

What next?

CONSIDERING POST SIXTH FORM OPTIONS



What are the options?

- ▶ Higher Apprenticeship
- ▶ School Leaver Programmes
- ▶ Sponsored Degree Programmes
- ▶ University
- ▶ Gap year

Higher Apprenticeships

- ▶ These apprenticeships are designed to give you a higher level of training than your standard apprenticeship
- ▶ They are found in industries such as business, engineering and IT.
- ▶ Entry requirements vary but Level 3 qualifications are a requirement
- ▶ As they are new, there aren't a huge amount of higher apprenticeships around, but they provide an excellent opportunity for those who want to pursue a career in certain industries.
- ▶ Even better, as well as vocational qualifications, some higher apprenticeships give you the chance to work towards a higher qualification, such as a foundation degree, HND, or undergraduate degree.

School Leavers Programmes

- ▶ Very similar to higher apprenticeships (and sometimes incorporating a higher apprenticeship as part of the scheme), school leaver programmes are marketed as THE alternative to university for high-achieving, ambitious students.
- ▶ Popular in sectors like finance and accountancy
- ▶ Competition for places is fierce and entry requirements can be high
- ▶ These programmes might combine work experience with intensive training and the chance to gain a professional qualification (e.g. in accountancy) or an undergraduate degree.
- ▶ Degrees or professional qualifications are usually built into the programme and employers will often cover or contribute to the cost of completing the qualification.
- ▶ Examples of big-name employers who offer school leaver programmes: [National Audit Office](#), [Grant Thornton](#), [Deloitte](#), [National Grid](#), [Marks and Spencers](#)

Sponsored Degree Programmes

- ▶ A variety of different types of sponsored degree programmes are up for grabs in the UK.
- ▶ You might work full-time for a company whilst studying part-time for a degree.
- ▶ Alternatively, you might get a scholarship from an employer and combine it with a series of work experience placements at the firm.
- ▶ Again sponsored degree programmes are still very much restricted to a limited number of industries and employers.
- ▶ You probably won't find many sponsored degree opportunities for traditional degree subjects, but there might be more scope for sponsorship in more vocational areas.
- ▶ Examples of employers that offer sponsored degree programmes: [Ernst & Young](#), [PwC](#), [National Grid](#), [BBC](#), [Rolls-Royce](#),

More information on alternatives to university

- ▶ www.notgoingtouni.co.uk
- ▶ www.allaboutschoolleavers.co.uk
- ▶ <http://www.whatapprenticeship.co.uk/>
- ▶ <http://www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk/>

University - options

- ▶ Full time or part time?
- ▶ Honours?
- ▶ Sandwich - in industry? Abroad?
- ▶ Single subject?
- ▶ Broad or specialised?
- ▶ Joint honours?
- ▶ Major with a minor?
- ▶ Foundation year or Masters?

Consideration	Person 1	Person 2
Full time?	Yes	Yes
Honours?	Yes	Yes
Sandwich?	Yes a year in industry / abroad	No
Single /joint honours?	Engineering	Maths and computer science
Specialised?	Mechanical engineering	No
Masters?	Yes = MEng	No

Distance Learning

The Open University



The Open
University

- Courses taught via distance learning
- Can combine with work and/or other commitments
- Full and part time
- Voted top university for student satisfaction 3 years running
- www.open.ac.uk

Studying Abroad

Top 5 destinations:

- USA 33%
- Australia 9%
- France 5%
- Germany 5%
- Canada 4%

(2012)

www.fulbright.org.uk – USA

www.eunicas.ie – Europe

www.studyoptions.com – Australia/NZ

www.astarfuture.co.uk

Skills & knowledge:

- Flexibility to see issues from different perspectives
- Cultural awareness
- Language skills
- Confidence to deal with unforeseen challenges



Disadvantages:

- Poverty
- Homesickness
- Loneliness
- Difficulties with language
- May not be eligible to practise in UK

Other options:

- Erasmus scheme: 3-12 months at European university
- Year abroad as part of your course – can search on UCAS



University



PROS:

- Opportunity to spend 3 or 4 years studying something in depth that fascinates you
- Qualification at the end of it which will should help you get a good job
- Better promotion prospects and greater earning potential
- Make lifelong friends and professional contacts for the future
- A chance to experience some independence, move to a different part of the country and expand your horizons

CONS:

- Student debt
- 3 or 4 years when you could be earning money instead, working your way up in a career
- No guarantee that you'll land a high-paying graduate job
- Could all be for nothing if you decide to go into a career where a degree isn't essential, if you don't get a good grade (often 2:1 or 1st) or you do a degree in something with poor job prospects

Apprenticeship/School Leaver Scheme



PROS:

- Combine getting a qualification with real hands-on experience plus earning a wage
- Qualifications gained vary from Foundation degree, HNC/HND to full undergraduate degree
- Can provide a quicker route to professional status (e.g. Chartered Accountant in 5 not 6 years)
- Training costs covered by employers plus being paid while learning = NO DEBT
- Available from increasing number of employers – e.g. Jaguar Land Rover, Lloyds Bank, EY, PwC, Sky, BBC, British Airways



CONS:

- Not all career paths/industries covered by this route
- Limited choice if your scheme involves a degree-level qualification
- Miss out on full university experience (i.e. social side + devoting yourself to full-time academic study)
- Need to decide on specific career area from the outset, so no opportunity to leave options open by studying a subject just because you enjoy it
- Over a working lifetime, non-graduate likely to earn £100k less than a graduate – **but the gap is closing**

Considering a Gap Year?

- ▶ Do something worthwhile
- ▶ Consider applying to university first and deferring
- ▶ For most Art/Design related degrees, need one-year Art Foundation course
- ▶ Gap year experiences can provide evidence to impress on CVs, personal statements & job applications
- ▶ Opportunity to improve grades, learn new skills (e.g. TEFL) or take a break from studying altogether
- ▶ Enough time to travel as well as get a paid job
- ▶ For more information <http://gapadvice.org/>