

**2022 - 2023**



**The Parents' Guide to**

**WHAT'S NEXT**

## How to get the most out of this guide

### Useful links

If you want to delve deeper and find out more, we've included useful links to other reliable sources. Simply click on the picture icons to be taken to our recommended websites.

### Call out boxes

Information we think is particularly important has been highlighted throughout this guide; pay special attention to these!

### Key terms

Easy to understand definitions are provided throughout this guide in the key terms boxes.

### Interactive

To make moving around this guide easier, the contents and chapter headings are interactive. Simply click on a heading to be taken to the chapter or page you would like to read.

This guide does not need to be read sequentially – browse what interests you most.

### Join us

If you're interested in regular updates about other ways you can help your teenage children, click here to subscribe to our parent newsletter.

## School membership

Our school membership package provides a year-round solution to positively increasing parental engagement. Our specialist guides and resources will make it easier to reach out to parents on a regular basis. Content covers actions for parents during key times throughout the academic year and will help schools meet Gatsby Benchmarks, especially 1, 2 and 3.

[Find out more about school membership.](#)

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If you'd like to feature your university or apprenticeship in future editions of this guide, please contact us on [info@theparentsguideto.co.uk](mailto:info@theparentsguideto.co.uk) for sponsorship/marketing opportunities.

# Contents



# Introduction

If you're not sure what options are out there, it's tricky to help your teen choose what to do next. This guide gives you an introduction to what's available after GCSE and sixth form, and why certain options suit some students more than others.

If your teen learns best through practical experience, they may not do as well with academic or classroom-led learning. Similarly, if they enjoy quiet, lecture-led lessons, getting an apprenticeship

and learning on the job may not suit them. We explore how you can help your teen make choices to suit their personality and learning preferences, so they have the best chance of success as they enter the next stage of their educational journey or career path.

This guide is not written so you do the work for them! It's a source of ideas so you feel confident talking to your teen about their future choices.

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# Options after GCSEs

**All 16 year olds must undertake further education until they are 18. This doesn't mean they have to stay on at school or go to college, they can get a job with a training element to it, but they cannot work full-time without some training.**

Most teens stay on at school or go to college and take either A levels or BTECs. This usually works well for students that enjoy being in the classroom. However, if your child prefers practical experience, they might achieve better results and be happier by taking a different route towards a career, such as T Levels, an apprenticeship or traineeship. Don't rule out an option because it's not one you know.

## Thinking ahead

If your child thinks they know what they want to do when they leave school at 18, this may influence their choices. However, in most cases, they won't have a firm idea of what they want to do (and may not even know whether they hope to progress to further education once they're 18) so it may be a good idea for them to make choices which will give them some experience in different areas, so they can find out what they really do and don't like. For the best chance of success, they should lean toward academic choices if they like classroom learning or vocational options if they prefer practical experience.

## Subject choices

There's much more choice at sixth form than GCSE, so there will be many subjects available that are new to them. Don't worry about them taking something they have never studied and then finding out they don't enjoy it or aren't good at it; they can make changes at the start of Y12.

## Going into the workplace

If school or college is not for them, apprenticeships offer a great career pathway, with the added benefit of hands-on workplace experience as well as obtaining valuable qualifications.

## Don't panic!

It's important to bear in mind that whatever your teen chooses to do after GCSE, whilst it will influence Post-18 options, it will not close any doors. If they make a mistake, there's still plenty of opportunity to change direction (it might mean a little additional work on their part!). If they go straight into an apprenticeship and change their mind later, there's always the chance to go back to full time study further down the line.

## Useful links

The Parents' Guide to Post 16 options



## Summary:

**There are lots of choices available to your child once they've completed GCSEs, so make sure they know what's on offer.**

1. A level and IB are more suited to theoretical learning;
2. BTECs and T Levels are great for those who enjoy practical experience and coursework;

3. EPQ offers the chance to earn more UCAS points as well as undertaking a project centred around your child's personal interests;
4. Apprenticeships, traineeships and internships provide on the job training and valuable experience.





T Levels are a two-year vocational qualification equivalent to three A levels

# A spotlight on T Levels

You've probably heard of A levels and BTEC, but have you heard of T Levels, a new sixth form qualification introduced in 2020?

## What are T Levels?

T Levels are a two-year vocational qualification equivalent to three A-levels. They involve a mix of classroom learning (about 80% of the course time) and practical experience (about 20% of the course time) including a 45 day on-the-job placement in a genuine business. Afterwards, students may go on to university, alternative higher education, another job, an apprenticeship or they may be offered an opportunity with the company where they were placed.

## Business in mind

It could be easy to discount T Levels as a credible sixth form choice because they're new and haven't been tried and tested. However, their recent development with input from businesses means they are tailored to meet existing industry needs much more directly than other generic qualifications and this is likely to appeal to future employers as well as preparing students for working life.

## Keeping options open

T Levels broaden the study choices for 16 years olds. They can offer a clear path to employment although, should your teen start the course and realise that industry or specialism it is not for them, there are still plenty of options for them to continue higher education or get work in a different industry once the T Level is complete.

## Useful links

[T Levels official website](#)

[Department for Education](#)

[The Parents' Guide to T Levels](#)



# The Parents' Guide to Post 16 options - summary (1)

	A levels	International Baccalaureate	BTEC Nationals	T-Levels (England only)
Qualification type	General Certificate of Advanced level qualification	International Baccalaureate Diploma	Business and Technology Education Council Diplomas <i>(Level 3 are similar standard to A Levels, with subsidiary diploma equivalent to one A level, BTEC diploma equivalent to 2 A levels and extended diploma equivalent to 3 A levels).</i>	Technical Level Qualification
Type of learning	Mostly theory. Can depend on the subjects taken	Mostly theory, some practical. Can depend on the subjects taken	Combination of practical and theory	Classroom learning (80%) with industry placement (20%)
Qualifications needed to sign up	At least x5 GCSE grade 4 – 9. At least grade 5/6 in the subject/s chosen for A level	Set by the school, up to 5 GCSEs	Up to 5 GCSEs	Up to 5 GCSEs
Subject choices	Three subjects	Up to six subjects (three standard level and three at higher level plus some compulsory modules including an extended essay)	Three vocational subjects	One industry field, such as construction (includes design, surveying and planning) or Education (includes early years, assisting teaching and supporting and mentoring students)
Commitment	<b>2 years full time</b>			
Tuition costs	<b>Free (unless parents choose to pay privately)</b>			
UCAS points awarded for passing	56 points – A* 48 points – A 40 points – B 32 points – C 24 points – D 16 points – E	56 points - Higher Level 7 48 points - Higher Level 6 32 points - Higher Level 5 24 points - Higher Level 4 12 points - Higher Level 3	For subsidiary diploma: 56 points – D* (distinction) 48 points – D 32 points – M (merit) 16 points – P (pass)  <i>Points are doubled for diploma and tripled for extended diploma</i>	168 points - Distinction* 144 points - Distinction 120 points - Merit 96 points – Pass (C or above) 72 points – Pass (D or E)
Can lead to	University, further study, training or work	University, further study, training or work	University, further study, training, professional development programmes or work	University, further study, training, professional development programmes or work

# The Parents' Guide to Post 16 options - summary (2)

	Cambridge Technicals	Other qualifications	BTEC apprenticeship	Other options
Qualification type	A Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate (equivalent to an A level) or Cambridge Technical Diploma (equivalent to x2 A levels)	City and Guilds; National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) or Tech Bac (similar to Baccalaureate)	Advanced Level 3 (equivalent to x2 A levels)	Traineeship / Volunteer with training / internship – all to help your child get enough skills to take on an apprenticeship or other form of qualification if they do not already have the minimum qualification requirements.
Type of learning	Practical course with lots of coursework based on real life case studies	Dependent on the qualification, most contain practical on the job training	Work based including off-site learning	Work based
Qualifications needed to sign up	At least x5 GCSE passes	x5 GCSE passes	Advanced Level 3 - depends on employer, some require at least 3 GCSEs	None
Subject choices	Range of vocational subjects	Range of vocational subjects	Range of vocational subjects, driven by the job offered	Range of vocational subjects, driven by the job offered
Commitment	2 years	2 years (level 3)	1-2 years	6 weeks – 6 months
Tuition costs	Free (unless parents choose to pay privately)			
UCAS points awarded for passing	Cambs Tech level 3: 56 points – D* (distinction) 48 points – D 32 points – M (merit) 16 points – P (pass)	In most cases no UCAS points are awarded but there are some exceptions.	n/a	n/a
Can lead to	University, further study, training or work	Further study, training, professional development programmes or work	University, further study, training or work	Further study, apprenticeships or job offers



There are lots of choices available to your child once they've completed sixth form, so make sure they know what's on offer

# Options after sixth form

What your child chooses to do after sixth form (or college) is exciting but can be nerve-racking. There are lots of options available and understanding the pros and cons between different choices can be confusing.

It's not just about deciding whether to go to work or continue further education – although that's a good starting point. Important considerations include how long they want to continue studying, how they will finance living expenses and course fees (and whether you can afford to help them), whether they want to study in a more academic environment or in a more practical environment (such as studying whilst working).

Many qualifications can be built upon, so they may commit to one year of further study and then decide to increase it for another year or two to get a higher qualification. This flexibility can be very useful, particularly for students who are not keen to commit to long-term studies after school, but find that they enjoy it once they've got started. In the case of degrees, they will need to commit to the length of study (minimum three years) from the beginning.

## Summary:

There are lots of choices available to your child once they've completed sixth form, so make sure they know what's on offer.

1. Higher education options (such as university or Higher National Diplomas) are more suited to theoretical learning;
2. Apprenticeships, trainee programmes and internship are great for those who enjoy practical experience and coursework and are a terrific way to get first-hand experience of what a job is like;
3. School leaver programmes offer opportunities to join the workplace and begin skills development and careers development through experience as well as study;
4. Other options include taking a gap year, starting their own business or entering the world of work.



# The Parents' Guide to Post 18 options - summary (1)

	University Degree	Degree Apprenticeship	Non-degree apprenticeship	Higher education course at College
Qualification type	Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science	Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science	Advanced or Higher apprenticeship	HNDs HNCs, Foundation Courses, Diplomas, Vocational course
Length of commitment	<b>3-4 Years</b> (Some degrees, such as medicine, are longer)	<b>3-4 Years</b> (Some can be longer, even up to 7 years)	<b>6 Months – 3 Years</b>	<b>1 – 3 Years</b> Some are part-time.
Tuition Costs	<b>£££</b> Students take out a “tuition fee loan” to pay course costs. No repayments are made until the student is earning £25k in the April after graduation. Any outstanding debt is wiped clear after 30 years.	<b>£0</b> Course costs (at university) are paid by the company and government.	<b>£0</b> Course costs (usually at college or by an education provider) are paid by the company and government.	<b>££</b> Tuition fees need to be paid but these are less expensive than university fees.  Students can apply for an “advanced learner loan” where repayments are made as a percentage of earnings above a certain threshold. Any outstanding debt is wiped clear after 25 years.
Accommodation Costs and living expenses (i.e. food, book, travel, going out)	<b>£-£££</b> May receive a “maintenance loan” dependent on parents’ income; however, this is rarely sufficient to cover all costs and students will either need to supplement by working or have help from their parents (or both!).	<b>£-££</b> A salary is paid, but parents may need to subsidise living expenses, especially if relocating to an expensive area.	<b>£-££</b> A salary is paid, and shorter apprenticeships may be local so students can continue living at home, but parents may need to subsidise living expenses, especially if relocating to an expensive area for longer apprenticeships.	<b>£</b> Students can often find suitable courses at colleges commutable from home, but there are still living expenses to be covered.
Alternatives	Company sponsored degrees (they are not an employee but gain work experience from the sponsor company)	Could also consider school leaver programmes (non degree apprenticeships)	Higher education courses	Non degree apprenticeships

# The Parents' Guide to Post 18 options - summary (2)


	Traineeship	Job with training	Job without training	Internship	Gap Year	Start a business
Qualification type	To prepare students for work or to go on to further education.	Training usually funded by employer, but check that it is a national recognised qualification, such as NVQ	Going straight into a job offers work experience but not a qualification. However, it is possible to create a personal training plan if desired.	None	Could include a year working for a charity or other employer to gain skills – not just about travelling. Can combine A level retakes in this year.	None, but it's important to have drive, commitment and an idea of what business idea to pursue.
Length of commitment	<b>6 weeks to 6 months</b>	n/a	n/a	<b>1 month to 6 months</b> But some up to a year.	<b>1 year</b>	n/a
Tuition Costs	<b>£0</b> Training fees are paid by the government.	<b>£0</b> Training funded by the employer.	<b>£-££</b> Any training would be self-funded.	<b>£0</b> Internships are about gaining practical work experience so there are rarely any formal qualifications undertaken.	<b>£0</b> There are no tuition costs unless retaking examinations.	<b>£-££</b> It may be useful to take some courses to hone skills when setting up a business. The Prince's Trust and Local Enterprise Partnership offer grants and mentoring.
Accommodation Costs and living expenses (i.e. food, book, travel, going out)	<b>£-££</b> Not paid to work, but some expenses (such as travel) may be provided. Accommodation costs may be expensive if needing to relocate.	<b>£</b> Salary provided and jobs are usually within commutable distance from home, though travel can be expensive.	<b>£</b> Salary provided and jobs are usually within commutable distance from home, though travel can be expensive.	<b>£-££</b> Legally interns should be paid although many aren't. Some companies may cover travel expenses. Depending on the location, living and travel expenses could be costly.	<b>£-£££</b> Gap years need not be expensive. Flights and accommodation is usually covered for overseas volunteering. Personal travel can be funded by working for part of the year.	<b>£</b> Lots of young people start their businesses online, which means minimal start up costs and they can continue living at home.
Alternatives	Job with training, internship or apprenticeship	Traineeship, internship or apprenticeship	Traineeship, internship or apprenticeship	Traineeship, job with training or apprenticeship	Gap Year after university / job / apprenticeship	Start a business whilst working or in education





HAVE A LOOK AT:

2022 - 2023



The Parents' Guide to  
**POST 16 OPTIONS**  
*(full edition)*

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The Parents' Guide to  
**POST 18 OPTIONS**  
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Level	Qualification / educational routes				
8	Doctorate (PhD)			NVQ 8	
7	Masters degree (MA)			Degree apprenticeship / NVQ 5, 6, 7	
6	Bachelors degree BA or BSc				
5	Foundation degree FdA or FdSc	Higher National Diploma (HND)			
4				Higher apprenticeship / NVQ 4	
3	A levels Grades A-E	International Baccalaureate	T Levels	BTEC (extended) diploma BTEC certificate	Advanced apprenticeship / NVQ 3
2	GCSE Grades 4- 9 (C, B, A or A*)			BTEC first diploma	Intermediate apprenticeship / NVQ 2
1	GCSE Grades 1- 3 (D, E, F or G)			Foundation diploma / entry level qualifications	Traineeship / NVQ 1
	Academic route		Vocational route	Applied / work route	

### Levels of Education

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland there are 8 qualification levels (1 - 8) plus an entry level qualification for those just starting. Generally, the higher the level, the more difficult the qualification is. Levels 1-3 are typically taught in schools and colleges.

With so many different qualifications, it can be hard to know what they mean and where they might lead to next. To help you understand, we've created a summary of what the levels mean highlighting academic, vocational and work-based routes to higher education.



# Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships can be a fantastic career path, whether started after GCSE or sixth form. They offer the opportunity to combine study with paid employment resulting in a professional qualification. There are no tuition fees (these are covered by the employer and the government) and the salary can cover living expenses. Entry levels vary from 2 (equivalent to GCSE level) to 7 (degree level).

Apprenticeships used to be associated with trade industries (such as electricians, mechanics or plumbers). Nowadays, apprenticeships can be taken in a wide range of industry sectors and provide entry to all types of careers, including accountancy, banking, IT, law, management and television.

Relatively new to the apprenticeship suite are “degree apprenticeships”, offering an earn while you learn route to BSc or BA status. In other words, the end qualification is the same as if your

child had attended university full time, the difference is that they will not have incurred any debt in tuition fees and will finish their degree with robust and transferable workplace skills.

Taking an apprenticeship is not an easy option and competition can be fierce. It takes organisation and dedication to balance work, where your child will be expected to contribute to the same standards as everyone else, and study. Holidays are far fewer than at college or university. However, if they have a more practical, work-related bias towards learning this will suit them well and they will obtain valuable experience which will strengthen opportunities in finding rewarding work when the apprenticeship is over.

Selecting the right apprenticeship will require your child to have reasonable confidence in the type of career they wish to follow although there is some flexibility. So how do you help them decide? We'll guide you.

## Useful links

**GOV. UK  
Overview**

**UCAS**

**The  
Parents'  
Guide to**





# The Parents' Guide to Apprenticeship levels



**Typical length**  
12-18 months

**Entry requirements:**  
None or few

**Qualifications obtained:**  
GCSE, BTEC or equivalent

**Who's it for?**  
Mostly for 16-year-olds with limited or no academic qualifications.



**Typical length**  
3-5 years

**Entry requirements:**  
A levels or equivalent

**Qualifications obtained:**  
Higher national diploma / foundation degree

**Who's it for?**  
Mostly for those who want to qualify for professional career paths without attending university or college. Sometimes referred to as 'school leaver' or 'non-graduate' programmes.



**Typical length**  
12-24 months

**Entry requirements:**  
Usually 5 GCSEs

**Qualifications obtained:**  
A levels or equivalent

**Who's it for?**  
Mostly for 16-year-olds with reasonable academic achievements but who don't want to study in sixth form.



**Typical length**  
3-7 years

**Entry requirements:**  
At least 2 A levels or equivalent

**Qualifications obtained:**  
A BA or BSc degree or higher

**Who's it for?**  
Mostly for those with excellent sixth form results that want to study for a degree or similar whilst working. Aimed at attracting high-calibre candidates to bridge professional skills gaps.



## Is an apprenticeship the right choice over full-time education?



### Advantages

- ▷ Apprenticeships provide focused and applied training for those who already have a strong interest in a job or industry.
- ▷ Not everyone is suited to academic learning and apprenticeships provide a practical approach to obtaining qualifications.
- ▷ Apprenticeships provide paid employment with a structured approach to learning.
- ▷ Apprenticeships develop key transferable skills which are considered lacking in the labour market.
- ▷ Apprenticeships may provide future employment within the company and working within an organisation may reveal job roles they did not know existed.
- ▷ Gaining work experience and on the job training may provide your child with a competitive advantage when applying for full-time employment.
- ▷ Degree apprenticeships offer the chance to gain a BA or BSc without incurring the debts associated with studying at university.

### Considerations

- ▷ Apprenticeships may narrow options early on. Your child will need to have a fairly clear idea of the type of career they wish to pursue.
- ▷ It may be difficult for your child to combine studying with working.
- ▷ The salary of an apprentice can be quite low and your child will also need to consider financing their travel and living expenses if they are not living at home. Furthermore, your child may need to pay back their course fees if they choose to leave their apprenticeship early.
- ▷ Your child may feel that they are missing out on the 'student life' if taking a degree apprenticeship. However, some universities still offer their degree apprentices a strong student experience.
- ▷ Many companies provide graduate schemes for university leavers on completion of their degree.
- ▷ Entering the work place at an early age may lead to fatigue.
- ▷ Degree apprenticeships are still quite new so there is a limited number of vacancies at the moment.



# Finding an apprenticeship



**FREE ENTRY**

**BOOK TODAY**

## THE NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP & EDUCATION EVENT



Millennium Point **Birmingham**  
 Friday 7 October 2022  
 Tuesday 28 March 2023  
 9am to 3pm

**Get face-to-face careers advice at this momentous event!**

The event hosts over **80 exhibitors** including universities, employers and training providers, all showcasing their career options. Find out about university courses, Intermediate to Degree Level Apprenticeships and other paths to employment. Meet many of The Gatsby Benchmarks by attending this event every October and March.

Before the event, a lot of the pupils had shown an interest in apprenticeships but didn't know the path they wanted to take. We are now going to go through their options. Events like this, where they can get all the information in one go is really useful to us.  
 Teacher

It's been absolutely brilliant. It's been informative and it's been really fun as well.  
 Student

Book online today or call the events team on **0800 023 5407** for more information.  
[nationalapprenticeshipevents.co.uk/group-bookings/](https://nationalapprenticeshipevents.co.uk/group-bookings/)



share with us nationalapprenticeshipevents @careersevent nationalapprenticeshipevents



There's a wide range of ways to seek out apprenticeships and we recommend using a selection of options rather than relying on one.

### Government website

Most apprenticeships are posted on the Government's website. By creating an account, your child can set up alerts and filters to see opportunities that are of most interest to them and to be emailed when new opportunities arise. However, not all apprenticeships will appear.

### Industry sector

It's smart to check apprenticeships directly on company, university or college websites. If your child doesn't know which of these sites to select, then they should first do some research on which industry sector may be of interest, and then find companies within this sector.

### Job boards

National job agencies will also advertise apprenticeships and options can be narrowed to review within local distances from home or specific job types. This might be a particularly good way to seek out apprenticeships in level 3-5 range.

### Companies direct

Another alternative is for them to identify companies that are of interest and check those websites for apprenticeships.

Be warned! Applications to well-known international companies (such as Amazon, Coca-Cola, Facebook, Google, Virgin) will be highly competitive; however, it might be a good starting point for identifying what's included in the apprenticeship and seeking out other companies that provide similar content.

### School careers advisor

If your child is still at school or college, then getting them to speak with their careers adviser is a good move. Careers advisors are often the first to hear from companies advertising new apprenticeships

*For more information on apprenticeships and how to help your child research, apply and prepare for one, you may be interested in The Parents' Guide to Apprenticeships 2022 - 2023*

### Useful links

**GOV. UK Search**

**Apprenticeship Search**

**UCAS**

**Not going to Uni**



APPRENTICESHIPS WITH  
THE TOP 20 EMPLOYERS  
WILL BE VERY COMPETITIVE

## Top 10 apprenticeship employers: 2022

1.  Softcat

2.  YOUR LONDON AIRPORT  
*Gatwick*

3.  M  
&G

4.  sage

5.  nationalgrid

6.  mace

7.  BT

8.  savills

9.  WHITBREAD

10.  Mitchells  
& Butlers

Based on 4,000 reviews - statistics compiled by [www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk](http://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk)  
For a list of the top 100 apprenticeship employers click [here](#).



# University and UCAS

Attending university can offer students a great foundation for their future; both in obtaining further qualifications and in providing a protected environment to transition from teenager to adult. Selecting the right university and course can seem daunting as there are lots of opportunities available. The “right” university means the right university for them: one which offers courses they’d like to study; where they will fit in and feel comfortable; one that will stretch their abilities without breaking them; and one where they will feel safe and happy. The “right” university will differ from child to child – even within the same family.

Of course, whilst going to university is first and foremost about getting a higher-level qualification, it offers much more than that. It’s about learning to research independently, create professional relationships, develop lasting friendships, live without parental supervision, take up lifelong hobbies and interests. It’s learning to be a grown-up: self-reliant, resourceful and confident. It’s a time when you’ll get to watch your teen become an adult. So how to get it right? We’ll guide you.

## Useful links

[UCAS](#)

[The Uni Guide website](#)

[University guide](#)





# Researching the right course

With over 30,000 courses available the right course is out there – it just might be tricky to find it! There is plenty of information about university courses available so it's worth researching diligently before making choices, rather than students relying on "my teacher recommends it", "my parents took it", or "I like the university".

## When to step back

This research is something that your child should undertake – not you on their behalf. Avoid the temptation to use this as an opportunity to investigate options you would have liked to take given the chance. It may be tough with the benefit of hindsight and experience, but try not to forget it's your child's life and their choices, not yours.

## Finding focus

Thinking of favourite subject choices is a good way to narrow focus, but don't forget many of the subjects offered at degree level aren't covered in sixth form options, so don't let your child restrict themselves to only considering topics they've already studied. Of course, if they

are already set on a certain career path, their choice of degree may be obvious, which can be helpful. If not, some thought and reflection on things they enjoy that might apply to the workplace can give direction so some research on jobs might help streamline options by providing guidance on routes into industry.

## Too much choice?

If they are struggling with a starting point, investigating what's of interest to them is a good place to start. You think they spend too much time playing video games? How about a BA in Computer Games Design – it can be a lucrative business post-graduation. Not academic but loves sports? BA in Sports Management. A passion for understanding how things work? How about MEng(Hons) in Product Design Engineering? Always reading crime thrillers? Perhaps they'd enjoy a BA in Criminology.

## Predicted grades

Your child should research courses with entry requirements that are closely aligned to their predicted grades, allowing for some aspirational and safe choices either side.

## Useful links

[UCAS course search](#)

[Uni Guide course search](#)





# Suggested starting points

London Business School

Minds alive

There is plenty of information about university courses available, and whilst it's up to your child to do the research, as parents you can help guide them by checking that the courses they short-list fit their personality. For example, a child that likes to be active and enjoys practical

studies and getting involved is likely to do better on a course that has plenty of experiential learning rather than one that is largely based around lectures and seminars. Here are some suggestions for things to consider when deciding whether a course meets your child's needs:

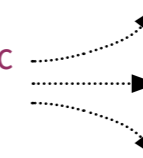
## Activate your career plan. Join a world leading business school.

Our Early Career masters programmes are specifically designed to help recent graduates build the confidence, skills and business acumen needed to stand out to top recruiters.

That's why 96% of our 2021 cohort received a job offer within three months of graduating.

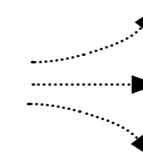
[london.edu/grad-career](https://london.edu/grad-career)

Is your child academic or practical?



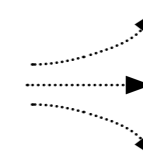
- Do they enjoy being in the classroom?
- Do they enjoy learning in a studio or outside?
- Do they enjoy writing essays and researching topics or prefer to make and produce things?

Which school subjects do they enjoy?



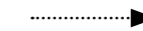
- Is there a particular part of a school subject they have enjoyed?
- Do they have a natural flair for a subject?
- If they enjoy more than one subject, are there any common themes?

What are your child's hobbies?



- Is your child particularly passionate about any music, sport or art related activities?
- Think about your child's personality traits
- Try to think outside the box - do they have a particular interest in current affairs? Gaming? Helping others?

Has your child expressed interest in a particular career?



- Try to think of subjects that will help them pursue this career without narrowing their options too much if they change their mind later





UNIVERSITY OF  
PORTSMOUTH

# Open Days

Saturday 2 July 2022

Wednesday 6 July 2022

Saturday 8 October 2022

Saturday 5 November 2022

Saturday 10 December 2022

[port.ac.uk/july-open-day](http://port.ac.uk/july-open-day)

## Preparing for open days

**There's nothing like an in-person visit to get a feel for a university. If you get the chance, make sure your teen visits the universities they want to apply to, and if possible, go with them.**

### Plan ahead

To get the best value out of university open days, prepare in advance. Open days often include a variety of lectures, walking tours and presentations, so your child should check what's on offer and plan accordingly.

In addition, they should make a list of questions that they want to ask each university so they can compare and contrast differences to help with their decision making. Which questions should they ask staff, which are better aimed at students, or should they ask the same questions to both? Don't forget, even if they can only take part in a virtual open day, there will still be an opportunity to ask questions.

### Speak with students

Whilst open days provide an opportunity to receive information on the degree course and the university itself, nothing beats hearing from someone with first-hand experience of what it is like to study there. It's a good idea for both of you to speak to current undergraduates if the opportunity arises - ask them questions about teaching quality, societies, accommodation and the local area.

### Prepare questions in advance

Do not be afraid to ask questions. Open days provide the perfect opportunity to receive direct answers to questions that may be difficult to find online. Both you and your child should think of some questions in advance rather than thinking on the spot.

### Walk and observe (if possible)

Walk around the campus and university town or city. Try to encourage your child to get a good feel for the environment. Can they imagine themselves living there? Do the students look happy? Is it a friendly place to be?

### Don't stress if you can't attend

If you and your child are unable to make the official open day, then you could arrange a private viewing. Call the admissions team to arrange a suitable date and time to visit. Whilst you are likely to miss out on some of the lectures and presentations that are organised during an open day, you may still be able to speak with a member of staff from the relevant faculty. There may also be virtual open days and virtual tours available online.

### Useful links

[UCAS open day search](#)

[Open days calendar](#)



# A-Z University listing

*I'm interactive!  
Click on the university name  
and I'll take you to their  
website*

## A

University of Aberdeen  
Abertay University (formerly University of Abertay Dundee)  
Aberystwyth University (Prifysgol Aberystwyth)  
Anglia Ruskin University  
Anglo-European College of Chiropractic  
Archbishop of Canterbury, The  
Arden University (formerly known as Resource Development International)  
Ashridge Business School  
Aston University

## B

Bangor University (Prifysgol Bangor)  
University of Bath  
Bath Spa University  
University of Bedfordshire  
Birkbeck, University of London  
University of Birmingham\*  
Birmingham City University  
University College Birmingham  
Bishop Grossteste University  
University of Bolton  
Arts University Bournemouth  
Bournemouth University  
BPP University  
University of Bradford  
University of Brighton  
University of Bristol\*  
Brunel University London  
University of Buckingham  
Buckinghamshire New University

## C

University of Cambridge\*  
Canterbury Christ Church University

Cardiff Metropolitan University (Prifysgol Metropolitan Caerdydd)  
Cardiff University (Prifysgol Caerdydd)\*  
University of Chester  
University of Chichester  
City University London  
Courtauld Institute of Art, The (degrees awarded by University of London)  
Coventry University  
Cranfield University  
University for the Creative Arts  
University of Cumbria

## D

De Montfort University  
University of Derby  
University of Dundee  
Durham University\*

## E

University of East Anglia  
University of East London  
Edge Hill University  
University of Edinburgh, The\*  
Edinburgh Napier University  
University of Essex  
University of Exeter\*

## F

Falmouth University

## G

University of Glasgow\*  
Glasgow Caledonian University  
University of Gloucestershire  
Glyndŵr University (Prifysgol Glyndŵr)  
Goldsmiths, University of London  
University of Greenwich  
Guildhall School of Music and Drama

## H

Harper Adams University  
Hartpury University  
Heriot-Watt University  
University of Hertfordshire  
Heythrop College (degrees awarded by University of London)  
University of the Highlands and Islands  
University of Huddersfield  
University of Hull

## I

Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine (also known as Imperial College London)\*  
Institute of Cancer Research, The (degrees awarded by University of London)  
Institute of Education, University of London

## K

Keele University  
University of Kent  
King's College London\*  
Kingston University

## L

University of Central Lancashire  
Lancaster University  
University of Leeds\*  
Leeds Beckett University (formerly Leeds Metropolitan University)  
Leeds Arts University  
Leeds Trinity University  
University of Leicester  
University of Lincoln  
University of Liverpool\*  
Liverpool Hope University  
Liverpool John Moores University

Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine  
University of London  
London Business School  
London Institute of Banking and Finance, The  
London Metropolitan University  
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine  
London School of Economics and Political Science, The (LSE)\*  
London South Bank University  
University College London\*  
Loughborough University

## M

University of Manchester\*  
Manchester Metropolitan University  
Middlesex University

## N

NCG  
Newcastle University\*  
Newman University, Birmingham  
University of Northampton, The  
Northumbria University  
Newcastle  
Norwich University of the Arts  
University of Nottingham\*  
Nottingham Trent University

## O

Open University, The  
University of Oxford\*  
Oxford Brookes University

## P

Plymouth University  
University of Portsmouth

## Q

Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh



Queen Mary, University of London\*  
Queen's University Belfast

**R**

Ravensbourne  
University of Reading  
Regent's University London  
Richmond, The American International  
University in London  
Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen  
University of Roehampton  
Rose Bruford College of Theatre and  
Performance  
Royal Academy of Music  
Royal Agricultural University  
Royal Central School of Speech and  
Drama (University of London)  
Royal College of Art  
Royal College of Music  
Royal College of Nursing  
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland  
Royal Holloway, University of London  
Royal Northern College of Music  
Royal Veterinary College, The

**S**

University of Salford  
School of Oriental and African Studies  
(SOAS), University of London  
University of Sheffield\*  
Sheffield Hallam University  
University of South Wales (Prifysgol De  
Cymru)  
University of Southampton\*  
Solent University  
University of St Andrews  
St George's, University of London  
University of St Mark and St John,  
Plymouth  
St Mary's University, Twickenham  
Staffordshire University

University of Stirling  
University of Strathclyde  
University of Suffolk  
University of Sunderland  
University of Surrey  
University of Sussex  
Swansea University (Prifysgol  
Abertawe)

**T**

Teesside University  
Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music  
and Dance

**U**

University of the Arts, London  
University College of Estate  
Management  
University College of Osteopathy  
University of Law, The  
University of Ulster

**W**

University of Wales (Prifysgol Cymru)  
University of Wales Trinity Saint David  
(Prifysgol Cymru Y Drindod Dewi Sant)  
University of Warwick\*  
University of the West of England, Bristol  
University of West London  
University of the West of Scotland  
University of Westminster  
University of Winchester, The  
University of Wolverhampton  
University of Worcester  
Writtle University College

**Y**

University of York\*  
York St John University

\* Russell Group Universities

*I'm interactive!  
Click on the university name  
and I'll take you to their  
website*

**EXPLORE THE FULL COLLECTION:**

**HOMELIFE AND STUDY**



**OPTIONS AT 16**



**OPTIONS AT 18**





**ONE IN TEN STUDENTS WILL TAKE  
A GAP YEAR AFTER FINISHING  
SCHOOL**

# Other choices

## Traineeships

Traineeships are much shorter and last six weeks to six months. They are a great way to prepare for apprenticeships (if your child doesn't have the minimum entry requirements) or to get first-hand experience of what a job is like.

## School leaver programmes

School leaver programmes offer opportunities to join the workplace straight after sixth form studies and commence skills development and career progression through experience as well as studying to obtain a nationally recognised qualification. Entry requirements vary from employer to employer.

## Gap year / deferred entry

Taking a year out between school and university can provide the opportunity to find out a little bit more about personal preferences rather than being directed by schools, colleges (and parents!). It's also a good opportunity to find out how your child fares fending for themselves.

A gap year can be taken while entry to university is being deferred, once a place has been accepted (allowing a year between leaving school and starting university), or if university is not the next step at all.

Traditionally, this is a year spent travelling overseas, but it needn't focus exclusively on that. Volunteering and work experience can also be incorporated and inform your child's likes and dislikes, as well as giving them valuable first-hand experience in a variety of areas they may not have had chance to try out. However, for some a gap year can be distracting and, if not well-planned, could prove somewhat directionless, which is unlikely to be beneficial.

Some may want to enter the world of work straightaway or, if they haven't achieved the results they had hoped, they could always try retakes or other sixth-form subjects.

## Useful links

[The Parents' Guide to](#)

[UCAS](#)



# Leaving home

Whether they're heading to university, to an apprenticeship or off to full-time work, there may come a time when your child needs to live away from home so they can fulfil their dreams. Make sure they're prepared to fend for themselves by teaching them healthy food choices, how to cook, how to budget and how to balance their time between work and play while they're living at home with you.

## What to pack

When leaving home for the first time, your child may need help deciding what they'll need to take with them. This means everything from work clothes, casual clothes, course materials, laptops, phones to bedding, cooking equipment and all the appropriate paperwork such as bank accounts, TV licences, insurance and new travel passes. It will make their life easier if they know how to plan ahead and it will make you feel more comfortable knowing they are well-prepared.

Try to keep to the basics when it comes to kitchen utensils and try to purchase items, which are easily identifiable - bright colours or patterns will help your child keep track of their items, especially if they are in shared accommodation.

If you are helping your child move, then it may be a good idea to factor in some time for a trip to the local shopping centre for any last minute purchases, such as household cleaning items.

## Don't forget:

### Important documents

- Passport
- Driving licence
- All university / college and accommodation correspondence
- Apprenticeship contract
- Insurance documents
- Bank details
- Parking permit

### Electricals

- Laptop and chargers
- Mobile phone
- Headphones
- Extension cables

### Stationery and course books

### Kitchenware

- Cutlery and crockery
- Kitchen utensils
- Family recipes
- Cook books

### Bedroom

- Coat hangers
- Duvet, pillow, mattress protector and sheets
- Wash kit
- Photographs of family & friends





# 'Leaving home' shopping list - [click here for our best buys](#)

I'm interactive!  
Click each item for  
inspiration!

## BEDROOM

### Essentials:

- Alarm clock
- Bin (small)
- Books
- Coat hangers
- Mirror

### Extras:

- Beanbag
- Cushions
- Door wedge
- Extra storage
- Family photos
- Over door hangers
- Plant
- Rug
- Wall art / posters

## BATHROOM

### Essentials:

- Bath towels
- Deodorant
- Hairbrush
- Hand towels
- Nail clippers
- Razor
- Sanitary towels
- Shampoo
- Shower gel
- Toilet roll
- Toothbrush / paste
- Wash bag

### Extras:

- Bath mat
- Flip flops
- Hair dryer
- Make-up
- Moisturiser

## KITCHEN

### Complete sets

### Essentials:

- Baking tray
- Bowls
- Cheese grater
- Chopping board
- Cling film
- Corkscrew
- Cutlery
- Glasses
- Knives
- Mugs
- Plates
- Pots and pans
- Scissors
- Tin foil
- Tin opener
- Tea towels
- Wooden spoons

### Extras:

- Casserole dish
- Colander
- Masher
- Measuring jug
- Plastic bag sealers
- Recipe books
- Scales
- Shot glasses
- Slow cooker
- Spice jars
- Tupperware
- Vegetable peeler
- Whisk
- Wok

## CLOTHING

### Essentials:

- Casual clothes
- Evening clothes
- Fleece
- Gym clothes
- Smart clothes
- Pyjamas
- Smart shoes
- Sports equipment
- Socks
- Rain jacket
- Swimwear
- Thermals
- Trainers
- Underwear
- Winter clothes

## STUDY

### Essentials:

- A4 folders
- File Dividers
- Highlighters
- Notepad / paper
- Pens and pencils
- Plastic wallets
- Post-it notes
- Stapler
- White-tac

### Extras:

- Calculator
- Desk lamp
- Diary / planner

## ELECTRICS

### Essentials:

- Batteries
- Chargers
- Extension lead
- Laptop
- Laptop case
- Multi plug adaptor

### Extras:

- Mouse
- Keyboard
- Printer
- Printing ink
- Speakers
- Television

## SLEEP

### Essentials:

- Bed sheets
- Duvet
- Duvet set
- Mattress protector
- Pillows
- Pillow cases

### Extras:

- Diffuser / oils
- Mattress topper
- Night lamp
- Warm blanket

## FIRST AID

### Complete sets

### Essentials:

- Antibacterial wipes
- Antiseptic cream
- Hot-water bottle
- Hydration salts
- Painkillers
- Plasters
- Sewing kit
- Torch
- Tweezers

## HOUSE KEEPING

### Essentials:

- Coat hangers
- Door wedge
- Iron
- Laundry bag
- Washing powder
- Wet wipes

### Extras:

- Drying rack
- Mini vacuum
- Laundry basket

## DOCUMENTS

### Essentials:

- Bank accounts
- CV and references
- Discount cards
- Exam certificates
- NHS number
- NI number
- Passport
- Passport photos
- Uni paperwork

### Extras:

- TV licence

## FUN & GAMES

### Extras:

- Bicycle
- Board games
- Computer games
- Dress-up costumes
- Fairy lights
- Games console
- Gym equipment
- Photo albums
- Playing cards
- Polaroid camera
- Projector
- Recipe books
- Sports equipment



## Visit **The Parents' Guide to** website for more support and resources:

### Parent Guides

Our range of interactive guides provide you with easy to follow advice, hyperlinks to reliable sources and the most up-to-date information.

*All our resources are ready for immediate download*

### Support articles

Browse through our collection of online articles covering a range of topics from supporting your child with their revision to helping them apply to university through UCAS.

### Parent Q&A

Almost every parent has questions about their child's education. Read through answers to commonly asked questions or ask your own.

### Blog

Our blog provides reliable and timely advice and support to changes taking place across UK schools and colleges.

### Parent newsletter

Sign up to our parent newsletter and receive free support, advice and resources on how you can help your teenage children straight to your inbox.



[www.theparentsguideto.co.uk/parents](http://www.theparentsguideto.co.uk/parents)



# NCW 2023 06-11  
MAR 23

## A welcome from NCW...

National Careers Week is a celebration of careers guidance and free resources in education across the UK. The aim is to provide a focus for careers guidance activity at an important stage in the academic calendar to help support young people leaving education.

With youth unemployment remaining high and employers citing that young people are ill prepared with the basic skills needed for employment, there has never been a bigger need for

careers guidance to be promoted and celebrated in education.

National Careers Week is the perfect platform to advise and inspire the next generation as they enter the world of work. National Careers Week, which takes place next year between the 6th - 11th of March 2023, encourages education providers to bring together students, local employers and advisers through careers events and activities.

During National Careers Week it is up to every school, academy and college to offer careers advice and guidance to their students and parents/carers with support from NCW in providing free resources, information on current career opportunities and advice on activities and exercises to run.

Access to NCW resources doesn't stop at the end of #NCW2023, the dedicated websites are available

with resources, video content - [NCWTV.co.uk](https://www.ncw.co.uk/ncw-tv) - and other tools throughout the year! Take a look!

### Stay connected:





[Click here for terms of use](#)

**2022 - 2023**



**The Parents' Guide to**

**WHAT'S NEXT**