

Post-



18 Options

Name:

Form Group:

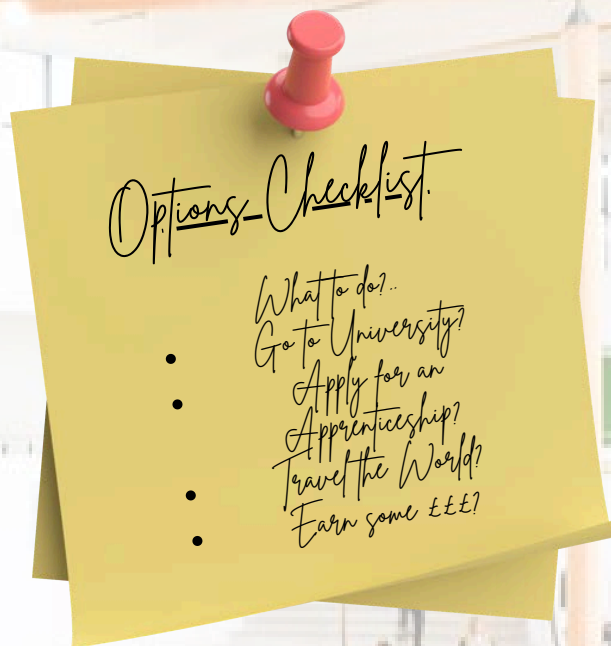


Well done you! You have successfully made one of the hardest academic transitions possible. With your outstanding performance in Year 11 you have managed to make it into A-Levels. Now the real challenges begin.

During Years 12 and 13 you will be required to make some very important decisions. These decisions can lead to some long-lasting implications on your career pathway, creating a foundation for your future!

Some of you may already have a pathway in mind, whereas some of you may not have thought that far ahead. Either way you are not alone! The options ahead of you can seem daunting, confusing and potentially a little scary, even if you know where you want to end up. Together, along with the information you give in this workbook, we will aim to make these next two years as informed and straightforward as possible.

Your choices extend further than simply where you will be going. You will need to make many considerations throughout the course of your decision making process, including where you will be living at your chosen destination, how you will fund your choice, what expectations there are for you to be considered at your choice and so on. Much of this process will require you to be reflective on your own abilities, utilise your developing skillset and establish a growing sense of independence. With that said, you have many resources at your disposal. This process will be what you make of it!



All About

You



For us to help you as much as possible we need to know a bit about you. This is your journey, so we need to make it all about you! So, let's hear it!

By telling us these things we can help you make the choices that matter the most to you individually. This is your path, no one else's!

Write a small statement about yourself. You can include information such as your favourite subjects, the A-Levels you have chosen and your reasons why and some points on what it is that makes you you. Some mention of your interests and hobbies would be brilliant too! We will go into some more detail further on.

“

”

Where are

we Now?



So now we know a bit about you we now need to work out where we are at in terms of your careers journey.

What career industry am I considering?

Do I need/want to go to university? What course will I need to do to gain the qualifications I need?

What skills do I already have that will work well in this career?

Outside of university where else can I gain experience relevant to this career?

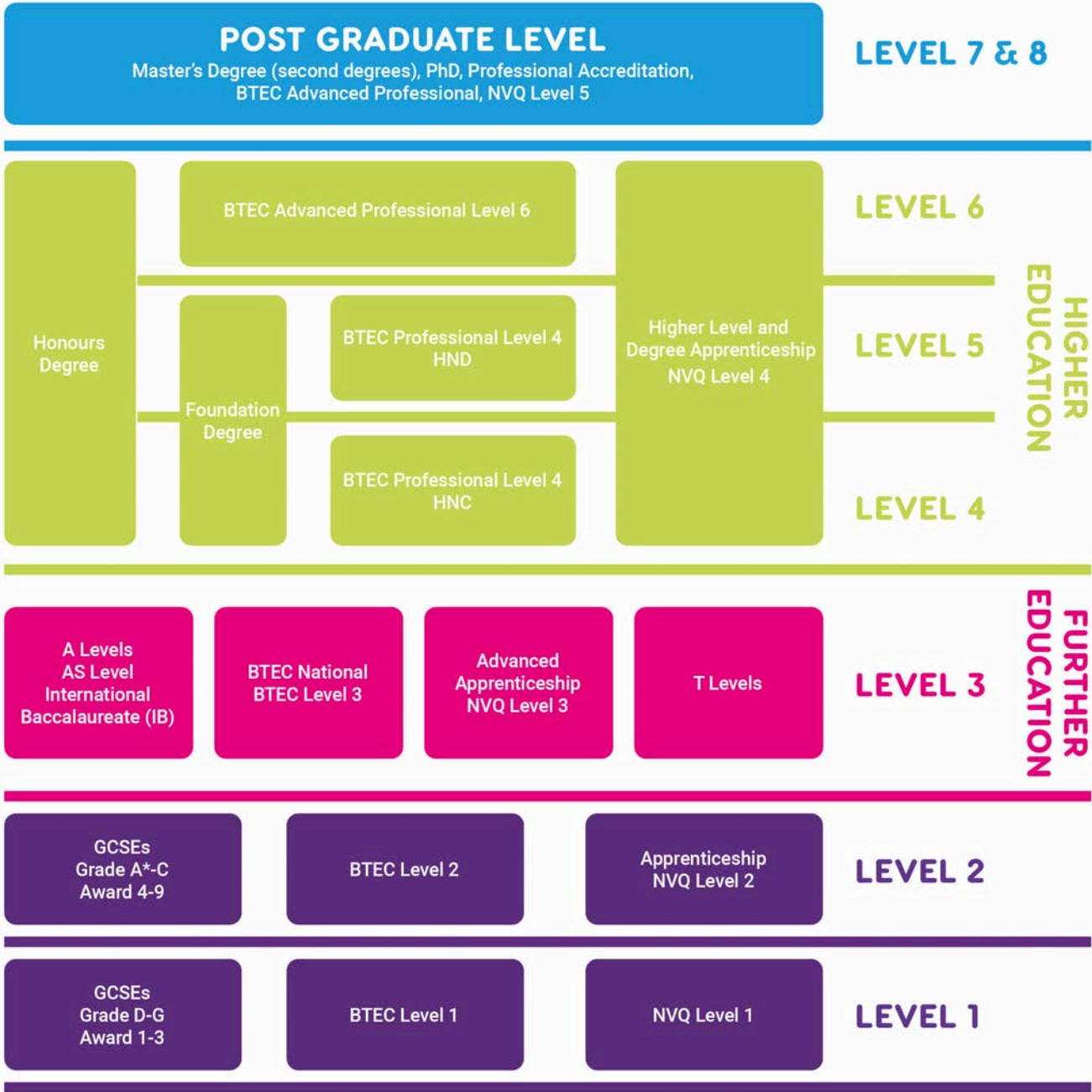
Can I get to where I need to be without going to university?

Do I need to make special considerations for the future? This could involve thinking about student visas for studying in the UK or abroad.



Higher Education is not just available to those who go off to University. Higher Level education can be accessed at colleges, through apprenticeships and work, and even independently with organisations such as the Open University

The UK Education Level System is detailed below. See if you can identify where you are right now and where you need to be in the future



Making the

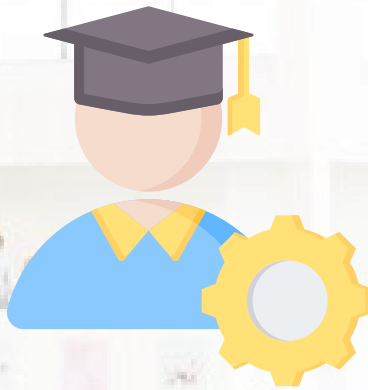
Right Choice



There are so many options and pathways at your disposal it may seem pretty overwhelming at first glance. Let's break them down and see what we have, and we can then explain them in a bit more detail.



**HIGHER
EDUCATION**



Apprenticeship



**STUDY
ABROAD**



GAP

YEAR



EMPLOYMENT

Higher

Education



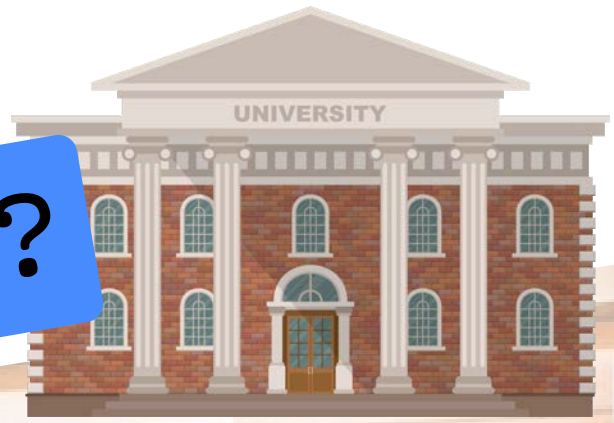
There are a number of different Higher Education options at Post-18, provided by many institutions including universities and colleges. Carefully consider which is best for your intended destination. Generally these follow the conventional academic levelling system, starting from Level 4 through to Level 6, then into postgraduate Level 7 and 8.

Higher Education Checklist
Entry Requirements
Application Deadline
Funding
Accommodation

- **Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE)** and **Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)** often refer to the first and second years of a degree program, respectively.
- **Higher National Certificate (HNC)** and **Higher National Diploma (HND)** refer to either a one-year course (HNC) or two-year course (HND) based in industry.
- **Higher apprenticeships** provide the opportunity to gain a Level 4 qualification, or above, whilst earning money. Depending on the course, amount of time it will take to graduate can vary from one to five years.
- **Foundation degrees** are often a mix of vocational learning and academic study, usually taking two years to graduate.
- **Bachelor's and other undergraduate degrees** are three- or four-year courses, often revolving around academic study. There are part-time options available, which will extend the length of the course but also allow for flexibility with respect to working and other commitments.
- **Degree apprenticeships** are similar to higher apprenticeships, however you are working towards a full Level 6 degree qualification, or in some cases higher. Depending on the course these can take three- to six-years to complete.

Is University

For me?



Choosing university is a massive commitment; giving up potentially 4 years of your life is a big chunk, but can also become some of the most formative years of your lives!

What are the benefits of University?

What type of University would I be interested in studying at?

What sort of course do I want to study? What are the requirements for this?

Would I like to do a placement year? Or maybe a year abroad?

What career can my chosen course lead to?

Applying for

University (UK)



Higher education (HE) gives you the opportunity to expand your knowledge on a subject you're passionate about, or help you work towards the job of your dreams. However, it's not just about learning – it's a great experience and helps you to develop the essential skills and knowledge that you will need for your future working life. Higher education qualifications are internationally recognised, and there is plenty of evidence that graduates have increased earning potential – but you do need to be motivated to study and learn.

The first thing to do, if you haven't already, is make sure you sign up to UCAS Hub

How do I sign up?

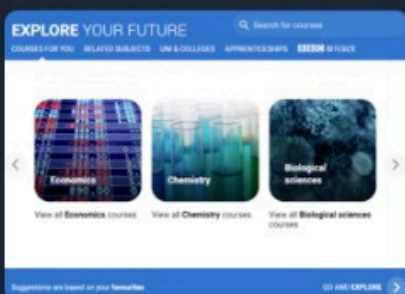
The UCAS Hub is free and easy to use. All you need to do is follow these three simple steps to sign up:

Step 1 – Register To get started, visit ucas.com/hub. **Step 2 – Verify your account** Once you've registered, you'll be asked to verify your account. An email will be sent to the email address you registered with and all you need to do is hit '**Activate account**'.

Step 3 – Sign in

Now you're ready to sign in and start exploring! The first time you do, we'll ask you some extra questions so we can help you find the right info.

At any time to pick up where you left off, visit ucas.com/hub or click '**Sign in**' on the top right hand side of any page on ucas.com and select '**Students**'. Later in the year we will attach your account to the school, but for now use this time to familiarise yourself with the website.

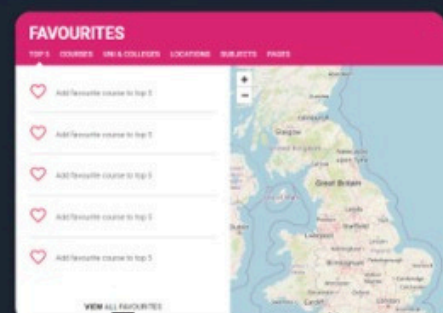


Explore your future

Discover what to do with subject, industry, and career guides; discover where to go with city, employer and accommodation information. Explore apprenticeships and course opportunities for you. Favourite as you go.

Your favourites

Search for courses, use to decide your top 5 choices, manage, keep those favourite information pages to hand. Manage and edit at any time.



Russell Group

Universities



“The Russell Group’s 24 members are world-class, research-intensive universities. They are unique institutions, each with their own history and ethos, but they share some distinguishing characteristics” is how the following 24 universities are described on the Russell Group website.

20 are from England, 2 from Scotland, 1 from Wales and 1 from Northern Ireland. The current members of the Russell Group are:

University of Birmingham	University of Liverpool
University of Bristol	London School of Economics
University of Cambridge	University of Manchester
Cardiff University	Newcastle University
University of Durham	University of Nottingham
University of Edinburgh	University of Oxford
University of Exeter	Queen Mary, University of London
University of Glasgow	Queen's University Belfast
Imperial College London	University of Sheffield
King's College London (University of London)	University of Southampton
University College London (University of London)	University of Warwick
University of Leeds	University of York

Whilst Russell Group institutions are considered amongst the most prestigious that does not mean other universities are poor choices. Depending on the course you are hoping to do, non-Russell Group universities may be more suited to you. Use UCAS and visit university websites to research different locations and see what’s best for you.

These are more

Than Technicalities...



From 2024 Higher Education providers will begin to roll out their Higher Technical Qualifications. These are newly found qualifications that aim to provide a blended approach to academic learning and vocational skill development. These can be a great option for those that have a firm idea as to what career they would like to embark on.

HTQs are the equivalent to a Level 4 and Level 5 qualification. If you look at the Education Levelling System you will see this is essentially the same as the first two years of University, or Foundation Degrees and Higher National Diplomas. What sets HTQs apart, however, is the fact that these qualifications are regulated to occupational standards, meaning they are geared towards specific career specifications to give you a head start in your chosen career.

HTQs are an ideal option for those eager to dive into employment straight out of education. The learning that you engage with will equip you with the expertise expected of you in that field of work. You could see it as a happy medium between an Apprenticeship and an academic Degree; whilst you won't be working in a specialist field, you will be learning how to work in a specialist field, knowledge that could otherwise take many more years.

HTQ Quick Tips

- HTQs can take between 1 and 2 years, depending on the course
- Assessments can be exam-based, coursework-based or practical
- HTQs can be completed part-time
- HTQs can be funded in the same way as a Degree, meaning Student Finance can support with tuition fees

Available HTQs

- Construction, design and building
- Health and Science
- Business and administration
- Education and early years
- Engineering and manufacturing
- Legal, finance and accounting

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{1}{x} \right) &= -\frac{1}{x^2} \\ \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{1}{x^2} \right) &= -\frac{2}{x^3} \\ \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{1}{x^3} \right) &= -\frac{3}{x^4} \\ \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{1}{x^4} \right) &= -\frac{4}{x^5} \\ \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{1}{x^5} \right) &= -\frac{5}{x^6} \end{aligned}$$

HTQs Available from 2025

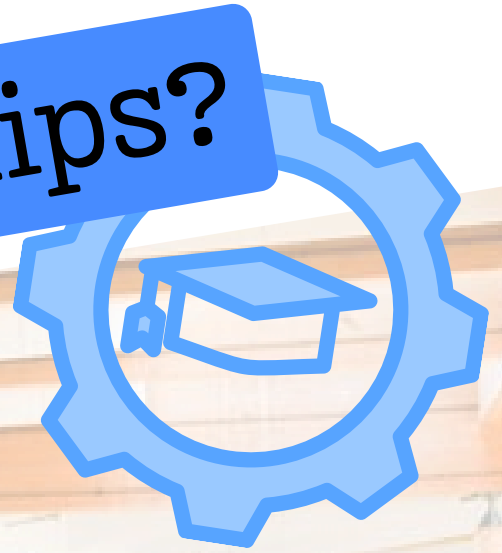
- Agriculture, environmental and animal care
- Catering and hospitality
- Creative and design
- Care services
- Protective services
- Sales, marketing and procurement

$$ax^2 + bx + c = 0$$

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

How about

Apprenticeships?



Perhaps university isn't for you, or you would prefer to learn whilst working. Applying for an apprenticeship could be the answer.

What are the benefits of doing an apprenticeship or getting a job?

What type of apprenticeship / job would I be interested in?

Which companies would offer this type of apprenticeship?

What are the recruitment processes for these companies / dates?

Researching

Apprenticeships



Apprenticeships are primarily jobs, so it's important to research this option fully. They offer the opportunity to start working whilst continuing to study at a higher level.

The first thing to do, if you haven't already, is make sure you sign up to the UCAS Hub

Your **UCAS Hub** will give you all the tools and information you need – in one place. We can then guide you to the information you need. You can easily explore, filter, and favourite the things which matter to you

I think I want to do an apprenticeship?

Here are some of the key things you need to know:

- Apprenticeships involve training for a specific job, so it's important you're confident about starting work.
- You should find out as much as you can about the job role, and the career and progression routes the apprenticeship could lead to.
- Competition for apprenticeships can be tough, as there's often a limited number of vacancies available, particularly on the new degree-level apprenticeships.

But this isn't enough to help you decide if this is the right path for you, and according to research, nearly two-thirds of the 16-24 year feel they don't know enough about apprenticeships. Have a look around the UCAS website, as well as apprenticeships.gov.uk.

UCAS Exploring Apprenticeships

From UCAS Hub you can easily explore apprenticeships; learn more information and see a live selection of apprenticeship vacancies.

Set alerts to stay up to date.

Found 504 jobs

APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Search for apprenticeships

Software Developer Degree Apprentice, Ware UK, 2023

Ware, Hertfordshire

A competitive starting base salary of £18,000 per year, which increases after year 1

[Apply for this job](#)

R&D Laboratory IT (Digital & Tech) Degree Apprentice, Stevenage, 2023

Stevenage, Hertfordshire

A competitive starting base salary of £18,000 per year, which increases after year 1

[FIND MORE](#)

Radio Access Optimisation Apprentice (Virgin Media)

Leeds, Hammersmith, Runcorn, Wythenshawe

£23,000

£20k Training

Level 3 Radio Network Technician About the company: We're Virgin Media O2 and we're here to upgrade the UK. Virgin Media O2 combine

[View details](#) 10 days ago ☆ Save

Software Developer Degree Apprentice, Ware UK, 2023

Ware, Hertfordshire

A competitive starting base salary of £18,000 per year, which increases after year 1

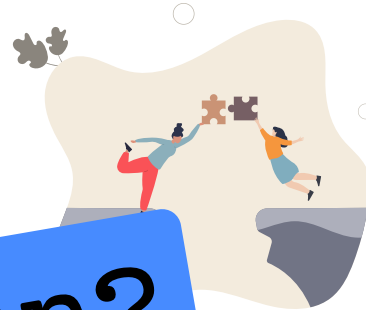
• GSK

Join GSK's R&D (Research and Development) Apprentice Programme - Ware UK, 2023 Help us get ahead of disease together

[View details](#) 4 days ago ☆ Save

Fancy a break

From Education?



If you feel like you need a break from education a Gap Year is a perfectly viable option. With that said, a Gap Year is not an excuse to do nothing for a year; time out of employment or education is often a point of conversation during job interviews and applications. It is important to make sure you have something to show for your time out of education.

Would a gap year be right for me — why?

What would I do during a gap year?

What would the benefit be?

What planning would I need to do?

What's the

Verdict?

*Always have a backup plan!
Two years is a long time, and
attitudes can change.
Accommodate these potential
changes early to save you
hassle in the future!*

So far we have explored our potential options for the future. Now we need to be reflective on what we have learned and where our perspectives lie. Ask yourself these questions and begin to map out your journey!

What is the best pathway for me, right now, and why?

What do I need to do to achieve my goal?

What could my back-up plan be and why?

Hop onto

UniFrog



UniFrog is a fantastic platform, built specifically for students (and parents) to search for destinations and track their careers journey. UniFrog comes with a vast array of resources designed to make your decision-making process that little bit easier. You can find heaps of information on stuff like UK Universities, International Studying and even Apprenticeships.



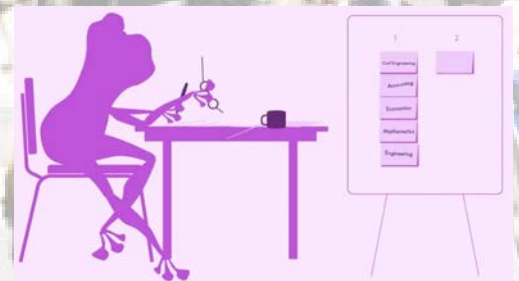
UniFrog provides the opportunity to keep all of your Post-18 resources and content in one easily accessible place. Within UniFrog you can shortlist your options, draft your personal statement and send them to your teachers for review, complete quizzes to provide you insight into your mode of thinking and much more.



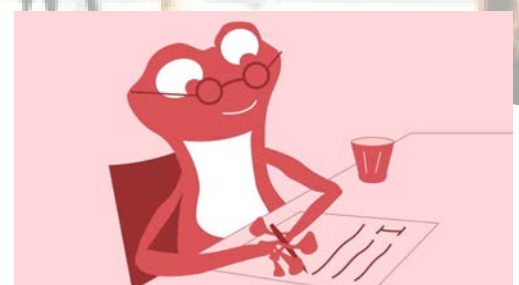
Hopefully you will have already been sent your UniFrog login, and have probably already used it before in younger years. UniFrog becomes an important ally during sixth form; it will also be the platform from which you can request references from your teachers and prioritise your applications. UniFrog is also not just about options within the UK. There are countless resources available to you if you want to venture out into the wide world!.



Despite the brand name UniFrog is a platform dedicated to all things Post-18, not just university. UniFrog, like UCAS, includes information regarding apprenticeships, as well as helpful tools to build the perfect CV. There are also virtual workshops and seminars focusing on topics such as interview skills and virtual work experience programmes to provide you with worked examples of the career path you want to engage with.


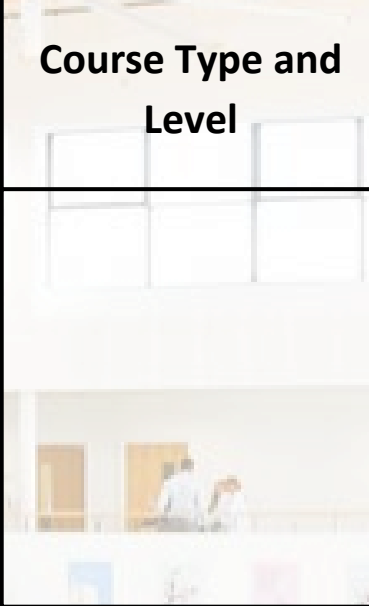
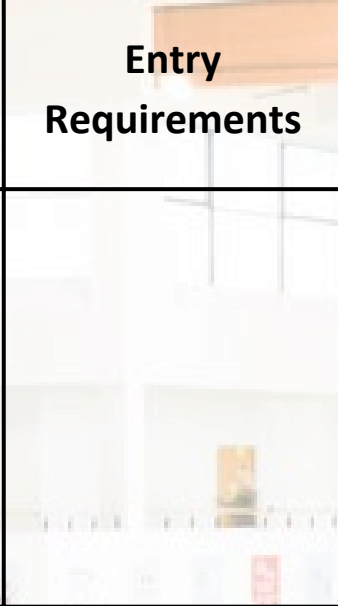
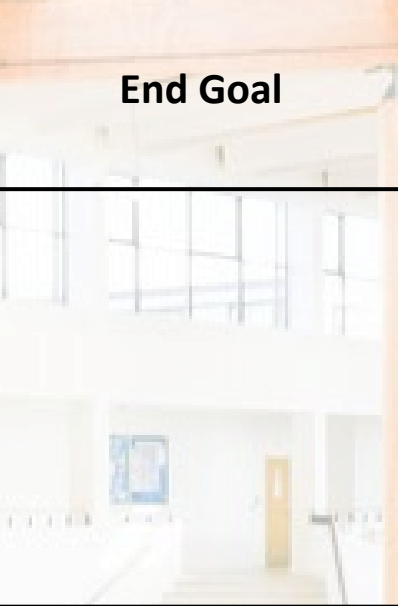










Ultimately the UniFrog platform is as helpful to you as you make it. We strongly encourage you to engage with this platform, as over the school year we will be checking in with your login activity, as well as using UniFrog to organise your work experience. Go out and explore!




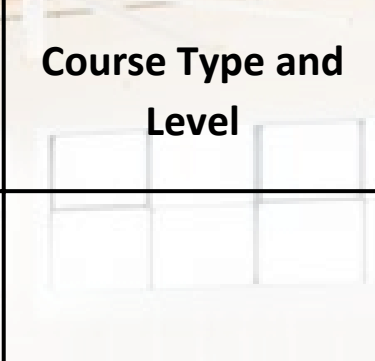
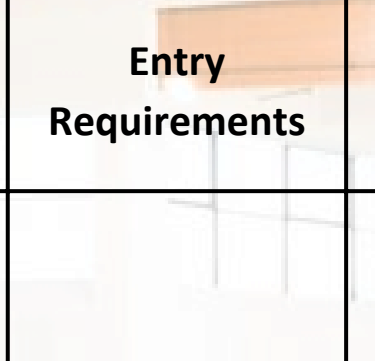
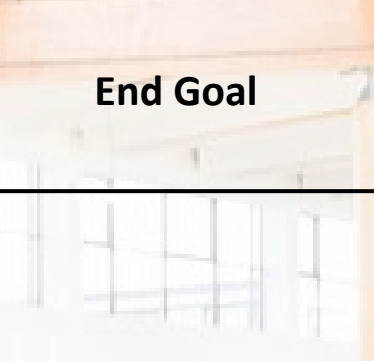
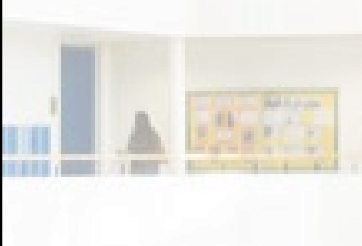

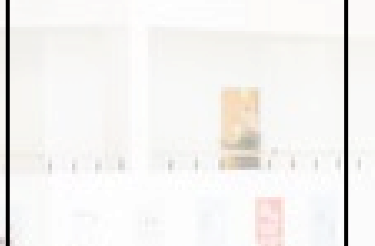


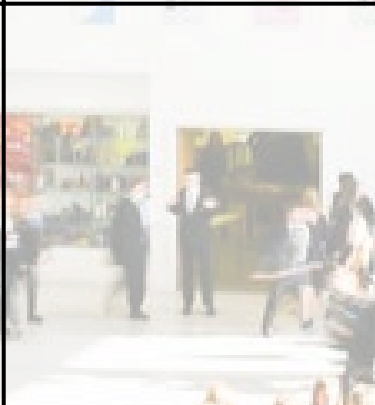



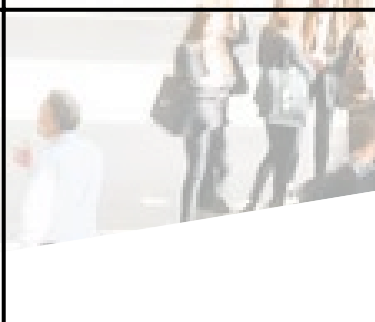
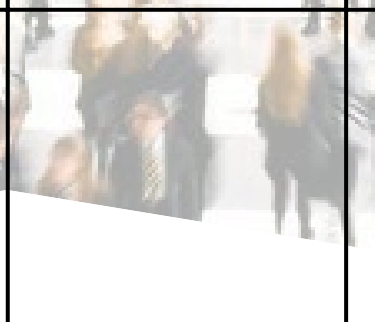

Notes and

Research

Destination	Course Type and Level	Entry Requirements	End Goal
			
			
			

Notes and

Research

Destination	Course Type and Level	Entry Requirements	End Goal
			
			
			
			

Notes and



Research



Notes and



Research



Notes and



Research



Now, Over

To You

Failing to plan is planning to fail. However, in order to plan effectively you will need to go out there and do a bit of your own research. Of course, you have many contacts in school that are here to help.

There is also a wealth of knowledge available to you on the web. So, go out and explore!

The UCAS website has a number of articles that will be helpful when researching higher education choices:

[What University Course Should You Study?](#)

[UCAS Events | Speak to Universities and Employers](#)

[How To Write Your Undergraduate Personal Statement | Undergraduate | UCAS](#)

UCAS also have a fantastic Careers Quiz:

[Take The Careers Quiz. What Job Could You Do? \(ucas.com\)](#)

Apprenticeships can be hard to find, you can use these sites to explore your options, as well as individual businesses:

[Apprenticeships | Learn About Apprenticeships And Find The Right One For You \(ucas.com\)](#)

[apprenticeships.gov.uk](#)

[Apprenticeships subject resources | Amazing Apprenticeships Website](#)

Other helpful websites:

[University life | Prospects.ac.uk](#)

[Russell Group | Home Website](#)

[What to expect in your first year of university \(thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk\)](#)