

Progression after Sixth Form – Making HE and Apprenticeship Choices

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DEGREE IN UK

DEGREE WITH YEAR ABROAD

DEGREE WITH YEAR IN INDUSTRY

IN INDUSTRY

GAP YEAR ABROAD

2 YEAR

DEGREE IN UK

HE ABROAD

UNIVERSITY/EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIPS

PRIVATE DEGREE

ARMED AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

ADVANCED APPRENTICESHIPS

SCHOOL LEAVER PROGRAMMES

HIGHER APPRENTICESHIPS

DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

JOINT DEGREE

GAP YEAR IN UK JOB MARKET

SELF-EMPLOYMENT/ENTREPRENEURSHIP

It's your choice? What matters to you!

- Studying something you love in more depth?
- Getting an interesting well paid job?
- Getting away from home in a supported, fun environment?
- Taking some time out before I decide on my next step

Ways forward

26 Different paths

Full-time University: UK

1. Full time UK university degree in a fully vocational subject, e.g. Pharmacy.
2. Full time UK university degree in a semi-vocational / professional accreditation subject, e.g. Law.
3. Full time UK university degree in an 'academic' subject, e.g. Philosophy.
4. Full time UK university degree in a joint/combined/multidisciplinary subject, e.g. History and Spanish.
5. Two-year degree, foundation degree or HND, e.g. LLB Degree at BPP or University of Law.

Universities – Private and Overseas

6. **Private sector degree**, e.g. New College of the Humanities.
7. **Private sector diploma course**, e.g. Oxford Aviation Academy (N.B £80,000).
8. **Degree at a European university in English**, e.g. European Studies at Maastricht University.
9. **Degree at a university in US** - 4,000 universities to consider,
10. **Degree at university elsewhere**, e.g. McGill University, Canada.

Other UK university Options

11. **UK university with a year abroad**, e.g. Aston University can offer work / study / teaching placements worldwide.
12. **UK university with an overseas campus**, e.g. University of Nottingham has campuses in China and Malaysia.
13. **UK degree with sponsorship**, e.g. Institution of Civil Engineers Quest Scholarship.
14. **UK university with a year in industry**. Some specialise in offering sandwich or a professional year across wide range of courses (like Aston, Bath, Brunel, Hertfordshire, Loughborough, Surrey (and hidden gems, e.g. Politics & Parliamentary Studies at Leeds).
15. **University / employer partnership degree**, e.g. Business (in Company) at Nottingham Trent University; some fees paid, work experience and get paid.

Apprenticeships

16. **Degree apprenticeship**, e.g. Cap Gemini: job with p/t university degree, get paid and course fees covered.
17. **Salaried school leaver programmes**, e.g. train in audit / tax / advisory at BDO.
18. **Higher Apprenticeships** for A Level and BTEC Level 3 students, such as CILEX and Investment 2020.
19. **Advanced Apprenticeships** for students with GCSE passes, but popular ones such as Network Rail and Creative Pioneers get A Level/BTEC Level 3 students applying.
20. **Specialised Apprenticeships**, e.g. Savile Row Bespoke Tailoring Apprenticeship or Royal Academy of Culinary Arts Chef / Restaurant Management Apprenticeship.

Other common options

21. **The hidden job market.** Company websites, speculative applications, word of mouth, employment agencies, networking through family, friends or contacts or with firms with whom you've already gained experience.
22. **Armed and emergency services** e.g. UK Armed Forces
23. **Self-employment, portfolio, temping or seasonal work.**
24. **Paid gap year schemes**, e.g. Deloittes and Year in Industry Programme.
25. **Gap years abroad / UK**
26. **Full-time Further Education courses**, e.g. Art Foundation.

Focussing on Uni and Apprenticeships

- I'm not here to promote one path over the other, I'm an impartial Careers Adviser!
- This promotion of Uni over everything is grindingly depressing. I withdrew from this habit/addiction 5 years ago
- However, we need to be fair to university applicants and universities
- So let's look at both the upsides and downsides of both

University – the Upside

- You might need it for a career
- Part of your self-development/personal growth
- Learning to think independently, possibly at a well regarded seat of learning.
- Indulge your love of subject – choose career later
- Easy and clear system of application

Apprenticeships – the Upside

- It's a job! With relevant training and certification
- It can offer a more direct route to your chosen occupation
- Paid a wage, no loans!
- Can start at Advanced, Higher or Degree Apprenticeship
- Some apprenticeship opportunities are AMAZING!

University – the downsides

- THE STUDENT FINANCE SYSTEM!
- Students from poor backgrounds are poor at university- Antonucci
- 34% say not good value for money – HEPI
- A significant proportion of graduate earnings are dreadful 5 years after graduation - LEO
- Some universities indulge in Degree Farming

Apprenticeships – the downsides

- Options are limited depending where you live and what you want to do
- Miss out on the student lifestyle
- Can be an utter nightmare to apply to
- Some apprentices have had negative experiences Apprenticeships can be much more selective than people think

A way forward

- **Focus** – to what extent have you narrowed down your options?
- **Information** – how well informed are you?
- **Realism** – how realistic are you given your own capabilities and the constraints of the labour market?
- **Scope** – how aware are you of the range of options available?
- **Tactics** – do you know how to put your plans into action?

DO NOT GET OBSESSED WITH UCAS!

IT IS AN APPLICATION PROCESS, THE ABOVE ISSUES ARE FAR MORE IMPORTANT!

The Decision Making Spectrum

Sorry I haven't got a clue! <=====→ **Wedding song**
@

Where are you at on the spectrum?

Everything depends on knowing what you want to study!

Focus - Choose course

Stage 1 WHAT?

A Levels/BTEC

Career Ideas

New Interests

Stage 2 WHERE?

Course Content

Predictions

Ratings

Location

Social Reasons

5 Choices, 1 Personal statement!

- Portsmouth - 112
- Leeds - AAB
- Manchester- AAB
- Leeds Beckett 120
- Leicester - ABB

All Business Studies or
Management Studies

How 47 lines with clearly-spaced paragraphs might look



Information

“Digital ping pong”

- **WHICH? University**
- **Unistats**
- **Find and Apprenticeship**
- **Milkround School Leavers**

University of Portsmouth

Business and Management

Shortlist +

UCAS Code: NN21



BA (HONS) 3 YEARS FULL-TIME 2017

BA (HONS) 4 YEARS FULL-TIME, SANDWICH 2017

Ucas points guide	% applicants receiving offers	Subjects	Student score	% employed or in further study	Average graduate salary
112	93%	Business studies	80% MED	95% MED	£22k HIGH
		Management studies	79% MED	94% MED	£19.5k MED

Realism

**What sort of job will I get from
this degree?**

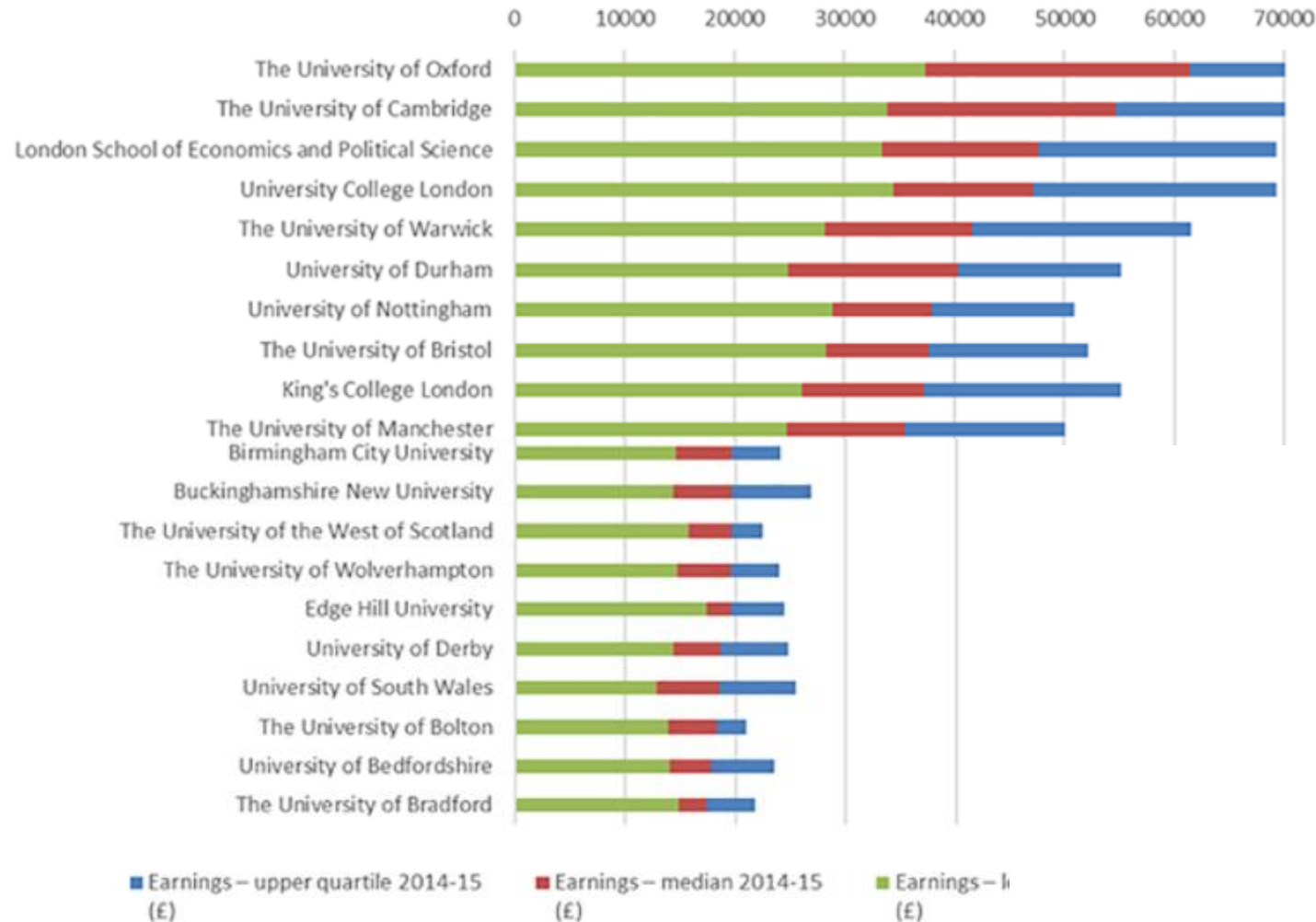
Work experience

"Work experience was perceived to be a crucial key to the labour market. Many felt that on exit from HE they were not 'work ready' because they lacked basic workplace experience, particularly those who graduated with non-vocational degrees"

Elias

Are some Unis Degree farming? From CCH

Law 5 years after graduation



Graduate Employability: How university students behave

- **The Ronseal Realist**
- **The Grad Scheme Player**
- **The Sandwich Maker**
- **Postgrad Player**
- **Postgrad Delayer**
- **Creative Career or Creative Hobby?**
- **Dude, Where's My Career?** Grunwald

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Scope -What can you do and where can you go?

Spotlight on **Birmingham**

- **University of Birmingham**
- **Aston University**
- **BPP University College, Birmingham**
- **Birmingham City University**
- **Newman University College**
- **University College Birmingham**

University or Apprenticeship?



Finally.....Tactics

What do you have control over?

- **Grades**
- **Course or Apprenticeship choice**
- **Personal statement or Apprenticeship Application Journey**
- **Tests**
- **Interviews**
- **Take advice**