

Higher Education and Apprenticeships

Who, what, where, how, when and why?

Andy Gardner
Careers Adviser
JFS School

We will take a balanced look at:

- What are the differences between higher education and apprenticeships that you need to know now?
- What could you do?
- Where will I be?
- How and when do I apply?
- How do I pay?
- Why should I consider apprenticeships?
- Why should I consider higher education?

Higher Education

- An undergraduate degree is normally a **full-time course** undertaken at a university or college
- You fund it by taking out a **loan** to pay for your tuition fees and your maintenance.
- Most undergraduate degree courses lead to **honours degrees in three years**.
- Some have a **work placement** year or a **year abroad** and are four years long. In subjects such as medicine and architecture, courses may take even longer.
- Undergraduate degrees are available in a **huge range of subjects**.
- Some vocational subjects will virtually guarantee entry to that field e.g. Dentistry, while some vocational subjects will give you exemptions from your professional qualifications e.g. Law, while all other undergraduate degrees will be considered by many employers and professional conversion courses. **Variable employability!** Some graduates are entering an uncertain world of poorly paid or unpaid internships or graduate underemployment.

Apprenticeship

- An Apprenticeship is a **job with training** which allows you to earn while you learn, whilst gaining a **nationally recognised qualification**
- Apprenticeships take between one and five years to complete and cover **1500 job roles** in a wide range of industries, from engineering to accountancy, public relations to veterinary nursing
- Apprenticeships are now available up to **degree level and beyond**
- An **Advanced** Apprenticeship normally requires GCSE passes at C or equivalent (though people with A levels or equivalent will often do an Advanced Apprenticeship, if it's a hard to get into career field)
- A **Higher** Apprenticeship normally requires A Levels or equivalent

What could you do?

Before we start thinking about the issue of university and apprenticeships, we have to take a step back and consider what was said earlier, “what are my abilities, interests, values and attitudes?”

Then we could relate these to you?

- If you are a sixth form student with **some sort of career idea?**
- If you are a sixth form student who **can only relate to their current studies?**

Sixth form student with some sort of career idea?

Student 1

Loves their Business AS Level, feels they are capable of getting A/B, really likes the marketing element of the course, bit techy, see themselves in a business/sales environment

Student 2

Is doing Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Psychology AS Levels, obsessed with becoming a Doctor, knows that they have to go to Medical School at University

Student 3

Is doing English, French, Sociology and Politics AS Levels, will watch anything on telly/Youtube about property, design of buildings, didn't do Maths AS level but comfortable with numbers.

Student 1

Has decided to explore marketing, therefore they would need to consider the following, such as:

- Advanced Apprenticeship in (digital) marketing e.g. QA Apprenticeships
- Higher Apprenticeship in marketing e.g. Lloyds Banking Group
- Degree in marketing e.g. Aston University (with placement year)
- Degree in Business/Management with a Marketing specialism e.g. Leeds
- Degree in something else e.g. Fashion at Nottingham Trent then Marketing Intern with L'Oreal
- Degree in any discipline, then Postgraduate course e.g. MSc Marketing, University of Manchester

Student 2

Full steam ahead with a Medicine application

They have two major options, both of which are full-time university courses:

- Undergraduate medicine and surgery degree
- Graduate medicine and surgery degree completed after an undergraduate degree, normally in a life sciences field.
- There are no Apprenticeship routes to Medicine as far as we are aware.

Student 3

They are now aware that they can become a professional Quantity Surveyor even though they have done humanities /social sciences AS Levels. They could go in a number of different directions including:

- Advanced Apprenticeship in Quantity Surveying, e.g. Chartered Surveyors Training Trust
- Higher Apprenticeship in Quantity Surveying e.g. Balfour Beatty
- Degree in Quantity Surveying e.g. Birmingham City university
- Degree in something else e.g. Politics and French at Kent, then MSc Construction Cost Management, Reading

Sixth form student who can only relate to their current studies?

Let us look at two sixth form students, who when we ask about their abilities, interests, values and attitudes **can only relate to their sixth form studies.**

Student 4

Student 4 loves their Economics A Level much more than their other subjects and is not doing Maths A level. They could consider:

- Advanced Apprenticeship in Insurance e.g. AON
- Higher Apprenticeship in Asset Management e.g. Investment2020
- Degree In Economics e.g. BA Econ Manchester (do not need Maths A level)
- Joint degree e.g. Economics and Politics (with placement year) at Brunel

Student 5

Loves the idea of the university experience and History is their least worst A level. They are happy to study History as it means they can go to university and leave home.

- The main ways forward would be degrees in History (or related subjects)
- There are some apprenticeships such as CILEX (Lawyer) that would use some of the research skills of a Historian.
- They will have to consider strategies when entering the graduate labour market including postgraduate conversion courses.

Where will I be?

Apprenticeships

You will **probably be living at home**, though there are some instances of going away such as: Merchant Navy e.g. Clyde Marine Training, Network Rail and some Hospitality Apprenticeships. Sometimes there may not be an appropriate apprenticeship in a particular locality.

Higher Education

While some students will still live at home and commute to a local university, **many students will leave home** and they will be supported in this transition by their university. There are increasing opportunities to study at a university abroad in many different ways such as a UK university with a foreign campus, a year abroad, or the whole university course studied at a foreign university in English.

How and when do I apply?

You can apply for **both** apprenticeships and higher education at the same time, though it can be complicated keeping on top of everything!

Be aware of **Degree Apprenticeships** that are being developed. One that already exists is Cap Gemini, which you apply for through the company website.

Apprenticeships

- Sometimes you find vacancies and apply through the government apprenticeship website www.gov.uk/further-education-skills/apprenticeships
- Sometimes you find vacancies and apply through company or training provider websites
- Opening and closing dates for applications can really vary and finding these out may involve some detailed research
- It can often be helpful if you can seek advice from a Careers Adviser on available opportunities and how to apply

Higher Education

- You find and apply for UK courses through the clear and understandable UCAS process at www.ucas.com, you can also find courses at www.university.which.co.uk
- As long as you make 5 realistic choices you should receive some offers
- Schools and colleges are very comfortable with this process
- There is a uniform series of opening and closing dates

How do I pay?

To put this into its simplest terms:

Higher Education – YOU PAY!

But what you pay back will depend on what you earn, it's basically a graduate tax and you don't pay upfront.

Visit: www.gov.uk/student-finance

Apprenticeships – THEY PAY!

There is a national minimum wage for Apprentices, but many are paid more. You also get holiday pay and your courses are paid for.

Visit: www.gov.uk/apprenticeships-guide

Why should I consider Apprenticeships?

As well as things said earlier in this presentation:

- If you know a career area that interests you, there is a strong possibility that there is an apprenticeship that will be an excellent route into this career
- Many employers now consider apprenticeships as a main route into their employment roles!
- Some employers will support you through your training to the highest professional levels that can be achieved

Why should I consider Higher Education?

You want the “gold-standard higher education experience”:

- Possibly leave home
- Live in halls of residence
- Meet new people and have a great social life
- Study something you enjoy
- Possibly be in a better position regarding employability

Many people will say that going to university was the best years of their lives! If this is what you genuinely want, then do it!

However.....

The only assumption we should perhaps look at here is the **employability** one:

- **Some careers require a degree** and some will have to be done full-time at university. Currently, virtually all Research Physicists have studied Physics full-time at university and this may always be the case
- Some degrees could be done through an apprenticeship though, and in the future there will be a growth in **Degree Apprenticeships** such as those through the Tech Partnership in IT.
- Many professional, management, technical and skilled roles will be **achievable through starting on a Advanced, Higher or Degree Apprenticeship**
- Individual sixth form students need to be **honest with themselves** about why they are making their choices.

If employability is your main concern then it is crucial that you consider the apprenticeship route!

Finding apprenticeships – main method

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