



# WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS AFTER A LEVELS, BTECS OR T LEVELS?

INFORMATION AND LINKS

**EMPLOYMENT**

**HIGHER  
APPRENTICESHIPS**

**FUTHER SPECIALISED  
TRAINING**

**DEGREE  
APPRENTICESHIPS**

**UNIVERSITY**

# STARTING YOUR QUALIFICATIONS

Much more is expected of you at sixth form or college and you must balance this with other important aspects of your life.

DEVELOP  
YOUR SKILLS  
THROUGH AND  
EXTRACURRICULAR  
ACTIVITIES

## Ask yourself:

- How are your courses going?
- Have you developed a good balance between studying and personal time?
- Do you have any concerns or find anything challenging?

**Make sure you take time for daily independent study**

**Create a study timetable around your lessons**

**Speak to your teachers, parents/ carers about any concerns**

# DEVELOPING SKILLS AND CONSIDERING YOUR OPTIONS

Towards the end of your first year, you should start to consider and develop your skills. Your sixth form or college will begin to discuss the options available to you after you complete your qualifications.

## Ask yourself:

- Which skills have you developed through your education/ extracurricular activities/work experience?
- Do you enjoy academic or vocational learning more?
- Do your career interests require certain qualifications?
- If so, what are their entry requirements?

**Try something new with work experience over summer**

**Participate in activities and take responsibilities that enhance the skills you will need for work and further study**

**Be proactive - research application deadlines and opportunities**

- If applying to university (via UCAS) deadlines are in January (earlier in October for certain courses e.g. Medicine, Veterinary and Dentistry, also courses at The University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge)
- If looking for alternatives - research courses and vacancies

## WORK

- Working in a job with or without training but not working towards any further or higher qualifications
- You may be expected to work 35 to 40 hours for a full-time role and will earn the national minimum wage or above
- Some roles may require experience or specific skills in order to progress

## HIGHER APPRENTICESHIPS & SCHOOL LEAVER PROGRAMMES

- Working in a specific role, whilst studying towards a higher education level qualification
- Salaries may vary and tuition fees for the qualification are funded by employers/the government
- Available in around 50 subjects from advertising to security intelligence
- Entry requirements vary e.g. 5 GCSEs at a pass rate or above and some require specific A Levels or equivalent

## FURTHER SPECIALISED TRAINING

- Studying a specialist vocational course at a further education college or professional training provider
- Depending on your age, you may need to pay tuition fees - check with individual providers and the Education Funding Agency
- Gain the professional qualifications to enter a specific job role including a chef, tree surgeon, hairdresser and more

## GAP YEAR

- A period of time taken after completing your qualifications at 18 before beginning your next qualification
- It is important to develop transferable skills during this year to aid future employment or qualifications
- Some people volunteer and learn a new craft such as teaching English as a foreign language or complete various paid or unpaid work experience placements

## DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS & SPONSORED DEGREES

- Combining employment and studying for a full honours degree
- Tuition fees may be funded by employers/the government
- You may be contracted to work for the company for a fixed period of time after completion of your degree
- Available in a range of sectors including Chartered Surveying, Aerospace Engineering and Public Relations
- Entry requirements vary e.g. 5 GCSEs at a pass rate or above and some require specific A Levels or equivalent

## UNIVERSITY

- Study for an undergraduate degree (3 or 4 years) in one of 37,000 subjects at UK universities and colleges
- Tuition fees vary depending on your course and provider, most students take out a student loan to cover tuition fees and costs of living
- Courses can include work placements and overseas study opportunities
- Entry requirements vary e.g. 5 GCSEs at a pass rate or above and some require specific A Levels or equivalent
- Universities and colleges also provide Foundation Degrees to prepare students for undergraduate study

## FOR INSPIRATION

**I Could** - [www.icould.com/buzz](http://www.icould.com/buzz)

Students take the quiz to identify their skills. There are plenty of links to careers Information and videos to watch

**Learn from current students** - [www.heon.org.uk/students](http://www.heon.org.uk/students)

Discover a selection of profiles of current students at the HEON partner universities and colleges.

## RESEARCH CAREERS

**Careerpilot** - [www.careerpilot.org.uk](http://www.careerpilot.org.uk)

Packed with information about higher education and all other pathways. Also a look at different industries and job roles

**Student Ladder** - [www.studentladder.co.uk/Careers](http://www.studentladder.co.uk/Careers)

Articles on a range of careers can be found here with plenty of other information available about progression pathways

**UCAS Careers** - [bit.ly/UCAScareers](http://bit.ly/UCAScareers)

Students can research some job families and find out about work experience and other opportunities

RESEARCH LOCAL  
APPRENTICESHIP  
OPPORTUNITIES

## POST 18 OPTIONS

**HEON Transition Resources** - [www.heon.org.uk/transition](http://www.heon.org.uk/transition)

A selection of different topics to help prepare for your transition into higher education

**Bright Knowledge** - [www.brightknowledge.org](http://www.brightknowledge.org)

Essential information on progression pathways can be found here

**Which? University guide A Level Explorer** - [www.university.which.co.uk/a-level-explorer](http://www.university.which.co.uk/a-level-explorer)

Input current subjects and discover some degree course options, be sure to check the unexpected results

**Moving from BTECs to university study** - [bit.ly/BTECOptions](http://bit.ly/BTECOptions)

Students can explore their options with their BTEC studies

**UCAS** - [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

Students can search through all university courses here

**All About School Leavers** - [www.allaboutschooleavers.co.uk](http://www.allaboutschooleavers.co.uk)

Apprenticeships, school leaver programmes and sponsored degrees

**What uni?** - [www.whatuni.com](http://www.whatuni.com)

A website which compares university and degree courses with rankings, course details and profiles

**Apprenticeships** - [bit.ly/GOVapprentice](http://bit.ly/GOVapprentice)

A gov.uk page full of information about apprenticeships and how to find one

**Not going to uni** - [www.notgoingtouni.co.uk](http://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk)

A website packed with information on alternatives to university including apprenticeships, employment and gap years

**The Scholarship Hub** - [www.thescholarshiphub.org.uk](http://www.thescholarshiphub.org.uk)

Overview of scholarships, grants and bursaries/ scholarship finder/ degree apprenticeships and industries

**Informed Choices** - [www.informedchoices.ac.uk](http://www.informedchoices.ac.uk)

Informed Choices brings together guidance from admissions teams at Russell Group universities to give pupils clear information about the subjects they should consider if they are hoping to progress to a competitive university

RESEARCH  
UNIVERSITY COURSES  
AT HIGHER EDUCATION  
PROVIDERS

This guide has been designed by The Higher Education Outreach Network (HEON) in collaboration with Innervate Careers Services Limited. For more information visit us at [www.HEON.org.uk](http://www.HEON.org.uk)



SPRING &  
SUMMER  
TERM OF  
YEAR 13 /  
YEAR 2 AT  
COLLEGE

## AFTER YEAR 13/YEAR 2 AT COLLEGE

Progress on to your chosen path

## GET YOUR QUALIFICATIONS

Work hard and revise  
Complete your courses and take your final exams

AUTUMN  
TERM  
OF YEAR  
13 / YEAR  
2 AT  
COLLEGE

## MAKING APPLICATIONS

Research courses and vacancies  
Check entry requirements or required experience  
Find out about college and university (UCAS) deadlines

## MAKING YOUR NEXT CHOICES

**Work**  
A job with  
or without  
training

**Higher  
Apprenticeships  
& School Leaver  
Programmes**  
Equivalent  
to higher  
education level  
study in the  
workplace,  
with release to  
a local higher  
education  
training  
provider

**Further  
Specialised  
Training**  
Studying a  
specialist  
vocational  
course at a  
specialist  
or further  
education  
college

**GAP Year**  
Time out to  
develop life  
and work  
experience

**Degree  
Apprenticeships  
& Sponsored  
Degrees**  
Sponsored by  
a company to  
study towards  
a degree or  
foundation  
degree at  
university

**University**  
Studying for  
a degree or  
foundation  
degree at  
a university  
or higher  
education  
provider

SUMMER  
TERM  
OF YEAR  
12 / YEAR  
1 AT  
COLLEGE

## BEFORE YOU MAKE YOUR CHOICES

How do you learn best?  
Research careers and job roles  
What qualifications does your ideal career require?

SPRING  
TERM

## DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS

Research and apply for work related opportunities  
What skills have you developed so far?

Change courses or leave to pursue  
apprenticeships/training

Continue with your chosen  
A levels or BTEC courses

END  
OF THE  
AUTUMN  
TERM

## HOW ARE YOUR COURSES GOING?

Are you on target and enjoying your courses?  
Discuss any concerns with tutors, teachers and your parents/carers

YEAR 12/  
YEAR 1 OF  
COLLEGE

## STARTING YOUR QUALIFICATIONS

Create good habits – have you got a study timetable?  
What do you enjoy most about your subjects?

