

MOVING ON FROM SIXTH FORM

What comes next? What is all your hard work and commitment going to do for you? And how do you prepare for the next stage in your life?



Higher Education

Higher education offers undergraduate degrees, higher national diplomas and foundation degrees. The majority are taught in universities but some further education colleges and specialist colleges in subjects such as art and drama also offer HE courses.



Most courses at university require you to study certain subjects at A Level. If you think that you know what you want to do check the UCAS website to find out if the university will accept the A levels that you are studying. *The Russell Group have a lot of useful advice too <https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/>

*The Russell Group are the 24 leading UK universities

HONOURS DEGREES

Most students study for Honours Degrees. Entry requirements are usually three A Levels (or equivalent) and grades required will vary according to the course and the university. GCSE Maths and English at grade 4 or above are normally expected too.

HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA (HND)

This is usually a two to three year course. All courses are vocational, equipping students with skills to work in technical, scientific or business environments. Although many employers are happy to accept an HND, it is also possible to add a top up year to your HND to convert it to a full honours degree.

THERE ARE THREE DIFFERENT DIPLOMAS/DEGREES WITH FOUNDATION IN THE TITLE! THEY ARE:

FOUNDATION DEGREES

This is a degree level qualification designed to equip you to work in a particular job or profession. It is the equivalent of two thirds of an honours degree and although it is a qualification in its own right you can often top it up to full honours.

FOUNDATION YEAR (ALSO KNOWN AS YEAR ZERO)

This is an extra preparatory year before you start your honours degree. It can come as part of the degree or as a separate course. This course is sometimes offered by universities to students who don't meet the usual entry requirements but show potential.

ART FOUNDATION DIPLOMAS

These are one-year courses designed for students after their A Level Art is completed. Courses can be offered at local colleges and at HE institutions and are often a requirement before you embark on your honours degree. Normally there are no course fees if you are under 19 when you start the course.

THE UCAS TARIFF

UCAS (University and College Admission Service) is the organisation that processes all applications for university)

The UCAS tariff is the points system that most unis use to state their entry requirements and one of the criteria used to work out whether to offer you a place. It is based on the grade that you get in each AS level or A Level regardless of subject. Note that your AS point score only counts towards the total if you have not continued with that subject to the full A Level.

The UCAS website has a tariff calculator to help you understand your points score – this is the simple version.

AS Level Grade	UCAS points score
A	20
B	16
C	12
D	10
E	6

A Level Grade	UCAS points score
A*	56
A	48
B	40
C	32
D	24
E	16

Studying Abroad



IN EUROPE

The financial reality of studying abroad is a major consideration wherever you choose to go. Once you take the decision to study your full undergraduate or postgraduate degree abroad you will not be able to access British student finance. Therefore, you need to consider alternative sources of funding. However, this does not mean that studying abroad will be more expensive in real terms than pursuing a degree in the United Kingdom even if the upfront costs are higher. A good starting point for research is

www.astarfuture.co.uk



IN THE USA

The US has a flexible system- you can study a variety of subjects during the first and second years before deciding on your specialism. Most students fund their studies through scholarships from US universities and external funding bodies.

More information can be found on <https://www.fulbright.org.uk/>



WHERE ELSE?

Australia and New Zealand have similar education systems to the UK.

<https://www.studyaustralia.gov.au/en/plan-your-studies/australias-education-system>

<https://www.studywithnewzealand.govt.nz/en>

Applications to University

There are over 350 HE providers and 38,000 courses to choose from! To make your life easier, all applications are handled by UCAS, the Universities and Colleges Admission Service. There is lots of useful information on their website to help you research as well.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- You apply through the school
- You can apply for up to five courses – this can be all different courses at the same uni, five different unis with the same subject or a mix of the two.
- However, if you are applying for medicine, dentistry or veterinary science the maximum is four courses and your fifth slot is for a different course.

DEADLINE DATES

- September 2nd 2025 UCAS opens for submission of 2025 applications
- October 15th 2025 Deadlines for medicine, dentistry, vet science and Oxbridge courses
- January 14th 2026 Deadline for all other applications (some art courses have a March deadline)

WHAT IS EXTRA?

Extra allows you to apply late (February – June) for courses which still have vacancies. If you don't have any offers or you have declined all your offers this can be useful.

WHAT IS CLEARING?

On results day if you don't have the grades you need you can go into Clearing. This gives you the opportunity to apply for unfilled places.



Money

Going to university is expensive. It is vital that you research thoroughly before applying. Choosing the wrong course or deciding that university isn't for you will be a costly mistake!

There are two main costs in going to university:

- 1) Tuition fees
- 2) Living expenses (Maintenance Loan)

You can get a loan for both costs from the Government. You can find all the details on www.gov.uk/student-finance

TUITION FEES

Most unis charge the maximum fee of £9535 per year. You can get a student loan for this.

LIVING EXPENSES (MAINTENANCE LOAN)

You don't have to pay these costs up front – you can take out student loans for both tuition fees and living expenses which are repayable over 40 years. You don't pay anything back until you are earning over £25,000 per year and then it is 9% of income over that figure.

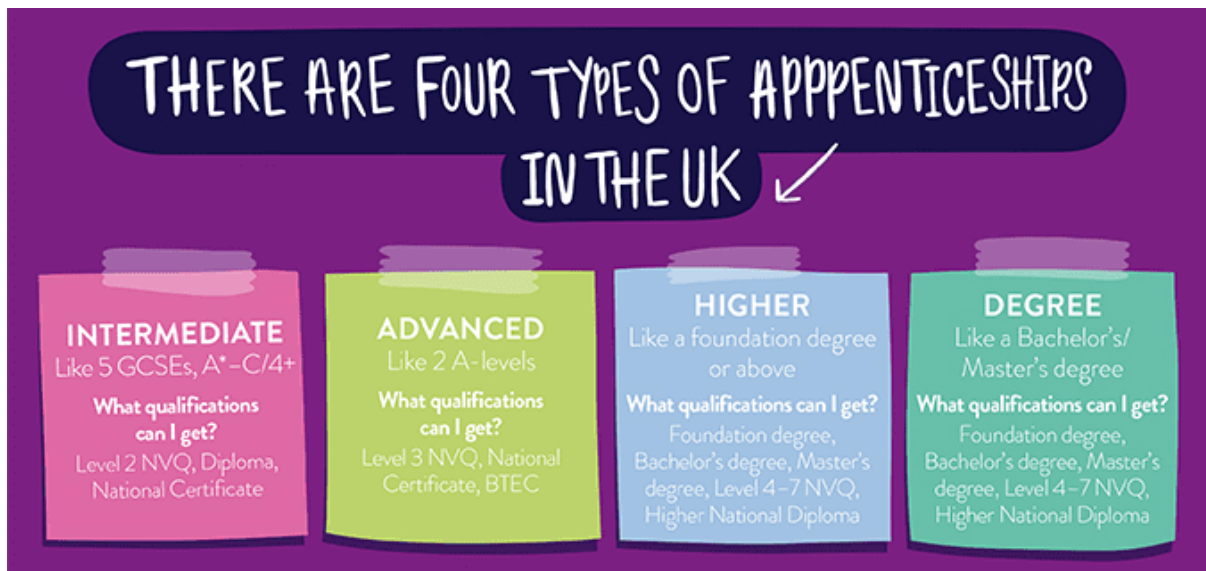
MANY UNIVERSITIES OFFER SCHOLARSHIPS (BASED ON MERIT) OR BURSARIES (BASED ON YOUR PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES). THIS MONEY DOES NOT NEED TO BE REPAYED.

GO TO: <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/student-advice/finance/university-bursaries-and-scholarships>

Apprenticeships/School Leaver Programmes

Do you want to earn while you learn? Apprenticeships are a real alternative to HE as more and more companies see the value in training young people and more and more young people decide that university and student debt is not for them. Companies such as BMW, BT, Rutherford Laboratories and Zurich to name just a few offer opportunities for school leavers to gain practical experience, earn a salary and obtain qualifications, sometimes up to full honours degree level with the employer paying all your fees.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW:



- At the beginning of your apprenticeship, you will agree with your employer that you will study for certain qualifications. You might go on day release or block release to college/university or you might get all your training in the workplace with a qualified assessor. You might also study online
- At the end of your apprenticeship, you can stay with your current employer with a promotion and a pay rise or you can move on – with practical experience, money in your pocket and nationally recognised qualifications.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN APPRENTICESHIPS PLEASE COME AND SEE TINA. MORE
INFORMATION AND CURRENT VACANCIES ARE ON

www.apprenticeships.gov.uk

EXAMPLES OF APPRENTICESHIPS GAINED BY FCC SIXTH FORMERS

Advanced Engineering
Apprentice
Culham Science Centre

Degree Level Computing
Apprentice
IBM

Degree Level Surveyor
Apprentice
Ridge

Degree Level Engineering
Apprentice
Rutherford Laboratories

Degree Level Business
Apprentice
Zurich Insurance

Degree Level Business
Apprentice
BMW

Applying for Jobs

At some point you will need a CV. This could be to apply for an apprenticeship or other entry level role, or it could be for a part time job to help you pay your way through uni. Either way, this is your opportunity to sell yourself and a well thought out and professional CV is the difference between getting an interview and getting rejected. A few tips about your CV:

- Be honest – if you don't tell the truth your employer will find out sooner or later and you will probably be fired.
- Be clear and concise – a CV should be easy to read and give information about you in an easy to read format
- Keep it short – two sides of A4 paper is enough
- Get someone else to check over your CV – for spelling mistakes and to give you feedback on how you come across.
- Always send a covering letter/email with your CV.

Your CV should include the following:

- Your personal details – name, address, contact telephone numbers and a professional sounding email address
- Your education - where did you go to secondary school and what qualifications you have (or are predicted).
- Any work history – including your work experience and any part time jobs
- Your personal statement – your strengths and qualities which make you suitable for this particular job.
- Two references – not family members and ideally someone from school and also someone who knows you in a work capacity. You should always ask permission before you put someone down as a referee. You need to give their name, address, telephone number and a brief explanation of how they know you.

What You Wish You'd Known Before Your
JOB INTERVIEW



What You Wish You'd Known Before Your JOB INTERVIEW

Common nonverbal mistakes made at a job interview

In this survey of 2,000 bosses, 33% claimed that they know within the first 90 seconds of an Interview whether they will hire someone.

Percentages (%) of bosses making remarks of negative aspects:

21% - Playing with hair or touching face	The average length of an interview is approximately 40 minutes.
33%: Fidgeting too much	Statistics show that when meeting new people <u>the impact is only 7% from what we actually say!</u>
47% - Having little or no knowledge of the company is the most common mistake job seekers make during interviews.	38% of employers are concerned about the quality of our voice, our grammar, and our overall confidence.
67%: Failure to make eye contact.	55%: The way we dress, act, and walk through the door.
38%: Lack of smile.	
33%: Bad posture.	
21% : Crossing arms over their chest.	<u>Clothes</u> : Bright clothes are a turnoff.
9% : Using too many hand gestures.	70% of Employers claim they don't want applicants to be fashionable or trendy.
26%: Handshake that is too weak.	65% of bosses said clothes could be the deciding factor between two similar candidates.

Example of a CV

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Angela Student

Address: 123 Main Road, Faringdon, Oxon SN7 7LB

Telephone number: 01367 240375

Email address: astudent@aol.com

EDUCATION:

Faringdon Community College, Fernham Road, Faringdon, Oxon SN7 7LB

2019 -2024

GCSE's

Maths	A	Geography	B
English	A	History	B
Science	B	Resistant Materials	B

A Levels (predicted grades)

Maths	B
English	B
Geography	B

WORK HISTORY

July 2025 (two weeks)

Swindon Herald, Commercial Road, Swindon, Wilts SN1 2EP

For my work experience I went to a local newspaper where I shadowed one of the reporters. We went out to local events such as the Fairford Air Show and I was able to interview some of the aircrew for an article which was subsequently published in the paper. I also spent time in the office where I experienced what it was like in a busy team, meeting deadlines whilst still keeping up high standards of accuracy.

September 2025 – current date

Poppits Café, Market Place, Faringdon, Oxon SN7 8YY

I am employed at weekends at this busy café. My duties include serving customers and operating the till. This job has taught me a lot about the importance of good customer service and about time management.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am a reliable and trustworthy person who likes a challenge and to get a job done well. I am confident dealing with a wide range of people and have a good telephone manner.

During my time at school I have taken part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and achieved my silver award. This has taught me a lot about the importance of teamwork and supporting my colleagues.

I am keen to learn new skills and to progress in my career.

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

I enjoy reading and I am a member of my local tennis club. I also volunteer as a Brownie pack leader.

REFERENCES

Mr B Teacher

Form Tutor

Faringdon Community College

Fernham Road

Faringdon

SN7 7LB

01367 240375

b.teacher@fcc.faringdonlearningtrust.org

Mrs W Aitress

Manager

Poppits Cafe

Market Place

Faringdon

SN7 8NH

01367 240123

w.aitress@poppits.co.uk

KEY DATES TO HELP YOU PLAN YOUR FUTURE

AUTUMN TERM

Year 12

- ✓ Start to research university courses – <https://www.ucas.com/>
- ✓ Find out more about apprenticeships
<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprenticeships>
- ✓ Look for a work placement to fit in with your studies. Some HE courses, especially those working with people such as health care, teaching and psychology require you to have relevant work experience. However, any job or placement, however humble it may seem, shows that you are a person with motivation and enthusiasm. Quality virtual experience can be found on <https://www.springpod.com/virtual-work-experience>
- ✓ Come to the Careers Fair in November
- ✓ Book an appointment to see Tina to discuss your career plans

Year 13

- ✓ Draw up your short list of universities. Use information from prospectuses and the UCAS website to help you.
- ✓ If you are applying for law, vet science or medicine you need to find out about the admissions tests and check the deadlines. Speak to Dr Bourva for details.
- ✓ Make sure that your personal statement is completed and checked by your tutor. You will have to rewrite this several times before they are happy with it! This will get you started:
<https://www.ucas.com/applying/applying-to-university/writing-your-personal-statement/the-new-personal-statement-for-2026>
- ✓ If you are interested in apprenticeships, come to the Apprenticeships workshops (dates from Tina)
- ✓ Register on www.apprenticeships.gov.uk to find out about local vacancies
- ✓ Book an appointment to see Tina to talk about your future.

DON'T FORGET THAT I AM HERE TO HELP YOU. TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT
COME AND SEE ME OR EMAIL ME ON tibelcher@fcc.cambrianlt.org

SPRING TERM

Year 12

- ✓ Start to identify universities that you would like to visit – www.opendays.com is a quick and easy way to plan.

Year 13

- ✓ You will have started to get university offers now. Consider which will be your firm and your insurance choice carefully. Make sure that your insurance choice asks for lower grades.
- ✓ Make sure that you apply on time for your student loans/grants – <https://www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance>
- ✓ Companies start to offer apprenticeship opportunities from Christmas onwards. Make sure that you check your account on www.apprenticeships.gov.uk regularly.
- ✓ Come to the Apprenticeships workshops – help on CV writing, applications and interview technique.
- ✓ If there is a company that you would really like to work for send them a copy of your CV with a covering letter explaining why and telling them what you can offer.

SUMMER TERM

Year 12

- ✓ You should try and visit at least three universities so that you can compare what they have to offer.

Year 13

- ✓ Make sure that you are available for results day. You will automatically be entered in Clearing if you haven't got the results you needed.
- ✓ Continue to apply for employment. As well as <https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/> there are lots of entry level opportunities on www.indeed.co.uk.

NOT SURE WHAT YOU WANT TO DO?

Help to make the right choices from sixth form to graduates

Quizzes, job profiles and more

PROSPECTS

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/>

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT A PARTICULAR CAREER?

EclIPS is an easy-to-use online careers resource that provides regularly updated information on over 1,000 jobs and careers. Go to www.eclips-online.co.uk.

To log in use SN77LB





OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT APPRENTICESHIPS WEBSITE

FIND OUT ALL ABOUT APPRENTICESHIPS SEARCH FOR VACANCIES

APPLY ONLINE

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentices>



<https://www.ucas.com/discover>

Research courses and universities, find out what grades and subjects you will need and apply online

Got a question about university? Want to make contact with people going to the same university as you? **The Student**

Room is the UK's largest online student community

<https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/>