



Careers bulletin

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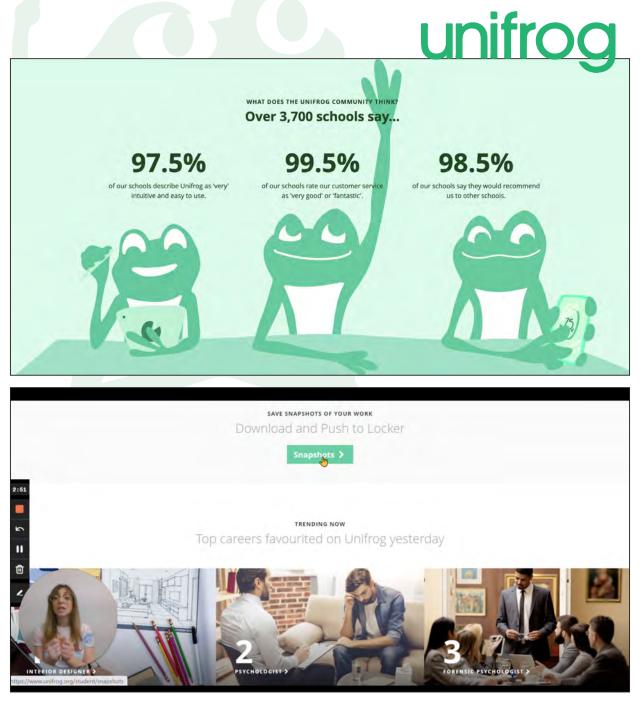
Unifrog for Parents

This is a platform that can help students develop their understanding of various careers, degree choices, apprenticeship opportunities, CV-writing, finding MOOCs and how to select universities – we use it as a central pillar of the careers programme throughout the school. Parents can also enrol on the platform (personally, I think it is excellent, and very intuitive) if they wish to investigate with their sons and daughters. Parents can view this short video to see how the platform works: **see video**. See sign-up details below.

PARENTS CAN ACCESS THE UNIFROG PLATFORM BY FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW:

- I. Go to www.unifrog.org/code
- 2. Enter your details and a password you'll remember, along with the form code EPCOparents

3. Now you are all signed in. To sign in in the future, simply go to **www.unifrog.org/student** and use the email and password you signed up with to sign in. To reset a forgotten password, simply go to **www.unifrog.org/student/reset-password**.



Next steps for U6th form

There was a real push by the U6th to complete their UCAS applications by our internal exeat deadline. Congratulations to the majority who made this deadline, and it is gratifying to learn of offers coming in. For those who have not yet applied, there is an immediate priority to meet the UCAS deadline of 29th January (although applications can be made afterwards, universities are not obliged to consider them), and ideally by the end of this term.

Offer-making from universities can take time. Some universities, for example Edinburgh, tend to wait until after the equal consideration deadline of 29th January before even looking at applications. Others, like Bath, deal with them in batches, and so are constantly making offers (carrying over "undecided" applications into the next batch). In short, whilst many offers will arrive quickly, some universities (UCL, KCL, Edinburgh can be particularly slow, and Durham for some courses) and competitive courses, can be relatively slow. I am afraid students will have to be patient, and work on the premise that "no news is good news". Broadly, most offers will be in by the end of the Lent term, but I am afraid a very small number can be as late as the official university deadline of I 4th May, 2025.

Replying to offers: once all replies have been received from universities, students opt for two universities to be their "firm" and "insurance" choice. The deadline for most students making this decision is 4th June 2025. It would pay students NOT to rush making this decision. By the time of the summer term, students will have a better sense of their trajectory, and can make a more informed decision on what best constitutes a "firm" and an "insurance" choice, given the reporting they receive from school and other block test and mock exam evidence. In the meantime, the priority should clearly be academic, with students seeking to consolidate or improve their A level trajectory over the Lent term. Plenty of last year's U6th therefore made their final decision at half-term in the summer term.

UCAS DEADLINE

for equal consideration for offers is:

29TH JANUARY 2025



GapYears

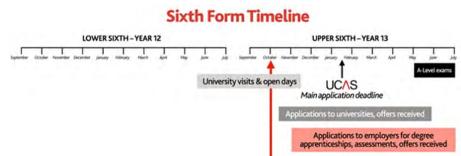
I have recently advertised the Bulkeley-Evans Scholarship to the U6th (although L6th might also have a look, thinking forward to next year). Students interested in developing their own project that contributes to the local community could investigate, and apply by 31st May 2025. Explore further at: **www.gap-year-the-bulkeley-evans.co.uk**/. Students can explore the range of gap year newsletters and details that I sign up to in Firefly, in the Careers pages **here**. I would also suggest than any students interested in some meaningful employment in a gap year explore the "Year in industry" programme organised by EDT. In terms of developing a CV, gaining meaningful and paid experience, and making connections with employers before university, these courses might be of real value. Explore **here**.

It is not unusual for U6th to change their mind, and wish to defer their university offers from 2025 to 2026. This is often possible to do, dependent on the university. Students need to ask the university directly. They can do this at any stage – before offer-making, after offer-making and even on Results Day itself. Possibly students might feel more certain of themselves to enquire after they have received offers. Of course, universities can say no (they will have made offers based on the application for 2025 entry) and might simply invite the student to reapply, in which case a student has that decision to make, whether to reject current offers and reapply, or to select universities that are willing to be more flexible over the deferred issue.



Next steps for L6th

Both myself, Mrs Gardner (Head of Lower Sixth) and various members of the U6th have spoken to the L6th on different occasions this term about how they can be looking to develop their portfolio during the L6th, to ensure they present as competitive applicants in whichever direction they choose in their U6th year. We have encouraged all of the following: wider reading (the library posts subject reading lists), an engagement with academia through the many and various online opportunities presented on a weekly basis, undertaking MOOCs, membership of academic societies and seeking work experience. During the Lent term, L6th students will be presented with various exemplar personal statements, essentially the letter of application to university. NOTE: WHILST THE STRUCTURE AND "LOOK" OF THE PERSONAL STATEMENT WILL CHANGE FOR 2026 ENTRY, THE CONTENT HAS NOT. They will learn how successful students have been able to present themselves to universities, through their reflections on their own reading, membership of academic societies, attendance at lectures and so on.



THE APPRENTICESHIP ROUTE

Earlier this term, the L6th heard from Exeter University on their degree apprenticeship programme, and also from OE Oskar Giles currently in his final year with Deloitte. I am hoping to invite back other OEs currently in their first year at various employers, to share their experiences. Next term, I will be taking any L6th students interested in exploring the apprenticeship route to an apprenticeship fair, to engage with a range of apprenticeship providers.

I will also be introducing them to Shortlist.me, a platform that enables them to practice online interview skills.





L6th committed to the apprenticeship pathways will be able to attend a series of specialist workshops to support them. Provisionally, there will be a general apprenticeship workshop in June, and a CV refresher workshop for them led by OE David Jenson, whose experience in high level recruitment makes his experience invaluable for the students. There are then further workshops early in their U6th to support their applications.

For students uncertain as to their next steps - university or not, career questions, what course – we will invite careers advisers into the college in the Lent term who will be able to discuss such issues with any students who sign up.

THE INAUGURAL EPSOM COLLEGE CAREERS FAIR

Experts from a range of sectors and industries offered high quality, bespoke careers advice to pupils from U4th to L6th. The huge number of volunteers meant pupils were able to speak to people from a variety of backgrounds – ranging from a King's Counsel, a reconstructive surgeon to a project lead at the UN Maritime Office and engineers from Boeing. "It has really opened my eyes to the world of work," commented a Year 10 pupil.

The event started at 6pm and lasted over two hours. The pupils had been prepared by their tutors to research who was coming, think of questions and approach who they wanted to speak to. Parents and staff watched as pupils supported and coached each other and grew in confidence during the evening – mixing and mingling, and thoroughly enjoying themselves. "It was nice because it was relatively informal, so not too intimidating for the pupils to talk to us," said an Epsom parent.



Going forward, we are committed to improving the connection between our students and the wider world of work, both in terms of developing our support for work experience, and in terms of inviting professionals in to speak to the students. In terms of work experience, we have begun collating opportunities that students can apply for and have advertised to students, although this is very much a work in progress. We are also very grateful to parents for making available work experience opportunities. See the next section for an outline of a recent legal work experience opportunity.



This term, alongside the Careers Fair, we have hosted an Engineering Day led by the Aerospace Careers Programme, with a focus on engineering, space, robotics and a wider range of STEM-oriented careers.



In addition, we have also introduced a series of evening Careers talks hosted in the Mermaid Lecture Theatre. We have hosted two talks on Careers in Public Service and Careers in Green Energy and Conservation.

Next term will see further evening talks on Careers in Finance, Careers in the Law, Entrepreneurial Careers and Careers with an English Degree. These evening talks are targeted at our 6th form students, although all students and parents are welcome. The format, following brief introductions, involves an extended Q and A, concluding with a brief networking opportunity.

Lower down the school, we are planning some "Guess my career" assemblies for the 3rd from, and a "Careers speeddating" event for the L4th students on 28th February, to round off the Lower School careers programme.

In celebration of Creative Careers week, we took a small group of students from various year groups to attend a Creative Careers Fair at Stanley Arts, and they were able to discuss careers in theatre, photography, museums and archives with various professional bodies, and make connections.





Discover Creative Careers

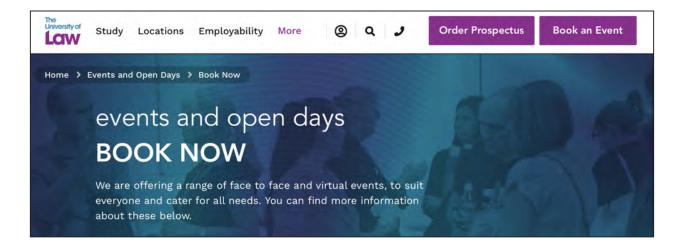
Lewisham events, courses and resources to support Discover Creative Careers Week and beyond. Please click on an article to see the full details.



Enrichment for 5th and L6th

To develop a competitive application to university, L6th students are regularly circulated opportunities like those that follow, to enable them to reflect on subjects of interest and develop a portfolio of experiences that enable them to write a good personal statement. Some of the following opportunities are also appropriate for 5th form students to begin investigating, and younger students might also dip their toes in the water!

The University of Law offers a wide range of lectures, webinars and **taster days** to help inform students interested in Law or Criminology. See **here** for full listings. Taster days offered by universities are advertised on a weekly basis to L6th, but all students can view university listings by looking at the resources on Firefly, on the school intranet. To give an example, the combined **London Universities** offer a range of **taster courses**, across a range of career and subject fields. Explore **here**. As these are on our doorstep, I highly recommend engagement with these opportunities.



Massive open online courses **(MOOCs)** are a great way to develop and show off your interest and academic appetite. Unifrog has a powerful search engine to find a massive range of courses.



CHANNELTALENT

Channeltalent is a programme bringing university lectures to you. Some of these are EXCELLENT.

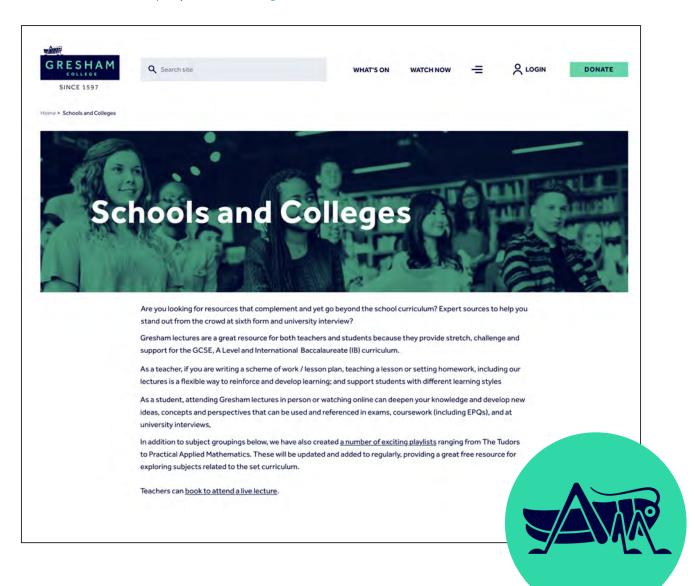


See: www.channeltalent.co.uk/events/list/

I advertise these to the L6th each week. Students are encouraged to attend and, so long as it is on an occasional basis and with the necessary permissions, students can miss a lesson if a lecture looks particularly interesting and pertinent to that student's interests and ambitions.

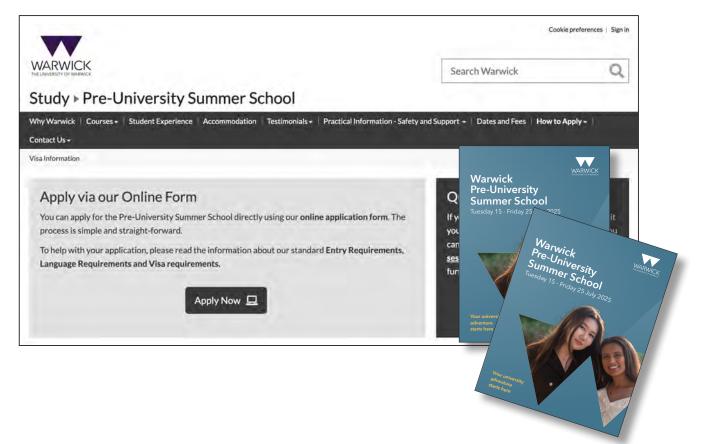
GRESHAM COLLEGE

Gresham College have a back catalogue of lectures across a range of subjects, and are welcoming guests online to their upcoming free series. You can browse by subject. Look at: www.gresham.ac.uk/schools



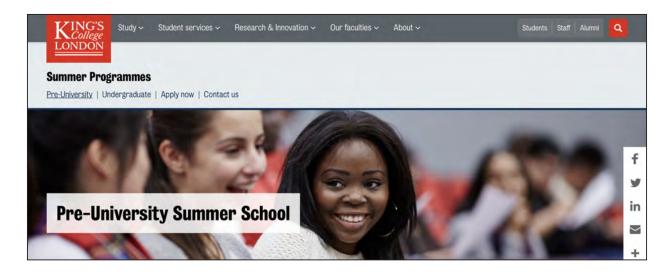
WARWICK PRE-UNIVERSITY SUMMER SCHOOL 2025

Applications are now open for the 2025 Warwick Pre-University summer school, an all-inclusive residential between 15th and 25th July. Students can select different iterations of the programme, from "A taste of Economics and Finance", "A taste of Science and Engineering", "A taste of Social Sciences" and "A taste of Arts and Humanities". The brochure can be downloaded **here** and applications can be made **here**. Prices are very steep for this sort of experience, it has to be admitted.



PRE-UNIVERSITY SUMMER SCHOOL

King's College London have an exciting opportunity for students 15-17 years of age. The **Pre-University Summer School** in July, across a range of subjects, will be opening up for applications soon. It's an initial step into the world of Higher Education for high school students, allowing them to explore different subjects and experience a taste of what is to come. Sign up **here.** The KCL courses are certainly more affordable than Warwick.



AEROSPACE ENGINEERING AT LIVERPOOL, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING AT UCL

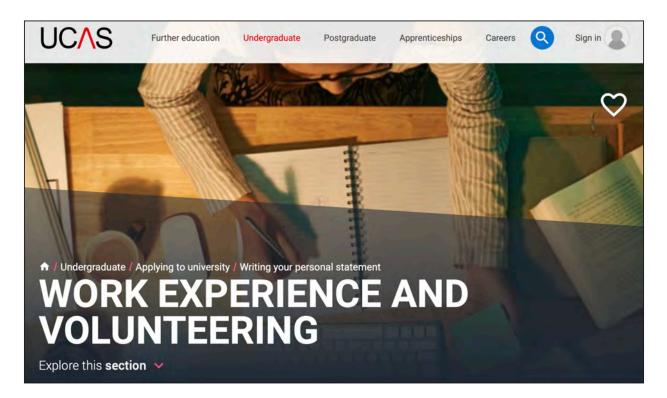
More courses will be added over the next few weeks and months, but you can explore options now here.

EDT also oversee the Year in Industry Scheme, a very worthwhile gap year project for students looking to build their CVs during part/all of their gap year.

EDT 3	Industrial Cadets	About 🗸 Programme	es 🗸 Support us 🗸 J	oin us 🛩 News Contact
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the support activities in an informed	of academics and student me the evenings. These experienc	ence university style lectures and wor entors. Students will stay in halls of res es provide a great way for students to ration and meet like-minded student ustrial Cadets Silver Award.	sidence and will take part in o try out university life, help	n social them make
Summer 20	025 course information			
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Uniform to the ONFORD	Materials Science University	of Oxford		READ MORE
- SCHERTY	Physics and Astronomy Surre	ay University		READ MORE
	Aerospace Engineering Liver	pool University		READ MORE
Lancaster a	Maths Lancaster University			READ MORE

Work Experience and similar

Both 5th form and L6th have been addressed on the importance of developing a work experience portfolio. The 5th form should be looking to organize their first work experience in the long summer vacation after they have completed their GCSE exams. See the UCAS website for their thoughts on work experience and volunteering at UCAS.



HUDSON MCKENZIE

We are very grateful to Hudson Mckenzie (Immigration Lawyers London, Legal Law Firms in London, Top 10 Best Immigration Solicitors in London, UK

Immigration Legal Law Firms in London) who have generously offered repeated work experience opportunities for our students. In the first iteration, Annabel English and Arun Joshi (5th form) secured the competitive first opportunity in the October half-term. The second will be advertised soon, and will be for an opportunity during the February half-term. Annabel wrote up her experience as follows:

"The Hudson McKenzie law firm offers a hybrid work experience opportunity; students spend two days participating in Team meetings with members of the Hudson McKenzie team, and three days working in their beautiful Mayfair office from 10:30 to 4:00. This experience is unique because interns get to complete actual, fulfilling work for the solicitors, rather than just quietly shadowing the employees for hours. After I swiped my keycard to enter the office everyday, and sat down at my own desk, I got the opportunity to

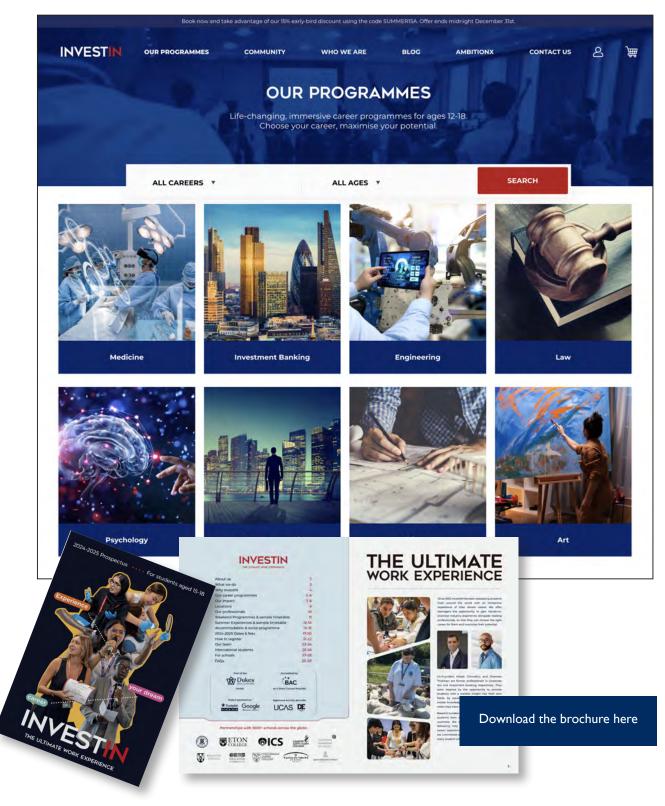


complete an IDV form for an individual's visa application, find SOC codes for an application for a Skilled Worker visa, and complete payments for a Certificate of Sponsorship – this work has a genuine impact on people's lives. Prior to this experience, I had no clue what an IDV form was, though now I can talk about different forms, certificates, and visas, and I could attempt to advise someone on the process of immigration into the United Kingdom. The office atmosphere was very casual, so I often had long conversations with the employees, all extremely sociable and friendly, ranging from their pathway into this niche area of the legal industry, how the legal industry is changing due to Al, and their favourite place to get lunch in Mayfair. I would recommend this work experience to anybody, not just to gain insight into the legal industry – specifically immigration and human rights law – but also as an enjoyable, and independent way to learn more about what adult life could look like.''

INVESTIN

InvestIN offers live and virtual internships and work experiences across a range of professional areas, such as Law, Architecture, Journalism, Banking, Medicine and so on. You can access these courses with a **discount code – EPSOMI0** – at the payment page.

Courses include one day programmes during the school year, but also five-day internships in the summer. See: investin.org/pages/choose-your-career. These programmes are targeted at 15-18 year old students. If you want to find out more, join us for an evening webinar on Monday 9th December at 7pm to find out more about how InvestIN can help students with their career choices. Book your place here.



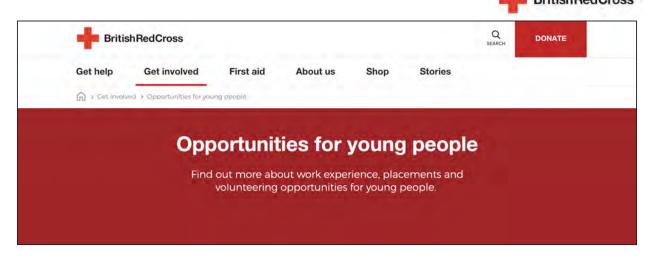
CAREERDAYS

CareerDays offers a similar service to InvestIN. See www.careerdays.co.uk/about-us for their remaining programmes in 2024-25 for students aged 13-18.



RED CROSS

As the largest humanitarian organisation in the world the Red Cross offers a variety of volunteering opportunities for young people. For those aged 15 – 18 years old formal work experience opportunities are advertised annually with placements available in human resources, finance and marketing. Opportunities for young people | British Red Cross
British RedCross



FUTUREDENT

Interested in a career in dentistry? FutureDent is offering a summer programme in June 2025. Explore their offering here.

PRE-MED PROJECTS

PremedProjects is offering two opportunities for students aged 14-18 to gain medical work experience:

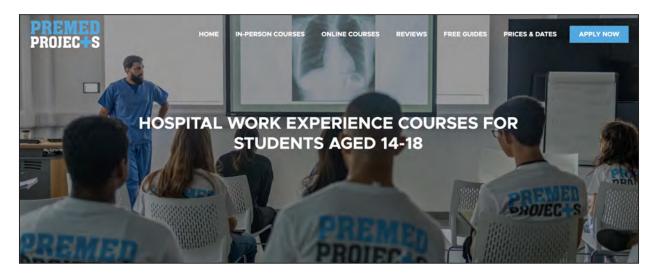
In-Person Medical Work Experience Course

- When: February 2025 (HalfTerm Holidays)
- Where: London Hospitals (Accommodation Provided)
- Who: Students aged 14-18 who are interested in careers in medicine
- What: In person work experience including visits to dissection rooms, care homes and NHS Kings Hospital.
- How: Students can view all details of the course here.

Weekly Online Medical Course

- When: Every Monday evening at 7.30pm in December 2024 and January 2025
- Where: Online
- Who: Students aged 14-18 who are interested in careers in medicine
- What: Led by NHS doctors, students explore medical specialties, such as radiology, pathology, and geriatrics, through interactive real patient case studies.
- How: Students can view all details of the course here.

Both courses are designed to address the challenge of securing meaningful medical work experience, providing valuable insights for university applications and interviews. These opportunities are for students aged 14-18. Full details, can be found **here**.



EHL'S SUMMER SCHOOL HOTEL MANAGEMENT

If interested in Hotel Management, students could investigate EHL's summer school in Switzerland, although they are also hosting an online version too. Investigate their opportunities **here**.



University News

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER CONFERENCE, NOVEMBER 2024

Degree apprenticeships

Exeter was a first mover with degree apprenticeships and has been rewarded with partnerships which include the NHS, UBS, JP Morgan, Amazon and Bloomberg. At the conference we heard from two companies, Bloomberg and UBS, about their programmes.

Bloomberg: Competition for degree apprenticeships is high. There are 50 places at Bloomberg and thousands of 'A' level students apply for them. Bloomberg require higher grades for a place on their degree apprenticeship programme than similar undergraduate courses at Exeter. On the programme, apprenticeships receive hands-on learning with experts and monthly monitoring. Bloomberg are looking for applicants who are disciplined, open to challenge, organised and ready to work hard. The hours of work are 8.00am to 6.00pm for four days a week, leaving one day a week for study.

For Bloomberg, motivation is key; they want to see prior research about the company and a good fit with the team. The recruitment process is long and there are four stages to the recruitment process. Bloomberg reported that in-person interviews are replacing online interviews due to A.I. instant answering. Any offer of a place on a Bloomberg apprenticeship programme is conditional on grades and the offer is rescinded if the grades are not achieved. Predicted grades are not checked but any impropriety would be looked on dimly and the offer rescinded. They do operate a reserve list. The contract they offer ends after four years.

UBS: The offer from UBS is similar to Bloomberg in many regards; however a permanent contract is offered after four years. For their programme, candidates submit a CV, conduct an online assessment, undergo a test and video interview before answering questions lasting two minutes again. If you pass this, you will continue to the assessment day. The assessment day has two 30 minute interviews. The apprenticeship programme is 20% study and 80% work.

Applications for all apprenticeships are made directly to the employer rather than via UCAS to the university.

University of Exeter - traditional degree route

The university focuses on partnerships between students and academics. They have noticed a shift in demand for places. Universities were expecting many more students to be applying over the last two year than is currently the case; primarily, the cost of living crisis is affecting decision-making. Many more students are staying in London for university than previously and so securing a place at a London university may now be more competitive. Exeter is seeing growth in engineering and technology and a shift to vocational programs. The chances of an offer are better than 82%. For history and English the chances are nearer 90%.

Applying to Exeter:

Once applications are received, students are divided into tiers: A*A*A*, A*A*A, etc. Students are placed into eight tiers and offers are then released in batches. A*A*A* first. The personal statement should be 80% subject focused. Two paragraphs need to resemble an academic essay, for example an in-depth analysis of a text or mathematical problem. The remaining paragraph is about the student themselves. Whilst Exeter doesn't make extensive use of the Personal Statement in offer-making (instead focusing largely on predicted grades), when it comes to borderline cases, and indeed in cases when a student might miss an offer on Results Day itself, Exeter would reference the PS. In that sense, as a student doesn't know if he/she is on the borderline, can't predict absolutely what might happen on Results Day, and is also applying to four other universities (who might place a greater premium on the PS), they do advise to take the writing of the PS very seriously. References are read and appreciated but mainly used in extenuating circumstances. When Exeter do reject students they check the references first to ensure it is the correct decision.

Exeter love the EPQ, and prefer students who undertake it. Students applying for the most popular courses of medicine, economics, management and finance will have to wait for an offer and the chance of receiving an offer has declined. However, the chance of a place for classics has improved. Exeter would encourage students to get their UCAS application in early so they can receive offers before Christmas. More students are leaving it until January.

Results Day: There is no compromise on the subject grade, i.e. if you want to study Biology and need an A in Biology, you have to achieve an A. Offers to students are personalised to their grades. This motivates the student and reassures lower grade students. Offers will never be higher than the published offer and will be specific to subject grades.

Benefits of attending a university: Research shows that 15 months after graduating, 72% of graduates said university was worthwhile. The average starting salary is £28,000 after 15 months. The choice of university is less important. However 9% of employers target specific universities with vacancies. This 9% tends to be employers with global brands and small recruitment teams. 80% of jobs are open to any subject discipline and early engagement is key to career planning

Exeter offers an **extensive career programme** which is embedded in the undergraduate course **Career Zone | Career Zone | University of Exeter**. They offer 800 events and 8,000 vacancies year. Employers report that global experience is important, whether I week or a year.

F

UNIVERSITY

AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY FAIR, NOVEMBER 2024

Whilst Australian universities are relatively niche for Epsom students, there is certainly a trend to look beyond our shores for a university future, both at Epsom and nationally. I attended a university fair in November hosted by Study Options, an organisation that acts as the equivalent of UCAS for UK students looking to apply to Australian and New Zealand universities; as an organisation , I should also say that they are exceptionally helpful, and offer support to UK students throughout the process. The event at Australia House began with an introduction from reps from Perth, Western Australia, who spoke about Perth specifically (Western Australia is seeking to attract international students, offering state scholarships for example, beyond anything offered by individual institutions), highlighting WA's excellence in STEM subjects, for example in bio-medicine, marine biology and mining. But in a more general sense, both the WA ''sell'' and the wider Australian presentation highlighted the obvious attractions of a university career down under, referencing the great outdoors which, in turn, facilitates certain courses specifically, the nature of a university experience in Australia and New Zealand, the strong connections with business and employers generally, their impressive Vet, Medicine and STEM programmes, and their highly ranked PE and sports science courses, as well as the strength of their extra curricular sport. Generally, moreover, an Australian university learning experience will include a relatively high number of teaching contact hours.

Various universities were in attendance, and presented on their individual USPs. So, Macquarie in Sidney spoke about their business courses and their close connections with employers; the University of Melbourne referenced the presence of 41% of their intake as international students; Monash (also in Melbourne) referred to their affiliate campuses in Asia; Deakin (Melbourne) is proud of its world-leading sports science courses; the University of Western Sidney has a large capacity for international medical applicants, and Massey University (NZ) referenced their relatively unusual qualifying airline pilot degree. Sarah Nash comes along to Epsom annually to speak to interested students, and their latest brochure is accessible **here**. Sarah spoke in more general terms at the Conference. Students apply to five universities, although they can apply to a couple of courses at each. Typically, students apply between November and April of their U6th year, although medical applicants considering this route ought to be in touch rather earlier, as there are additional tests that are required. Study Options can advise on bursaries and scholarships, although everyone should note that Australia does not give sports scholarships in the way that US universities do. They will also assist with creating a suitable shortlist, given the unlikelihood of being able to attend open days down under!

We also learnt about the student experience in Australia and NZ. Like the UK, accommodation tends to be organised for the first year. Residential Colleges are offered in some universities, akin to a Durham or Oxbridge experience; so UWA has five colleges, with private room accommodation for example, offering cleaning, food, pastoral care and academic support, whilst in the University of Otago (NZ), there are 15 colleges of varying size (150-500 students). Alternatively, halls of residence offer a comparable experience to their namesakes in the UK. They might more typically offer apartments for a number of students with shared facilities, with self-catering more typical.

International prospectuses of the fifteen Australian and New Zealand attendant universities who presented at the Conference can be viewed by scrolling through on Firefly **here**, with some guidelines for applying as an Australian citizen **here**.

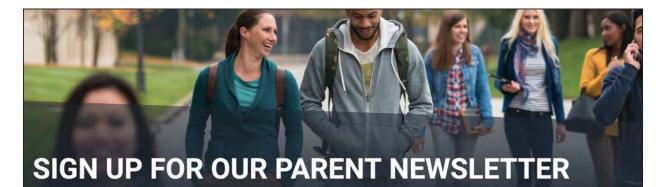


UCAS DATA

New UCAS data reveals a 3% increase in the number of UK 18 year olds securing places at university last year. The latest trends are reported by UCAS here. As a reminder parents can sign up to the UCAS parent newsletter to keep in the loop with university and application news and headlines; sign up here.



RECORD ACCEPTANCES FOR UK 18-YEAR-OLDS AS INTERNATIONAL GROWTH FLATTENS OUT



GUARDIAN UNIVERSITY GUIDE FOR 2025

The latest Guardian University Guide for 2025 entry has been published, including their latest tables ranking institutions by students satisfaction, staff numbers, spending and career prospects. Alongside other metrics, this is a useful point of reference for helping students on their university options. Read more **here** and make use of their interactive table.



Apprenticeship News

AMAZING APPRENTICESHIPS

Amazing Apprenticeships publish a parental magazine regularly, a good place for parents to start if they wish to explore the changing apprenticeship landscape that more Epsom students are exploring. The website, and a link to download the October edition of the magazine, can be explored here. Twice a year, they publish the complete listings of Degree and Higher apprenticeships, typically the level that Epsom students are investigating. The October 2024 listings include over 2,300 vacancies with over 75 employers, including Morgan Stanley, BA, Ford, Nestle, Coca Cola, the army, PwC, HSBC and the NHS. Explore here. At the end of this section, I am including a few details of the sort of apprenticeship opportunities that students are posted directly, each week in the Monday email, forwarded on by platforms such as Amazing Apprenticeships and Success at Schools. But Unifrog and the government's own website offer the most comprehensive and ongoing search engines to seek out opportunities.

HIGHER & DEGREE VACANCY LISTING

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APPRENTICESHIPS

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EXPLORE THOUSANDS OF HIGHER & DEGREE VACANCIES

Explore 2,300 Higher and Degree apprenticeship vacancies in the October 2024 edition of the Higher & Degree listing.

Discover vacancy details from over 75 employers, including:

Vacancy locations

Salary information

Direct application links

Download the Higher & Degree listing in PDF format or find out more about the listing, who it is for and how to best use it in our FAQs below.

The Higher & Degree Listing is a bi-annual publication, with the next release planned for January 2025!

NOT GOING TO UNI

Maisie is a newsroom apprentice with the Financial Times. If interested in a media career, explore this interview found on the website NotGoingToUni here.



PROCTOR AND GAMBLE

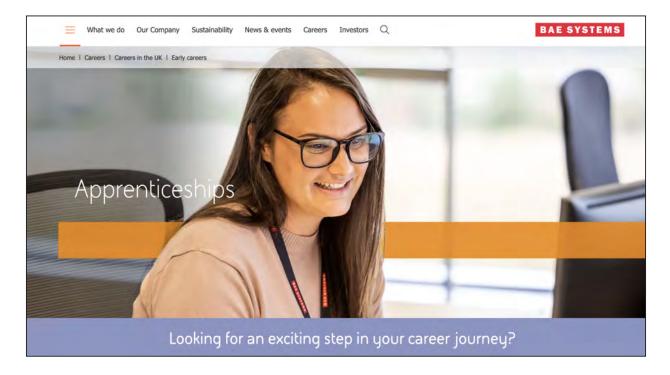
Proctor and Gamble are hosting their annual Commercial Degree Apprentice information evening on the evening of Wednesday I Ith December. There are two opportunities to attend, at 5.15pm and again at 6.45pm. Sign up **here** and see their poster **here**.



BAE SYSTEMS

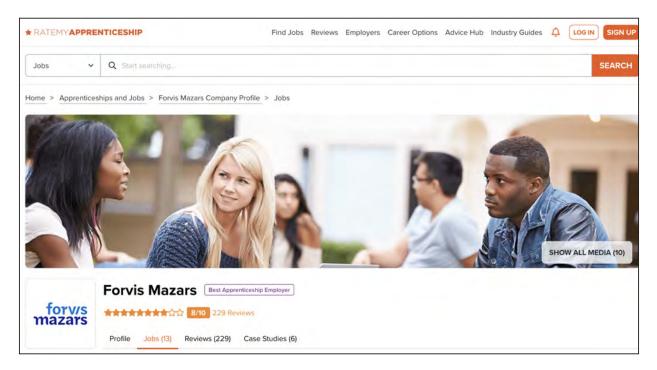
BAE Systems Apprenticeship roles are now live. They have over 1300 apprenticeship roles available across the UK, ranging from Level 2 to Level 6 Degree. The attached document lists apprenticeships specifically available within the Submarines Integrated Combat Systems Team: www.baesystems.com/en/careers/careers-in-the-uk/apprenticeships

Or view the opportunities on their poster here.



FORVIS MAZARS

Forvis Mazars is thrilled to offer award-winning Apprenticeship Programmes, designed for students ready to dive into finance, accounting, and consulting. These programmes provide an excellent alternative to university, equipping students with on-the-job training and the chance to earn a professional qualification while they work. Our apprenticeships span key areas, including Audit, Tax, Consulting, and Financial Advisory, allowing students to explore their interests and develop essential skills. Explore further here.



AIRBUS

Degree apprenticeship with Airbus: An exciting journey towards a fulfilling career in Quality and Performance Improvement, Health and Safety, or in many other disciplines.

Earn a degree while learning:

- Airbus's Degree Apprenticeships offer a unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience in critical roles while earning a degree with no fees.
- Real-world impact: Contribute to Airbus's aerospace projects and make a tangible difference in the industry.
- A supportive environment: Benefit from mentorship, training, and a regular salary throughout your apprenticeship.
- A bright future: Airbus is committed to providing inclusive career opportunities with full support.
- Degree Apprenticeships start in September 2025.

For more information visit their website: : Apprenticeships in the United Kingdom | Airbus



Careers News

CAREERS IN SPORT

If interested in a Careers in Sport, a student could do worse than explore the Careers in Sport platform. This organisation hosts a number of live events with industry professionals to showcase the diverse range of opportunities. Explore here.



PILOT CAREERS

How about a flying career? The Pilot Careers Live event at Heathrow is scheduled for 22nd March 2025. Keep an eye on their website **here**.



FARNBOROUGH INTERNATIONAL SPACE SHOW

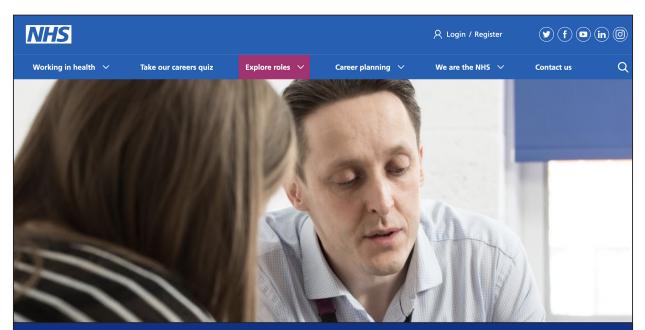
The annual Farnborough International Space Show is open to booking, on 19th and 20th March. The space industry is a growing sector that interested students could explore here.

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PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFESSIONS WEEK, 11TH-15TH NOVEMBER

12 You Tube clips and 4 blogs make up this celebration of the psychological professions from a northern NHS Trust, South West Yorkshire Partnership. Hear from those training to be a Child Psychologist and a Cognitive Behaviour Therapist; find out what it's like to work as a Counsellor and a Family Psychotherapist. Read about the experiences of an Education Mental Health Practitioner and a Clinical Psychologist. All to be found at:- Celebrating our staff this psychological professions week – 11 to 15 November - South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. These cameos bring to life the work of the Psychological Professions; there are over 20,000 of these experts working in the NHS in England.

Explore further at Psychological professions | Health Careers.



Use your interest in how people think and behave to make a difference to their mental health and wellbeing.

High Flyers October 2023 Presentation

(I am republishing this article from last year in full, as the commentary is evidence-based and still relevant for all students and parents.)

Having watched the latest High Flyers review of graduate prospects, I am including here some interesting highlights that might help inform 6th formers make choices looking forward, but that anyone seeking to assess next steps beyond school, students and parents alike. I would STRONGLY advise anyone reading this article, and viewing the tables, to read the WHOLE article though, as some statistics themselves, on their own, present a misleading picture. The article and the accompanying tables need to be viewed as a whole, and should serve as no more than a starting point in individual research towards making choices.

THE GRADUATE CLASS OF 2021

Whilst the programme itself is no longer accessible to watch, part of the presentation included a review of the class of 2021 graduates, ie those leaving university in summer 2021. They are chosen as a good metric, partly as we now have the available data, and partly because 15 months after graduation is a good time to review their career outcomes: many graduates have chosen to take a year out after university (an experience blighted by the pandemic) and have only relatively recently started to apply for jobs and take up positions. So, a 15-month delay to review outcomes is a useful staging post. In the first place, c.58% of graduates of the class of 2021 are in full time work. However, this itself disguises massive variation, as shown in the first table below, whereby there is a significant contrast between graduates in science-oriented degrees (top left), and those in humanities like History, RE and Philosophy (bottom right). Moreover, degrees at the top of the left-hand column are more likely to lead to graduate employment (ie a degree was a necessity for the position), whilst subjects towards the bottom of the right-hand column might provide work, but that is less likely to be graduate level employment.

Graduates in Full-Time Work 15 months after leaving university							
DEGREE SUBJECT	%	DEGREE SUBJECT	%				
Veterinary sciences	86	Social sciences	57				
Medicine and dentistry	77	Media, journalism and communications	57				
Subjects allied to medicine	68	Geography, earth & environmental studies	57				
Engineering and technology	67	Physical sciences	53				
Architecture, building and planning	67	Law	52				
Education and teaching	67	Design, and creative & performing arts	52				
Computing	66	Languages and area studies	50				
Agriculture, food and related studies	64	Biological and sport sciences	49				
Business and management	64	Psychology	49				
Mathematical sciences	58	History, philosophy & religious studies	47				

Unsurprisingly, there are similar tables when presenting on graduate starting salaries, indicative of the demand for, and reward of, science and related graduates in employment.

Average Graduates Salaries

15 months after leaving university

DEGREE SUBJECT	AVERAGE SALARY	DEGREE SUBJECT	AVERAGE SALARY
Medicine and dentistry	£35,000	Education and teaching	£25,500
Veterinary sciences	£32,000	Business and management	£25,000
Engineering and technology	£29,500	Languages and area studies	£25,000
Mathematical sciences	£29,000	History, philosophy & religious studies	£25,000
Computing	£29,000	Biological and sport sciences	£24,000
Physical sciences	£27,000	Agriculture, food and related studies	£24,000
Subjects allied to medicine	£26,500	Psychology	£23,000
Architecture, building and planning	£26,000	Law	£23,000
Social sciences	£26,000	Media, journalism and communications	£23,000
Geography, earth & environmental studies	£26,000	Design, and creative & performing arts	£23,000

However, other data offers a more encouraging slant on students aspiring towards History, Law, Psychology, Politics, Languages, English and other non-science degree subjects. So, all the data so far presents a picture of the whole graduate sector, ie graduates from ALL UK universities. However, if one looks instead at the band of universities that Epsom students most typically apply for and win places at – broadly speaking the Russell Group and a few equally highly regarded universities (Bath, St Andrews, Loughborough, etc) – then we find that graduate outcomes are considerably more encouraging. The table below represents students either in graduate jobs OR embarked upon further study (MA, PhD, etc). In that regard, the left-hand column more closely represents the typical destinations of Epsom students (compared to the graduates from universities in the right-hand column, at the other end of the scale) and, therefore, serves to encourage them to believe that they should still apply for a course that really interests them, rather than worry exclusively about where it might take them afterwards, albeit at the best possible university that they can aspire towards.

Graduates in High-Skilled Work or Further Study

15 months after leaving university

INIVERSITY	96	UNIVERSITY	%
Imperial College London	94	University of Sunderland	66
St George's, University of London	94	Royal Agricultural University	66
University of Cambridge	93	Birmingham Newman University	65
University of Oxford	93	Norwich University of the Arts	65
London School of Economics	92	University of Westminster	65
University of Bath	91	University of Wales Trinity St David	65
University of St Andrews	90	London Metropolitan University	65
Durham University	90	University of East London	64
University College London	89	Falmouth University	64
Queen's University, Belfast	89	Hartpury University	63
University of Warwick	88	Wrexham Glyndŵr University	63
King's College London	88	Leeds Arts University	61
Loughborough University	88	University for the Creative Arts	58
University of Birmingham	87	Arts University Bournemouth	57

Source: The Times & Sunday Times Good University Guide 2024

The table of graduate salaries paints a similar picture showing two ends of the salary scale for graduates.

Average Graduates Salaries 15 months after leaving university

UNIVERSITY	AVERAGE SALARY	UNIVERSITY	AVERAGE SALARY
Imperial College London	£36,000	University of Gloucestershire	£24,000
London School of Economics	£35,000	University of Huddersfield	£24,000
University of Cambridge	£33,800	University of Lincoln	£24,000
University College London	£32,000	Arts University Bournemouth	£24,000
University of Oxford	£32,000	Staffordshire University	£24,000
University of Warwick	£31,000	University of South Wales	£24,000
King's College London	£30,800	Leeds Beckett University	£23,700
University of Bath	£30,600	Liverpool Hope University	£23,500
Durham University	£30,000	Leeds Trinity University	£22,800
University of Bristol	£30,000	University for the Creative Arts	£22,500
Queen Mary, University of London	£30,000	Norwich University of the Arts	£22,500
St George's, University of London	£30,000	University of Wales Trinity Saint David	£22,500
Loughborough University	£28,800	Falmouth University	£22,000
University of St. Andrews	£28,300	Leeds Arts University	£21,000

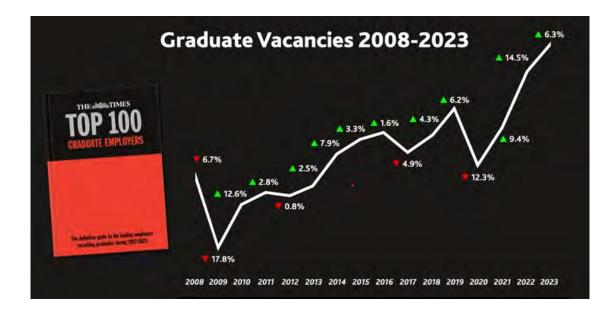
Source: The Times & Sunday Times Good University Guide 2024

One important further refinement of our understanding of student outcomes was the statistic that stated that final year students who had completed one or more internships, or who had relevant work experience, were three times more likely to be in receipt of graduate job offers, compared to students without such experiences – at a time when I am encouraging both 5th and L6th to be hunting for work experience, the importance of this becoming a habit for them is stressed by this observation. In that regard, universities (like Bath) that offer the year in industry as a core part of their offering, would be a good option for students thinking about their university choice-making – indeed, it is no surprise to see Bath so highly placed in the graduate outcomes table, after a handful of the elite universities, for exactly this reason.

Another positive table for Epsom students considering their future plans is the one below that alludes to the growth in graduate vacancies. The picture in this regard is nuanced of course – I have read other articles that suggest a decline in such positions. Certainly, some leading companies are choosing to invest in the degree apprenticeship route, and with there likely to be more students going to university over the next few years, it is worth understanding that this rise in vacancies might not necessarily keep pace with supply of graduates. However, and notwithstanding this, it is a positive piece of data for potential undergraduates. Interesting, 75% of the graduate roles on offer are provided by companies found within "*The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers*" – a synopsis of this book can be found here: https://graduatecareers.live/resources-oct-2023/

The definitive suide to the leading emotion recruiting graduates during 2023-2024

ading employers ring 2023-2024.



In terms of where these vacancies are to be found, the great bulk are to be found in the following sectors, in this order: accounting and professional services, the public sector, engineering and industry, technology, investment banking, banking and finance, retail, armed forces and the law.

Whilst in terms of starting salaries, the following picture emerges:

Graduate Starting Salaries in 2023 By Sector or Industry

SECTOR	MEDIAN
Investment Banking	£55,000
Law	£50,000
Consulting	£47,500
Banking & Finance	£40,000
Retail	£37,000
Accounting & Professional Services	£35,000
Oil & energy	£35,000
Technology	£33,500
Chemical & Pharmaceuticals	£32,500
Consumer Goods	£32,000
Engineering & Industrial	£29,000
Armed Forces	£28,300
Media	£27,500
Property	£27,500
Public sector	£26,400

It is also interesting to note the universities that employers target for graduate recruitment. The table below presents a rank order (in white) of universities that firms most target. The figure in red references that university's position in the Times Good University Guide 2024. Obviously, the guide uses a wide range of metrics to measure this – standard of teaching, student satisfaction, quality of lectures, etc – however, it does seem that students from Manchester, Nottingham and Birmingham present as very employable. As ever, this data must not be taken in isolation – remember that students at Bath have very good outcomes in terms of employability, yet are only 16th here. Quite possibly this reflects the fact that their students are already engaged with companies and potential employers, and therefore companies don't seek to target Bath specifically.

	M	ost Targeted	Univ	er	sities in 2023
		ost rangeted	Cint		Sities in Lords
		UNIVERSITY			UNIVERSITY
1	23	Manchester	11		Oxford
2	32	Nottingham	12	27	King's College London
3		Birmingham	13	11	Exeter
4		Bristol	14		London School of Economics
5		Warwick	15	73	Edinburgh
6	24	Leeds	16		Bath
7		University College London	17		Imperial College London
8		Cambridge	18		Queen Mary, London
9		Durham	19		Sheffield
10	17	Southampton	20	72	Glasgow

ADVICE TO SCHOOL STUDENTS

In the concluding part of the broadcast, Martin Birchall offered some tips for students considering their future.

- I. One should seriously consider the degree apprenticeship route, and in particular if you have a strong view about your future career. If you do have a clear career in mind, then this is an option to consider seriously.
- 2. But presuming you are investigating the traditional university route and are investigating universities and courses, do look carefully into their graduate employment record.

Explore their outcomes by making use of https://discoveruni.gov.uk/. This website allows you to investigate and compare employment outcomes by course and university.

I undertook a comparison of four seemingly random courses and was quickly able to navigate to the comparison below (NB Unifrog has a not dissimilar ranking tool that also enables students to investigate employment outcomes for individual courses):



course(s) selected	☆ ☆ ☆ BA (Hons) Ancient History University of Birmingham	×	☆ ☆ ☆ BA (Hons) Ancient History University of Bristol	×	☆☆☆ BA (Hons) History of Art University of Cambridge	×	☆ ☆ ☆ BA (Hons) History of Art University of Cambridge	×
Employment 15 month	is after the course						-	
% of those asked	65%		55%		60%		60%	
In highly skilled work Employed in a professional or managerial job	45%		50%		70%		70%	
In other work Employed not in a professiona or managerial job	50%		45%		30%		30%	
In unknown work Employed after finishing the course but employment type is not known	5% s		5%		0%		0%	

3. If you are intent on applying for university but don't yet have any clear idea about careers (and to reassure everyone, this will be lots of students!), then it's worth knowing that 70% graduate jobs DO NOT require a specific degree qualification. Therefore, given the data presented in this article, choose to study a degree that you will really enjoy and are good at, but at the best possible university you can.

4. Finally, whilst at university, take every opportunity you can do secure work experience and internships, as these will make you eminently more employable further down the line.

Every year, alongside *The Times*, Martin Birchall publishes the top 100 graduate employers. This can be accessed online here.



Save the date:2025

M4TH FORM U4TH FORM MON 17 MARCH 2025 THURS 16 JANUARY US university presentation GCSE choices evening **MON 3 FEBRUARY** apprenticeship presentation FRI 7 FEBRUARY 19.00-21.00 university workshop **L6TH FORM SAT 18 JANUARY** Nottingham, Surrey & Queen Mary's universities will present on Joint Honours Degrees (tbc) **MON 27 JANUARY** Higher Education briefing by Mr Paul Drinkwater (School and Colleges Liaison, Southampton University), and Sue Taylor (ALPs programme) for all Lower Sixth pupils and parents – Applying to University and Degree Apprenticeships 18.30-20.00 SAT 10 MAY Open Days - presentation by Bath University SAT 17 MAY Gap years - presentation led by the Emily Lusty (The Language Gap) and Sophie Dunn (Gap Year and Working Holiday Organisation | Letz Live) THUR 19 JUNE University Fair for L6th and parents. Whilst we will continue to plan webinars and virtual events during the summer term to support students applying to university, we will also host the university fair as a live event.

U6TH FORM Thur 14 August

A Level Results Day: as soon as this date is released, please could U6th and parents do their best to ensure that they are in the country for the day (usually a Thursday) and the few days immediately after.

