for nursing students"

**Andy, BSc Nursing (Adult)**

## Possible careers

Nurse  
Health co-ordinator  
Intensive care unit (ITU) critical care specialist  
Ward manager  
Ward sister

## Related courses

European Nursing BSc  
Mental Health Nursing BSc

# VETERINARY NURSING

## What I did after Middlesex

"I was a fully-fledged Registered Veterinary Nurse and could walk straight into a job"

**Karen Beech, BSc  
Veterinary Nursing  
graduate**

As a veterinary nurse, you'll care for sick and injured animals and play a crucial role in promoting animal welfare. You'll assist with surgical and medical procedures, prepare animals for surgery and care for them afterwards, as well as advising, educating and supporting pet owners.

### Karen says:

Middlesex gave me everything I needed to hit the ground running, including being RCVS (Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons) accredited. I was a fully-fledged Registered Veterinary Nurse on graduation and could walk straight into a job. No extra exams.

I jumped straight in. I signed up to several locum (substitutes who temporarily fulfil the duties of others) agencies, did a couple of weeks here and there, and then took a maternity cover job in 2013 at Vets4Pets where I'm still working now.

The course was great and my lecturers were always engaging. I loved the fact I got to spend so much time in placements and really get into the swing of things.

### I want to study Veterinary Nursing. What should I do?

Demand for places is high, so selection is competitive. If you're shortlisted, you'll be invited for an interview where you'll need to demonstrate a keen interest in a veterinary nursing career as well as a caring, professional approach to your work. All applicants need to have a minimum of two weeks' work experience in a veterinary practice so start getting some experience now.

## Possible careers

General vet practices  
Research establishments  
Labs  
Universities  
Zoological/wildlife parks  
Charities  
Boarding kennels





# SOCIAL WORK

"The biggest reward for me is when you genuinely make a difference to a child or their family"  
**Fiona, Social Worker, London Borough of Brent**

## Two minutes with Social Work graduate Fiona...

### Tell us a bit about what you're doing now.

I'm currently working for the London Borough of Brent in the Transitions team. My role is working with young people aged 14-25 with disabilities, helping them transition from childhood to adulthood.

### Why did you apply for this course at Middlesex?

I heard it had a really good reputation for social work and a high standard of teaching. I also heard that Middlesex were particularly good at getting their students into placements.

### What did you enjoy about the course?

I really enjoyed the balance of study and placements. The academic side of the course taught me analytical skills and developed my ability to understand theory. The placements were excellent for teaching me the practical skills needed for social work, and in understanding the systems and processes that can be very overwhelming at times. I also made some wonderful friends.

## I want to study Social Work. What should I do?

You don't need to study a specific subject at A-level/BTEC. The most important thing is that you get good grades and you have an understanding of the role of a social worker. Find out more about social work and social care issues online from the *British Association of Social Workers*, the *College of Social Work* and the *Social Care Institute for Excellence*.



## Possible careers

You could work within the voluntary sector in advocacy and community work, or as an independent practitioner. Roles undertaken include working with the mentally ill, disabled and elderly, children and families and within the criminal justice system.

MAKE YOUR MARK



Make a difference



# Law and Social Sciences courses



# CRIMINOLOGY

"I aspire to reduce re-offending and protect the public"

**Andrea Kirsty de Timog-Viegas, Probation Service Officer, National Probation Service**

## Two minute with Criminology graduate Andrea...

### What attracted you to your course?

At the time, I was hell-bent on becoming a police officer so I applied for the BA Criminology with Sociology course. After completing that, I studied MSC Criminology with Forensic Psychology to further understand the diverse nature of crime and the criminal justice system, and develop practical skills.

### What does your current job involve?

I'm currently working as a Probation Service Officer. I work with offenders who have either been released from prison, are on licence or are serving community sentences. It's a challenging work but the opportunity to help and support individuals, who may have had traumatic lives or experienced traumatic events, is rewarding and fulfilling.

## How did your time at Middlesex help you to get where you are today?

I developed the skills needed to manage and evaluate crime and intelligence data, along with superb report-writing skills. Middlesex granted me the opportunity to work alongside leading professionals in the field who have encouraged and inspired me.

## I want to study Criminology. What should I do?

No specific subjects are required but consider studying English, Psychology or Sociology. Physical Education is a good subject to choose if you're interested in joining the police force. Get some work experience if you can either at victim support charities or with a local police department.

## Possible careers

The Metropolitan Police  
The Courts and Tribunals service  
Offender rehabilitation  
Youth services  
Drug and alcohol support services

## Related courses

Criminology with Psychology BA  
LLB Law with Criminology  
Sociology with Criminology BA  
Criminology (Policing) BA  
Criminology (Criminal Justice) BA  
Criminology (Youth Justice) BA  
Psychology with Criminology BSc





# LAW

A career in law requires great research skills, creative thinking, a love of reading and the confidence to argue your case. If you want to find out what the Master of the Rolls does, how murder differs from manslaughter, and what on earth corpus delicti and jurisprudence mean, a Law degree has the answers.

## Amina says:

To say I enjoyed my first experience of moot court (a mock court case) is such an understatement. It was absolutely amazing. For our moot, we were required to dress up smartly and prepare case notes like real lawyers would. My group and I really worked hard and were very well prepared for our case, and it couldn't have gone better.

My favourite thing about Law is that you're always learning. No matter how knowledgeable you are about the subject or how much you study, there is always more to learn. Having tutors who are friendly and always there for you whenever you need help is another thing I love about my course.

## I want to study LLB Law. What should I do?

You don't need to study Law A-level or BTEC (although of course it's a benefit). Good grades are important, as is a passion for studying, particularly reading and writing. Get some work experience in a local solicitors or similar if possible.



## My first time in a mock court

"We prepared case notes like real lawyers would"  
**Amina, LLB Law**

## Possible careers

Solicitor  
Barrister  
Legal executive  
Paralegal  
Community advisory work  
In-house legal department

## Related courses

LLB Law  
Law BA  
LLB Law with Human Rights  
LLB Law with International Relations  
LLB Law Commercial Law  
LLB Law with Criminology  
LLB European Law and Politics  
International Politics and Law BA  
International Politics, Economics and Law BA

# POLITICS

"I'm interested in issues not normally taught in the course. At Middlesex you get the best of both worlds as we covered development issues like disasters, gender and human rights"

**Nadira Irdiana: Gender Specialist, Plan International**

What is democracy? What's the role of the state? What policies might come out of crises like war, famine and disasters? You'll learn answers to huge questions like these as you explore key concepts and theories of international politics and global development.

## Nadira says:

In my work, I use a lot of the skills and knowledge that I learnt during my degree course. One skill that's often overlooked is critical thinking. You cannot believe how many times I use it in developing reports and proposals.

## I want to study Politics. What should I do?

You don't need any particular A-level or BTEC subjects, although you might like to consider subjects like Politics, Economics, Sociology or Modern Languages. Consider joining a debate society or Model United Nations Club. A general awareness of current affairs is important, so try reading quality newspapers and watching *BBC Newsnight* and *Question Time*.

## Possible careers

Politics  
Policy making  
NGOs  
Journalism  
Politics and social research  
Public relations

## Related courses

International Politics BA  
International Politics and Law BA  
International Politics, Economics and Law BA  
LLB Law with International Relations  
LLB European Law and Politics

I developed an interest in gender when I was studying the Disasters and Development module during my BA. I've continued to work on gender-related issues like raising awareness of child marriage. In my current role, I deal with programmes related to youth economic empowerment, early childhood education and disaster risk management.



# SOCIOLOGY

Explore real-life, global debates and issues through a degree in sociology that will help you gain a much better understanding of people, culture and the world around you.

## Aishah says:

I nominated my lecturer, Dr Erin Sanders-McDonagh, for the 'Most Empowering Teacher' Award in 2014 and she won! She's been a really big part of my student experience, having faith in me right from the start.

Erin asked me to work on an interdisciplinary research evaluation project alongside other academics, straight after my first year. The research evaluated the Tender Healthy Relationships Project, a drama-based preventative education programme focused on violence in relationships.

I spent the best part of five months learning key research skills, interviewing participants and learning statistical software. This was an amazing placement and it really advanced my understanding of research. It was here that I was truly able to relate theory to practice.

## I want to study Sociology. What should I do?

Sociology at A-level/BTEC is ideal, although not essential. You might also like to consider essay-based subjects like English or History. Joining a debate society can help you prepare for a career in sociology, and volunteering for a local charity is a perfect way to gain relevant work experience.

## My best Middlesex memory

"At the end of my first year, my name was published on the report – my first academic publication"

**Aishah, BA Sociology with Criminology**

## Possible careers

Civil service  
Criminal justice system  
Policing  
Protective agencies  
Youth justice system  
Social services  
Community safety  
Crime prevention

## Related courses

Sociology BA  
Sociology with Psychology BA  
Sociology with Criminology BA  
Sociology and Social Policy BA

MAKE YOUR MARK

Find your passion!



# Media and Performing Arts courses



# ADVERTISING, MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

"We produced a magazine and did everything from interviewing to promotion"

**Anna, BA Advertising, Media and PR**

PR and advertising help get people, products and companies noticed. Remember when celebrities did the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge? That was great PR for the celebs and for the ALS charity, too.

If you think you've got what it takes to get a new product into the papers or make a small start-up the next big thing, read on.

## **Anna says:**

The course is creative and very broad. You get to shape your own path by choosing modules and projects that interest you. Our lecturers are great at making everything interesting and relevant. Many of them are quite young but still have lots of experience in the field.

My favourite project was in the *Advanced Media Production* module in second year. My group and I produced a magazine, doing everything from interviewing, graphic design and photography to promotion and social media. It gave us loads of experience in different fields.

## **I want to study Advertising, Media and Public Relations. What should I do?**

Useful A-levels subjects to study include English, Art and Design, Psychology and Sociology. If you're taking BTECs, courses like Creative Digital Media Production and Business would be ideal.

Get some work experience if you can; anything related to promotional communications is ideal. That could include blogging on behalf of a charity or shadowing creatives at an advertising agency.

## Possible careers

Advertising account manager  
PR manager  
Marketing executive  
Events manager  
Copywriter

## Related courses

Digital Media BA  
Journalism & Media BA

# DANCE

Middlesex is one of the country's top universities for dance, so if you dream of learning core dance techniques, taking daily practical classes and exploring dance history, anatomy and the London arts scene, BA Dance Studies is for you.

## I want to study Dance. What should I do?

Recent practical experience in dance is essential, as well as a high level of fitness, so make sure you get in lots of dance practice and exercise. Useful A-level/ BTEC subjects include Dance, Drama, Performing Arts and Physical Education.

## Kirsty says:

There's an equal balance between theory and practice, with regular classes every day Monday to Friday. All the dance studios used for classes (and personal rehearsals) are equipped to the highest level.

We were always given so many opportunities, like a collaborative project, discounted tickets to a performance in central London or a valuable workshop to sign up to. It's all set up by the dedicated team of dance staff who nurture each individual.

I personally feel I have improved enormously in technique, analytical skills and as a person at Middlesex. This is mainly because of my amazing academic advisor's continued support, inspiration and motivation throughout my three years, and for that I am forever grateful.

## Why I loved my course

"I improved enormously in technique and as a person"

**Kirsty, BA Dance graduate**

## Possible careers

Choreographer  
Dancer  
Dance teacher  
Fitness professional  
Dance critic

## Related courses

Dance Performance BA



# JOURNALISM

## When I'm not studying

"I host a radio show about movies once a week"

**Ludovica, BA Journalism and Media**

Fancy yourself the next BBC newsreader or BuzzFeed editor? BA Journalism will arm you with the confidence, industry knowledge and practical skills for a future in feature writing, news reporting, broadcasting and beyond.

### Ludovica says:

I really love my course, especially projects like creating a blog of London photographs, where I gave objects like red phone boxes and Boris bikes 'a soul' by capturing the capital through their eyes. But my passion for media and journalism doesn't stop when lectures and seminars finish.

On Thursdays I host my own radio show, 'Hollywood Evenings', about movies on the Students' Union's (MDXSU) official radio station POW! FM. Then I head over to the weekly Journalism Society meeting. I'm the film editor of the MDXSU's magazine too, so that requires lots of writing and planning.

All these activities have improved my skills and made me more confident. I've also met people who ended up meaning the most to me in the world (after my family, of course).

## I want to study Journalism. What should I do?

You don't need any particular A-level or BTEC subjects, although Media Studies and English Language are good choices. To get a better understanding of journalism and media, keep an eye on current affairs, and make sure you read and write a lot, both online and offline. Why not start your own blog or apply for work experience at a local newspaper?

## Possible careers

Broadcast journalist  
Newspaper reporter  
Feature writer  
Copywriter  
Website editor

## Related courses

Journalism & Media BA  
Creative Writing and Journalism BA  
Television Production BA





# MUSIC

"I practise in the sound-treated rehearsal studios to prepare for the gigs I manage and perform at"  
**Mary, BA Music Business and Arts Management**



Whether you want to conduct an orchestra, learn to compose or produce, perform professionally, manage live events or develop artists, a degree in music can help you get there.

## Mary says:

Trying to balance study, work, sleep and a social life can be a struggle at the best of times, but I seem to manage pretty well, with only the slightest sleep deprivation. My typical week consists of four scheduled lectures, my job as a Student Learning Assistant, violin and piano practice, gigging, attending events and now my new role as the Course Ambassador for Music.

To unwind from the stress of study and work, I love to play music. I usually practice in the sound-treated (soundproof) rehearsal studios in the Grove building. This helps me prepare for the gigs I perform at or manage in Camden and all over in London. One of the great things about gigging and attending events is it helps me to meet new people in the industry and learn new skills, and I get to have a social life too.

## I want to study Music. What should I do?

Feed your passion for music and keep your ear in tune by playing an instrument, singing in a choir and attending a variety of concerts and gigs. Music A-level or BTEC will be useful, although not essential.

## Possible careers

Professional musician  
 Music teacher  
 Music industry executive  
 Music critic  
 Venue Manager

## Related courses

Popular Music BA  
 Jazz BA  
 Music BA

# THEATRE ARTS

"It's magical when you see your work performed in real life"  
**Sigita, BA Theatre Arts**

Want to get stuck in to all aspects of theatre? Whether you feel at home on stage or backstage, whether you want to operate the spotlight or perform in it, Theatre Arts will open up an incredible world of performance, direction and design.

## **Sigita says:**

My biggest assignment so far has been our first year project, which took 12 weeks of preparation. We put on a performance of Sarah Kane's *4:48 Psychosis*, a British play which has no specific stage directions, settings or characters. I honestly prefer scripts like that, because it's extremely open and we can use our imagination.

One of my classmates and I directed the play. When all the preparations are done and the play is on, people move, lights change, there's applause. It's just magical when you see your work, not in your portfolio, but in real life. This project changed my point of view on theatre – it made me more open-minded and ready for new challenges.

## **I want to study Theatre Arts. What should I do?**

You don't need any specific subjects but an A-level or BTEC in Drama is very useful. You may want to continue to study English, too. Watching, creating and performing theatre is a great way to prepare for the degree, and working with others as part of a team to put on events is great experience.

## Possible careers

Actor  
Performer  
Stage manager  
Set designer  
Lighting designer  
Stand-up comedian  
Theatre critic

## Related courses

Dance Performance BA



# Science and Technology courses

# BIOLOGY

## My field work

"I went to Mauritius for two weeks and worked with endangered species"

**Amran, BSc Biology**

Do you love spending weekends at the Natural History Museum or the Zoo? Do you enjoy reading books by Charles Darwin, Richard Dawkins or Sir David Attenborough? Are you always doodling pictures of plants and animals? If yes, then BSc Biology might be for you.

## I want to study biology. What should I do?

A genuine passion for the subject is important, as well as good grades. A real interest in science is crucial, as is exposure to nature and wildlife, whether that's in parks, allotments, woods, fields or beaches, so get outdoors and explore.

## Amran says:

The Biology degree at Middlesex is so diverse. Doing the broad biology pathway gives me a lot of choice before specialising in third year if I decide to. The flexibility means I could go from the general lab in the Hatchcroft Building on Monday morning to an amazing specialised microbiology lab on the second floor in the afternoon.

Another reason I love the course is the opportunity for field work. In my second year, I went to Mauritius with five other students, where we worked with endangered species as part of our biodiversity module. It was two amazing weeks and an invaluable experience.

## Possible careers

Microbiologist  
Lecturer  
Research scientist  
Lab technician  
Plant pathologist

## Related courses

Neuroscience BSc  
Medical Physiology BSc  
Biomedical Engineering BEng  
Psychology with  
Neuroscience BSc  
Environmental Health BSc





# BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE

## Why I love my course

"We learn about DNA extraction, analysis and mutation detection"

**Mohamed, BSc  
Biomedical Science**

Biomedical scientists use their diagnostic training to help save lives. If you're fascinated by how the human body works and love the idea of helping to cure and treat diseases through research and analysis, you just might thrive in a biomedical science career.

### Mohamed says:

I chose Biomedical Science as it combines theoretical knowledge of medicine with practical technology. So far, I've really enjoyed observing living organisms under the microscope, being involved in data collection for cancer research projects, separating protein molecules and carrying out DNA and RNA pattern analysis.

In the future I would like to be a researcher who makes ground-breaking discoveries. Hopefully I will achieve that with the help of Middlesex staff, who are overwhelmingly supportive.

## I want to study biomedical science. What should I do?

You should study a science subject after your GCSEs – Biology is the obvious choice. Chemistry or Maths would be helpful second subjects. Reading scientific articles published in the news is a good way to find out about some of the research and developments in biomedical sciences.

## Possible careers

You could find yourself working in labs for universities, hospitals and research centres, or within the National Health Service, agriculture, pharmaceuticals or forensics.

## Related courses

Biology BSc  
Neuroscience BSc  
Medical Physiology  
(Neuroscience) BSc  
Biomedical Engineering BEng



# DESIGN ENGINEERING

## My favourite project

"It's exciting to understand how robots can move around using different sensors and algorithms"

**Meliha, BSc  
Mechatronics**

Want to learn about artificial intelligence techniques in robotics? Fancy building an electronic circuit or writing a computer programme? Design engineers are pioneers pushing boundaries of technology as they develop innovative products and systems.

### Meliha says:

The best thing about my course is that we get to program so many different robots, like Baxter, Husky, Turtlebots, the CRS and Myrtles. We also have wonderful facilities and workshop space.

## I want to study design engineering. What should I do?

You don't have to study Maths A-level or BTEC, but you should choose subjects that demonstrate your ability to use maths, like Physics or Engineering. Design Engineering is a creative process, so subjects like Design and Technology are useful. Try getting work experience in an engineering company to see what engineers do day to day, too.

## Possible careers

Design engineer  
CAD (Computer-Aided Design) technician  
Electrical engineer  
Mechanical engineer

## Related courses

Product Design BA/BSc  
Design Crafts BA  
Architectural Technology BSc  
Robotics BEng  
Mechatronics BEng

My favourite project was working on autonomous navigation with a Turtlebot. It's really exciting to understand how a robot can move around in an environment, map it and avoid obstacles using different sensors and algorithms. This is the same technology used in driverless cars.



# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

A degree in information technology opens the door to a whole variety of exciting, in-demand careers, from software development and network engineering to IT support or running your own business.

## I want to study Information Technology. What should I do?

It's not essential to study Maths but it's probably the most useful subject, and you could combine it with Computing, ICT or Physics. You could start reading blogs about technology to gain an understanding of the industry. Also, look out for opportunities to learn skills like coding.

## Parth says:

During my summer holidays, I did a work placement for two weeks with Microsolv Systems, a technology services company based in London. I learnt how it feels to be the frontline IT support as I assisted one of the support engineers.

I was allowed to go on a customer callout alone and it was a great experience. I was asked to go to a flower garden in Battersea and replace hard drive C in the client's server. When I got there I noticed it was actually hard drive D that had the problem. I called my bosses and sent them a picture and finally they agreed with me. It's all about dealing with the problems that get thrown at you.

## My summer placement

"I was allowed to go on a customer callout by myself"

**Parth, BSc Information Technology**

## Possible careers

- IT technician
- Project development
- Network engineer
- Software engineer
- ICT manager
- Applications developer

## Related courses

- Computer Networks BSc
- Computer Systems
- Engineering BEng
- Computer Science BSc
- Business Information Systems BSc



# MATHEMATICS

"My favourite thing has been learning about the world around us."

**Sabiha,  
BSc Mathematics**

Maths is responsible for some of the biggest discoveries and scientific advances of our lifetime, from the invention of the internet and creation of Facebook, to life-saving government intelligence operations.

A degree in Maths will teach you analytical, logical and problem-solving skills that are hugely valuable in lots of careers, like computing, accounting, finance and even law and government policy.

## **Sabiha says:**

I have always adored maths from a young age; just the satisfaction you get from spending days on a problem and finally getting it right was reason enough for me to study this course.

So far, I've enjoyed putting calculus and fractals (which are used in computer programming) into action. I have also loved the extra-curricular events like setting up our own Maths society and special lectures by guest speakers.

## Possible careers

Government  
Commerce  
Economics  
Computing  
Finance  
Accounting  
Law

## Related courses

Computer Science BSc  
Computer Communication and  
Networks BEng

## **I want to study Mathematics. What should I do?**

An A-level or BTEC in Maths is important. Middlesex University doesn't require a Further Maths qualification, but it can be useful if you want to develop your specialist skills. Studying subjects like Physics or Computing is helpful, too.

To get a feel for the subject, you could watch documentaries online. Hannah Fry, Marcus du Sautoy or Simon Singh have produced some good stuff. Popular lectures for sixth form students are run every year by the *London Mathematical Society* and are free to attend.





# PSYCHOLOGY

If you're interested in what makes people tick and why you act and think differently to your friends, consider studying Psychology and picking up transferrable skills that will help you prepare for loads of rewarding careers like counselling, social work and coaching.

## Nehal says:

I've always been fascinated by people and what makes them the way they are. Due to my own experiences of having health conditions, I also know the importance of the right kind of support at the right time. I chose Middlesex as it's local to me and it has a great support system with very engaged and helpful lecturers.

## I want to study Psychology. What should I do?

It's a good idea to pick at least one core science subject – Biology, Chemistry, Maths or Physics – to study after your GCSEs, but it's not essential. If you have the option of studying a Psychology A-level or BTEC, that's great too. To get a feel for the subject, you could try reading *The Psychologist* magazine.

"Middlesex has a great support system"

**Nehal, BSc Psychology with Counselling**



## Possible careers

Counsellor  
Social worker  
Business manager  
Therapist  
Learning support assistant  
Market researcher

## Related courses

Sociology with Psychology BA  
Psychology with  
Criminology BSc  
Psychology with  
Neuroscience BSc

# SPORT SCIENCE

## The best opportunity so far

"I helped conduct fitness testing for Queen's Park Rangers and Tottenham Hotspur Academy teams"

**Jennifer, BSc Sport and Exercise Science**

Do you want to learn the psychology, anatomy and nutritional science behind sport and physical training? Do you love sport and think you've got what it takes to bring out the best in others? If so, a career in sport and exercise might be for you.

### Jennifer says:

I chose to study at Middlesex University because of its amazing biomechanics and physiology laboratory facilities at Allianz Park, Saracens rugby stadium. Middlesex also has brilliant links with top sports teams and clubs.

## I want to study Sport Science. What should I do?

You should study at least one science A-level or BTEC. Biology is the most relevant, but Chemistry and Psychology are useful, too. If you have the option of studying Physical Education, that would be helpful. Taking part in sport at school is a good way to show your commitment to the subject and build your skills.

## Possible careers

Sports manager  
Physical trainer  
Fitness instructor  
Sports science technician  
Sport development officer

## Related courses

Sport & Exercise  
Rehabilitation BSc  
Sport & Exercise Science  
(Performance Analysis) BSc

The best opportunities I've had so far have been helping conduct fitness testing for Queen's Park Rangers and Tottenham Hotspur Academy teams, and attending lectures by guest speakers working in the sports industry. I've also met so many great people from all around the world.



# The next episode...

Choosing the right course is just the beginning. There are still more things to consider, like money, accommodation, location and support services. Sound like a lot? It is, but that's all part of growing up. University isn't just about getting a degree and a job, it's preparation for a new, independent life. So even though it can be challenging sometimes, it's also a really exciting opportunity.

# Money Matters

There's lots to pay for at university – tuition fee, rent, bills, food, books, nights out – so it's natural to feel nervous about how you'll manage your finances. Luckily there are loads of options available that can help make it a little easier, like getting a part time job, applying for funding or speaking to our support team. Here's what our students have to say:

"I currently work as a Student Ambassador at university. It's a flexible, part time job where you get to work in lots of interesting events and meet new people. I also receive support through a scholarship, which helps with additional costs such as books and transport."

**Amina, LLB Law**

"I get a tuition fee loan from Student Finance but I've also been working in various places to pay my bills. It's sometimes hard to juggle study and work, but I am very happy for this experience as I've learnt a lot."

**Sigita, BA Theatre Arts**

"I applied for Enfield Achieving Excellence Scholarship worth £6,000 at uni and my application was successful. So each year, I receive £2,000 that helps me pay my food and travel bills. There are many scholarships available so research and apply."

**Thomas, BA Business Management**



# Living on a student budget

At uni, you can decide how and when to spend your money, which might appear challenging at first, but with careful planning and practice, it'll all come naturally to you and you might even be able to make some savings! Here's how our students manage their monthly budget:

## Ludovica says:

Travel: **£30** (I live near uni so don't need to travel much)  
 Food: **£80**  
 Entertainment: **£60**  
 Rent/bills: **£550**  
 Toiletries: **£20**



Ludovica



Thomas

## Thomas says:

Travel: **£120**  
 Food: **£100**  
 Entertainment: **£200**  
 Rent/bills: **£400**  
 Toiletries: **£30**

## Aishah says:

Travel: **£80**  
 Food: **£150** (I eat out a lot with friends)  
 Entertainment: **£50**  
 Rent/bills: **£0**  
 (I live FREE at the Hotel of Mum and Dad)  
 Toiletries: **£15-£20**



Aishah

# Student finance explained

## — What is student finance?

Student finance comes in two parts. The first is a loan to cover your **tuition fees (your tuition fee loan)**. It is paid by the student finance company straight to the university where you'll be studying – so there's no chance of 'accidentally' spending it!

The second part of student finance is a loan to help you with your **living costs throughout your time at university (your maintenance loan)**. The amount you'll get depends on your household income (usually the amount that your parents or carers earn). This is paid into your bank account three times a year, at the start of each term, which makes it a lot easier to manage.

## — How do I apply?

You can apply for student finance before you begin your course at university. You can do so online by visiting [www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance).

## — Do I have to pay it back?

Yes, you'll have to pay back your student loan eventually. The good news is that you don't have to start doing this until you have finished your studies and started earning over £21,000 a year.

For more information on student finance, money management and budgeting, visit [makeyourmark.mdx.ac.uk/money](http://makeyourmark.mdx.ac.uk/money)

## Did you know?

There are loads of financial help available like bursaries and scholarships (free money from uni that you don't have to pay back) so research and apply for them as every little bit helps!

# Should I stay or should I go?

When you start university, you'll need to decide whether to stay living at home or move away into halls on campus or private accommodation. It's a personal choice and there's no right or wrong answer. Here's what our students have to say:

## **Living in halls of residence on campus**

"I enjoy living in halls the most as it gives you the freedom to do what you want and makes it easier to meet new friends."

**Alice, BSc Economics**

## **Moving to a private property**

"I live in a rented property with friends, and it's cheaper and more relaxed than halls. I would suggest living on campus for the first year to find the mates you can move in with in the following year."

**Alkaïos, BA Fine Art**

**Staying at home**

"The best thing about living at home and commuting to uni is that I don't have to suffer from home sickness. I get to eat home-cooked food and I save a lot of money that would otherwise have been spent on accommodation."

**Amina, LLB Law**

*There is no right  
or wrong answer*



# Supporting you...



# ...all the way

Support is always there when you need it at Middlesex University. If you have a disability and need advice, funding or special provisions for exams, you can have a confidential chat with a member of staff and they'll do whatever they can to help.

"I received help from the University for my dyslexia. They helped me get the equipment I needed, as well as one-to-one study sessions and extra time in exams. They also let my teachers know and gave me a document to show tutors when I submit my work."

**Thomas, BA Business Management**

"I'm deaf, and I currently have an interpreter who uses sign language and a note taker. When you're a new student and you inform the University of a disability, they'll refer you to the Disability Officer, who'll then contact the Needs Assessment team. They'll assess what you need in lectures, labs or seminars and contact Student Finance England. They'll then provide the funding, and you're good to go."

**Fil, BSc Sport & Exercise Science**

# Ask MDx!

Your biggest questions answered by Middlesex students and graduates who've been there, done that

**What if I choose the wrong A-level subjects and don't know enough when I start my degree?**

Don't panic. I did my A-levels in Italy and I studied subjects like Philosophy, History, Maths, Physics, Italian and English – but nothing to do with journalism, which I study at uni now. I had no problem getting up to speed with the subject when I started my degree. The first year of study is quite gentle so everyone has time to settle in. If you study relevant subjects at A-level, that's helpful, but for most degrees it won't hold you back if you don't.

**Ludovica, BA Journalism & Media**

**How difficult is it to manage money?**

Money management is an important skill you'll learn at university. With experience, you'll realise you can't eat takeaways every day and still have money left over for rent! You'll have nothing to worry about if you're sensible, find a part-time job and ask for support when you need it.

**Parth, BSc Information Technology**

**I'm really shy. What if none of my friends go to the same university as me and I don't meet anybody new?**

I was an extremely shy soul before coming to university. But hey, you know what? I took advantage of the fact that no one knew me. It was a chance to make a fresh start, so I went in bold, talking to as many people as I could, and I ended up making lots of amazing friends. I also met many new people by joining societies and Student Ambassador Scheme. Don't hide away, just say 'hi'.

**Aishah, BA Sociology with Criminology**



**How do I decide what to study at university?  
There's so much choice.**

My top tip would be to check out the UCAS list of courses, because when you're at school you're simply not aware of the thousands of courses on offer. It's also important to attend Open, Taster and Applicant days to get a feel for the course and university. Don't forget to speak to current students as they'll give you honest advice.

**Yasmin, BA Interpreting & Translation**



The journey doesn't end here. It's your turn to take that next step and make your mark!

*makeyourmark.mdx.ac.uk*







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