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Post-18 Pathways

Your Future After 18: Pathways to Success

COMMUNITY • ACHIEVE • RESPECT • ENCOUNTER

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Key features tonight:

The University of Nottingham

- Introduction to different pathways
- University of Nottingham
- Briars team on Gap years and other opportunities
- Sean Panting our Careers Advisor on Apprenticeships
- Mr Reddington on Sixth Form
- Alumni students discussing their pathways and experiences

Progress Careers

ndcys

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Why think about this now?

- Decisions after 18 shape your career, lifestyle, and finances
- Applications start early (UCAS, apprenticeships)
- Planning helps reduce stress and regret later

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Post-18 pathways:

University

Studying a degree (typically for 3-4 years) – otherwise known as higher education



Apprenticeship

Spending time working and studying – this includes degree apprenticeships. (1-5 years)



Employment

Part or full time working – employment at a company, self-employment, or freelance work



Gap year

Any combination of travelling, volunteering, work experience, learning, part-time employment, etc.



"There's no single 'right' path to success — it depends on your skills, goals, and how you like to learn."

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Post-18 pathways: pros and cons

1. University	2. Apprenticeship	3. Employment	4. Gap year
✓ Needed for specialised careers (law, medicine, teaching). Can be part time/online.	✓ Combines benefits of work and study No tuitions fees	✓ Earn a salary Career Progression On the job training	✓ Develop independence Travel, volunteer or gain work experience.
✗ Tuition fees and living costs Not essential for all careers	✗ Competitive vacancies	✗ Some jobs may require post-18 qualifications	✗ Can be expensive

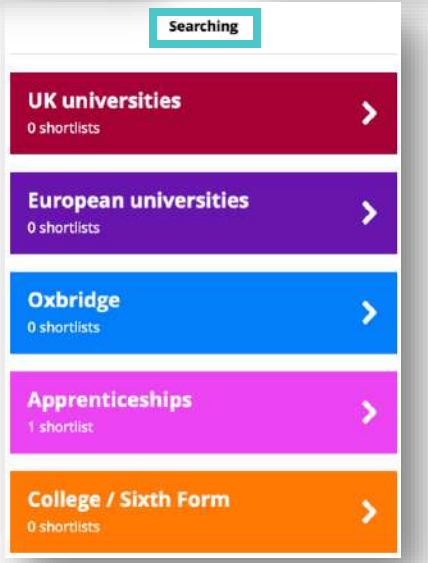
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Finding out more about post-18 pathways

- The **Know-how library on unifrog** is a reliable source of information about post-18 pathways and lots of other topics. Search by the pathway of interest to you, e.g. '**Oxbridge**.'
- The **search tools** allow you to create shortlists for several post-18 pathways, including employment, apprenticeships, and universities across the world.
- Parents can also access Unifrog too!







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Key Deadlines

- University – UCAS (Sept–Jan)
- Apprenticeships – year-round, apply early
- Employment – after A Levels
- Gap Year – plan 6+ months ahead

University of Nottingham
UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

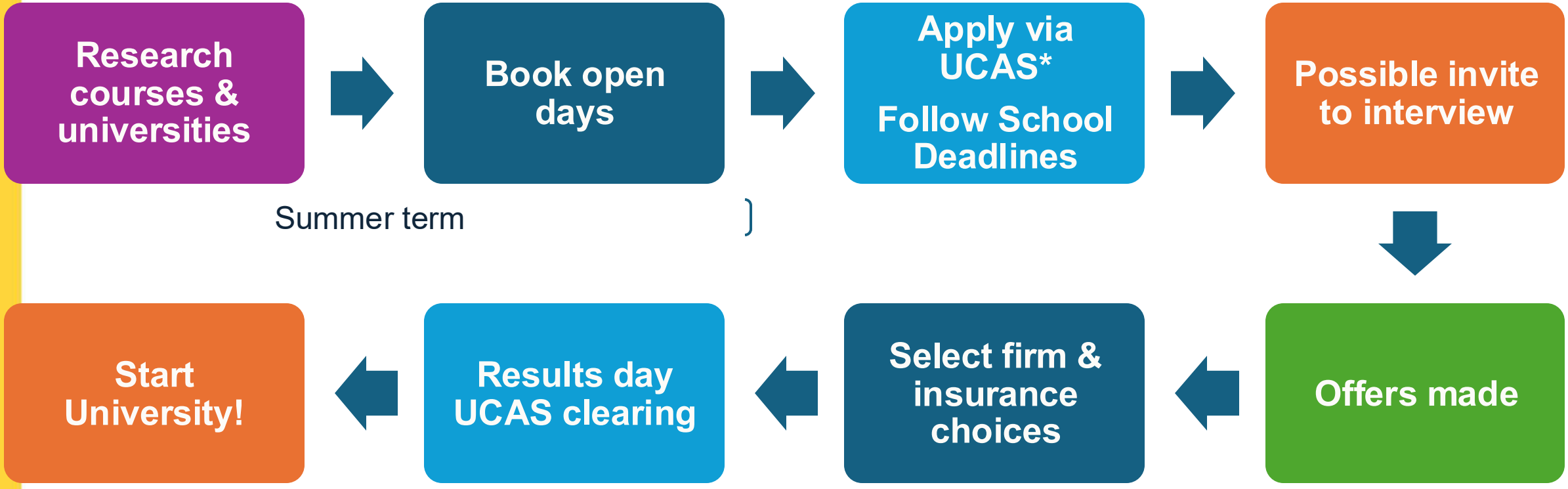
Student Finance

James Telfer
Student Recruitment Manager



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Overview of UCAS cycle



*you may be required to sit additional admissions tests for certain courses before submitting your UCAS form

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What financial support is available?

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What support is available?



Government Support
(Student Finance England)

- Tuition Fee loan
- Maintenance loan



University Support

- Grants
- Scholarships
- Bursaries



SFE opens around Feb-March each year

sfe
student finance england

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Government Loans

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Tuition Fee Loan

Apply through Student Finance England

Not dependant on household income

Is paid directly to the university

Changing to Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE) from Jan 2027

Each year you will need to update your student finance details.

In this case its to continue at your chosen university

£10500 per year

The maximum a university can charge





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Maintenance Loan

To maintain the student whilst at university and covers all living costs

Partially means-tested

Dependant on your household taxable income
(a full tax year before starting the academic year i.e. start Sept 2027 = tax year Apr 25- Apr 26)

Paid into the students' bank account 3 times a year

Two households?
Put income of who they spend the **most** time with







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Maintenance loan rates - England

Maximum & minimum rates

New 2026/27 full-time students, not eligible for benefits or aged over 60:

Parental Home Rate: Live at home while they study	£4,013	£9,118
Elsewhere Rate: Live and study away from home outside London	£5,048	£10,830
London Rate: Live and study away from home in London	£7,039	£14,135

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Maintenance loan rates

New 2026/27 full-time students, not eligible for benefits or aged over 60

Note this is a ***sliding scale***

Household Income	Home	Elsewhere	London
£25,000 & under	£9,118	£10,830	£14,135
£35,000	£7,600	£9,250	£12,550
£42,875	£6,400	£8,000	£11,300
£55,000	£4,500	£6,150	£9,350
£70,116+	£4,013	£5,048	£7,039

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Student Loan Repayments

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£25,000

Plan 5 repayment threshold

Repay

9%

on earnings over that amount

Only eligible from the

April

after you graduate



Loan is written off after

40

years



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0% + RPI

Interest rate

On your

Gross

pay

Automatically deducted from pay

Only eligible from the

April

after you graduate



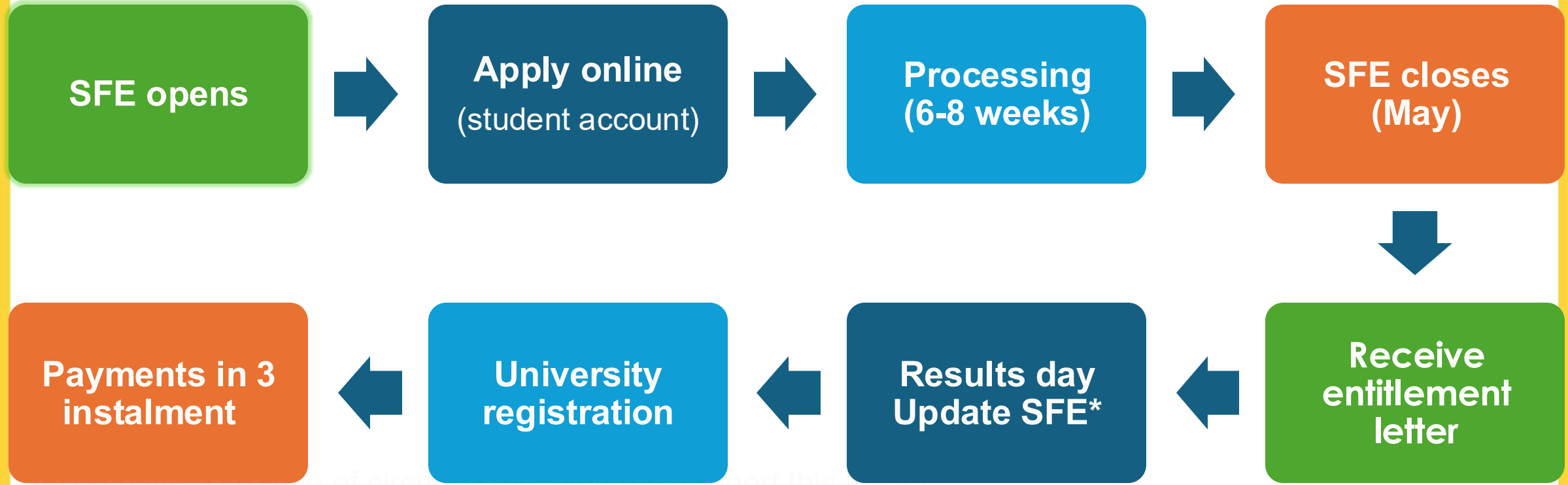
Repay both maintenance and tuition loan at once

Different to a normal debt



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Student Finance (SFE) Application process



If you have a change of circumstance you must report this to SFE

Ancaster Hall

- Catered
- Shared bathroom (+5 people)
- 39 week **£9,188**







Raleigh Park - Jubilee

- Self-catered – shared kitchen
- Shared bathroom (+3 people)
- 44 week **£5,808**



Eviton House – Sutton Bonnington

- Self-catered & private kitchen
- Studio – en suite bathroom
- 44 week **£7,409**



Broadgate Park (off-campus)

- Self-catered – shared kitchen
- En-suite
- 44 week **£9,504**









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Maintenance loan rates

New 2026/27 full-time students, not eligible for benefits or aged over 60

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The Academic Benefits

Study what you love

Industrial year

Teaching styles

Study abroad

Personal development



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The Social Benefits

New friends

New city or town

Social life

Clubs & societies

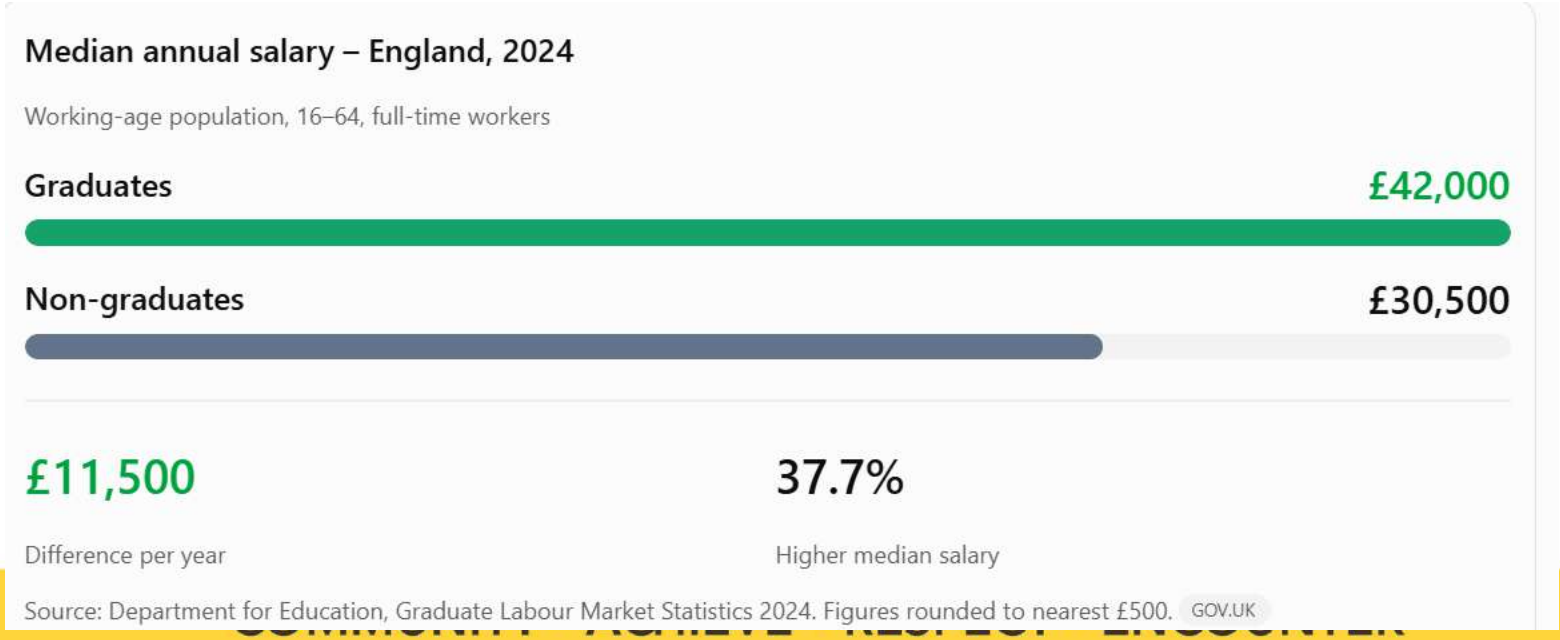


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Career prospects within Higher Education

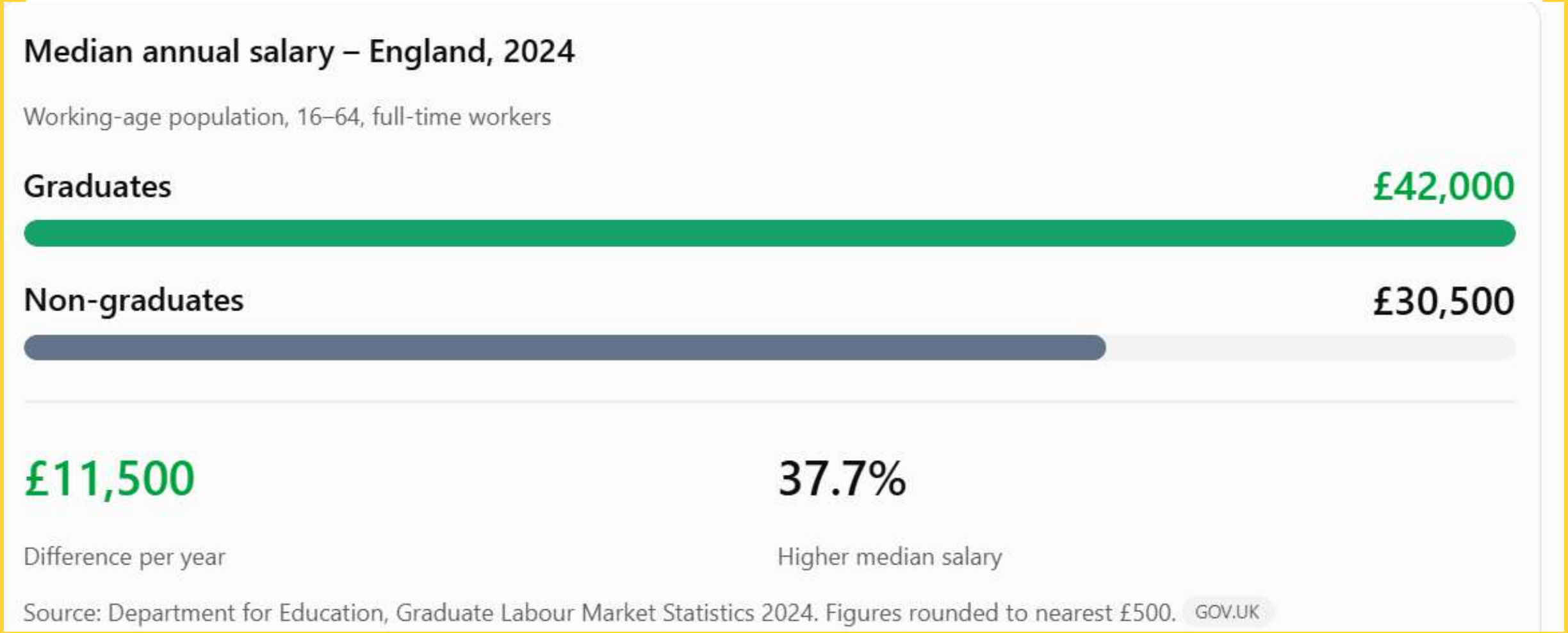
Measure	Graduates	Non-graduates
Employment rate	87.6%	68.0%
High-skilled employment	67.9%	23.7%

Since 2019 the employment gap was been increasing



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Career prospects within Higher Education



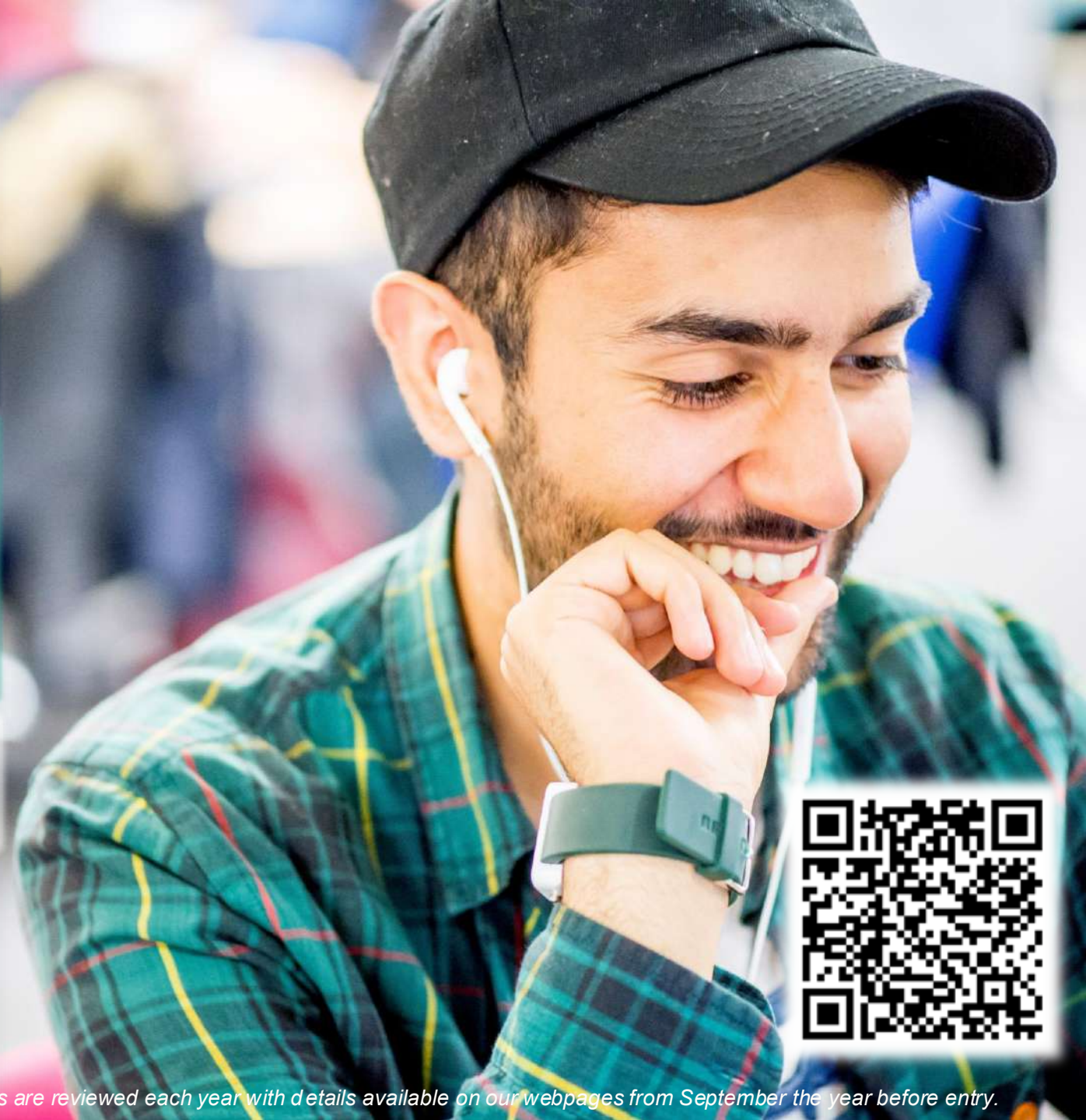
University of Nottingham
UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

Ambition Nottingham

A free two-year programme of online advice and guidance sessions for all Year 12 and Year 1 vocational students from anywhere in the UK

Some students eligible for a contextual offer, and our Nottingham Potential Bursary*

Deadline for applications 6th December



*Dependent on subject and meeting additional eligibility criteria. Bursary criteria and amounts are reviewed each year with details available on our webpages from September the year before entry.

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How did I do?

Navigating student finance

James Telfer

Thank-You!

Any questions?





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The Briars

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ndcys
The Catholic Diocese of Nottingham
READY FOR A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER?

WHO ARE WE?

The Briars is the residential retreat centre of the Nottingham Diocesan Catholic Youth Service (NDCYS). Since 1970 we have welcomed young people here to encounter Christ through residential retreats led by a team of young adults living in an intentional community.

Today we welcome more than 2,000 young people each year on residential retreats, and support schools, parishes and chaplaincies across the diocese through outreach and training. The heart of all of it is the Leadership Residency —the year-long formation programme for the young adult team, who make peer-to-peer ministry possible.

"THE NOTTINGHAM DIOCESAN CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO DISCOVER COMMUNITY, COME TO A FRIENDSHIP WITH CHRIST AND A DEEPER AWARENESS OF THEMSELVES." NDCYS MISSION STATEMENT



THE BRIARS TEAM

















THIS IS FORMATION FOR LIFE

THE LEADERSHIP RESIDENCY IS A YEAR-LONG FORMATION PROGRAMME FOR YOUNG ADULTS AGED 18–25 FROM ACROSS THE DIOCESE AND BEYOND. YOU WILL LIVE IN AN INTENTIONAL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY, LEAD RETREAT PROGRAMMES FOR HUNDREDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE, AND BE INVESTED IN PERSONALLY —WITH SPIRITUAL DIRECTION, EXTERNAL SUPERVISION, FORMATION AND TRAINING.

WHY THE BRIARS?

PREPARE FOR YOUR FUTURE

BUILD LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS

GROW IN FAITH

"MY YEAR ON TEAM WAS INCREDIBLE, THE TRANSFERABLE SKILLS YOU GAIN ARE UNMATCHED AND I USE THEM EVERYDAY IN MY CAREER."











ACCOMMODATION!

"SOME OF MY FAVOURITE MEMORIES WERE IN THE LOUNGE, EVERY ONE TOGETHER EATING OR LAUGHING OR WATCHING THE FOOTBALL

JP TEAM 24/25

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PRAYER AT THE BRIARS

SINCE I JOINED THE BRIARS I HAVE BEEN THINKING MORE ABOUT MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD .THE COMMUNITY HERE HAS HELPED ME TO EXPLORE MY FAITH AND DEEPEN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST

NELE TEAM 24/25





WHAT NEXT?

STEP 1: COME AND SEE!

FILL IN YOUR APPLICATION AT
WWW.NDCYS.COM/APPLY

OR EMAIL ME DIRECLY AT
JP@NDCYS.COM



The Catholic Diocese of Nottingham

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EVENTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

NOT QUITE SURE?



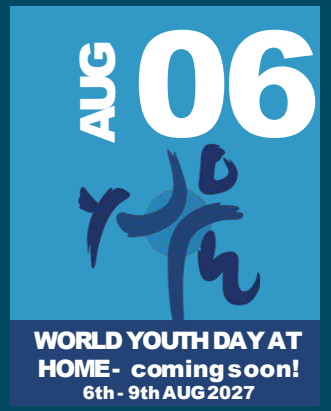












2026
2027

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR UPCOMING EVENTS AT

WWW.NDCYS.COM/EVENTS

SCAN FOR MORE DETAILS



Interview with us:

IT IS JESUS WHO STIRS IN YOU THE DESIRE TO DO SOMETHING GREAT WITH YOUR LIVES"

POPE JOHN PAUL II

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READY TO FIND OUT MORE?

LET'S TALK!

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Progress Careers

Sean Panting



Higher and Degree apprenticeships

SKILLS FOR LIFE

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Progress Careers

What we're going to cover

1. Apprenticeship Levels
2. Benefits of Apprenticeships
3. Types of apprenticeships available
4. Finding an apprenticeship
5. Applying for apprenticeships
6. Where you can find further information and support



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Name	Level	Equivalent educational level
Intermediate	2	5 GCSE passes at A* - C or 9 - 4
Advanced	3	2 A Level passes/Level 3 Diploma/ International Baccalaureate
Higher	4, 5, 6 & 7	Foundation degree or above
Degree	6 & 7	bachelor's or master's degree

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Benefits of Apprenticeships

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1. Job ready

You will learn the **skills and knowledge** that your employer feels are the most relevant to your job role, making you more **competitive and employable**.

2. Paid while you learn

You **earn a salary** and **do not have any fees or debt** for training and tuition. This gives apprentices financial independence.

3. Gain professional accreditation

Some apprenticeships also allow individuals to gain professional accreditation, which is an industry-wide qualification or certificate that demonstrates that you **have the experiences, as well as the qualifications**, to do that job role. Some industries require this of an individual before they can practise that profession, such as an Accountant or Solicitor, and apprenticeships provide that status immediately, compared to full-time education where they may have to seek further experience after their degree.

4. Experience

You have **transferable experience and skills**, having worked on real projects and tasks in a business environment from day one. You are immediately immersed in your industry, learning industry-specific skills and an understanding of its priorities and landscape.

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Benefits of Apprenticeships

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5. Support

Your support network as an apprentice is vast, with your employer, colleagues, apprentice colleagues, training provider and many other networks providing both **personal and professional** support.

6. Networking

Not only are you learning from **experts and professionals** within your organisation, but you will have opportunities to meet other professionals in the industry.

7. Long-term career

Having so much **practical experience**, apprentices can often quickly progress through their organisation or industry, with many having moved on to manage their own teams of apprentices or becoming Directors of their organisation.

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Higher and degree apprenticeships

Progress Careers

What are higher apprenticeships?

Higher apprenticeships are at levels 4 & 5 and the apprentice achieves a qualification equivalent to a Higher Education Certificate / Diploma or a Foundation Degree.

What are degree apprenticeships?

Degree apprenticeships are Level 6, equivalent to a bachelor's degree, and Level 7, equivalent to a Master's degree.

"A degree without the debt"

Apprentices do not need to pay for their tuition fees, as the employer and/or government fund the apprenticeship.

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Progress Careers

Apprentice rates of pay

First year apprentice aged 16-17: £ **8 p/h**

Aged 18 – 20: **£10.85 p/h**

Aged 21-22: **£12.71p/h**

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Apprentice rates of pay (Continued)

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Apprentices are entitled to the apprentice rate if they're either:

•aged under 19

•aged 19 or over and in the first year of their apprenticeship

Example - An apprentice aged 21 in the first year of their apprenticeship is entitled to a minimum hourly rate of £8. Apprentices are entitled to the minimum wage for their age if they both:

•are aged 19 or over

•have completed the first year of their apprenticeship

Example

An apprentice aged 21 who has completed the first year of their apprenticeship is entitled to a minimum hourly rate of £12.71

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Is an apprenticeship right for me ?

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Create a list of what is important to you for all of your options post sixth form.

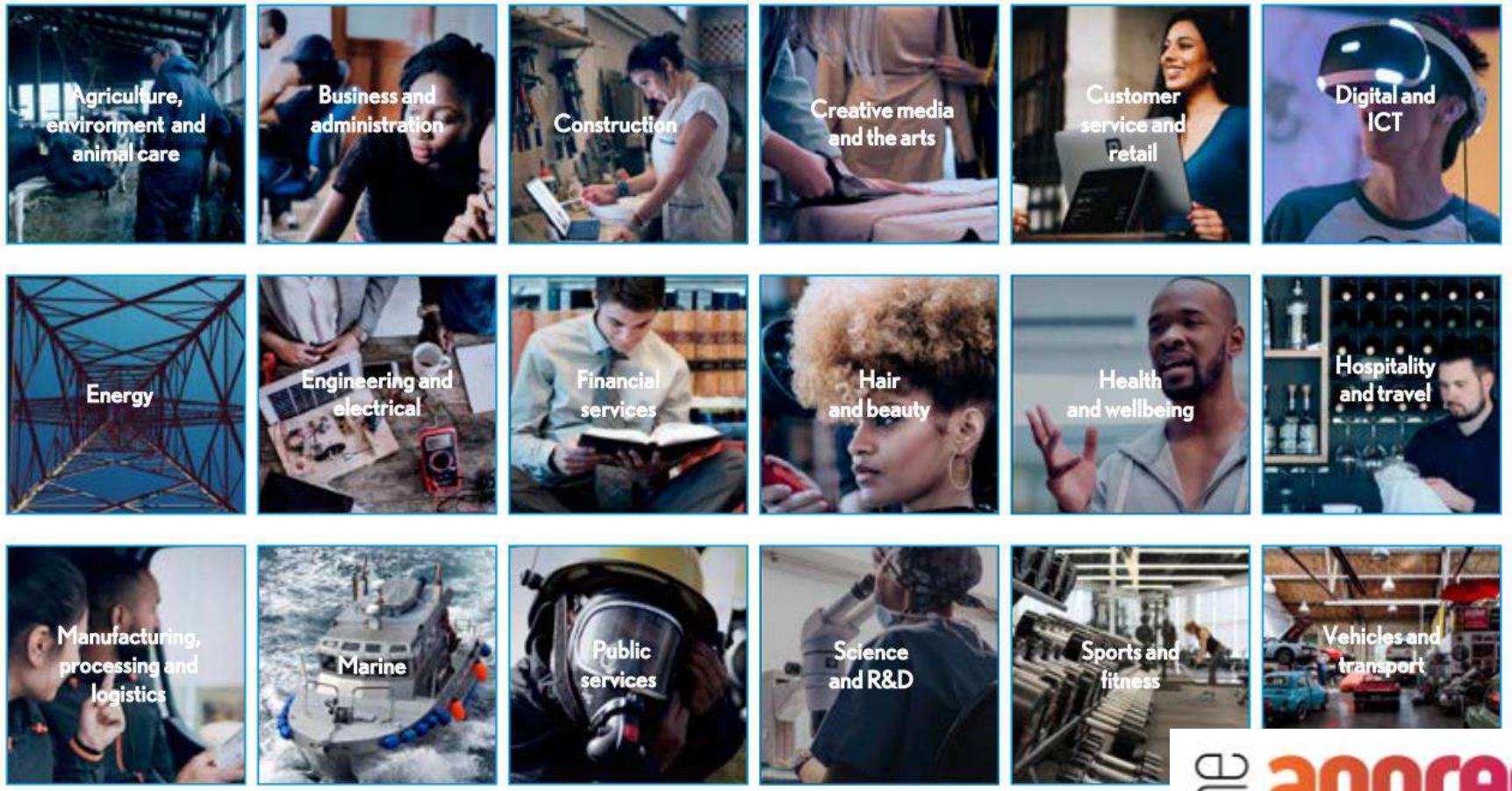
Remember to think about:

- Whether you want to carry on studying and how long for
- Whether you want to work straight away
- How you like to learn
- How will finance affect your options?
- Do you want to travel/move away?
- Your long term goals

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Types of Apprenticeships

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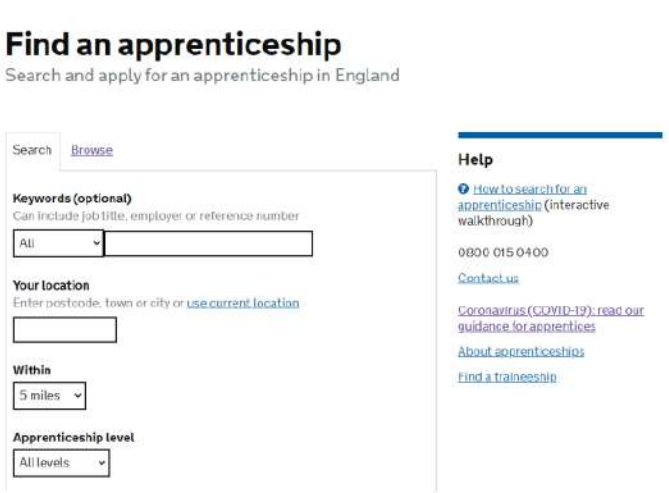
the apprenticeship guide

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Finding an Apprenticeship

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NGTU
NOT GOING TO UNI

RATEMYAPPRENTICESHIP

GetMyFirstJob
Where it all starts.

unifrog

http://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

Create an account and sign up for alerts of new vacancies

PROSPECTS

UCAS

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Finding an Apprenticeship

https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Higher-and-Degree-October-2025.pdf

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Companies that recruit locally

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Balfour Beatty

DHL

SEVERN TRENT

BBC

pwc

ROLLS ROYCE

KIER

JAGUAR

LAND ROVER

BAKKAVOR

Ibstock Plc

COOPER PARRY

NHS

experian

AMRC ADVANCED MANUFACTURING RESEARCH CENTRE

The University Of Sheffield.

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Are you ready ?

Progress Careers

Answer the following **HONESTLY…**

- **I've set up an account on "Find an apprenticeship" with personalised alerts. (Y/N)**
- **I'm regularly using apprenticeships.gov.uk, UCAS, amazing apprenticeships to browse for opportunities by interest (Y/N)**
- **I'm using social media to follow employers that interest me for vacancy opportunities. (Y/N)**
- **I'm networking with family and friends to ask if they know of any apprenticeship opportunities that may be appropriate. (Y/N)**
- **I am/have attended open days/careers events and have followed up on possible opportunities. (Y/N)**
- **I've started to prepare a CV and covering letter. (Y/N)**

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Applications

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- **Application form- Have your CV ready and up to date!**
- **Online assessment/test Telephone Interview**
- **Video interview**
- **Assessment Centre (group day)**
- **Group task(s)**
- **Interview with employer**
- **Interview with apprentice**

Tips:
Do your research about the company
Be prepared to talk about: Yourself, Your skills and competencies
Prepare some questions
Remember the basics- be on time, dress appropriately, smile!

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Alumni Students

Post-18 Pathways









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Apprenticeships

Sam Williams

- **Gain knowledge, experience and skills from a young age** – from 18 years old you are working and learning on the job and will most likely be qualified in whatever profession you choose to go into by the time you are around 22-23 years old (could be even earlier).
- **Head start from the rest of the competition** – university graduates start with the same zero work experience as you, but you are around 5 years younger than them.
- **Meet and work with all kinds of different people: age, gender, ethnicity, backgrounds** – make friends for life inside and outside of work, you get to meet and learn about all different kinds of people and work as part of a team to complete tasks, helping each other along the way.
- **Independence and responsibilities** – from a young age you are trusted and have responsibilities to complete various tasks as well as work hard to get results. Your colleagues and seniors will always be there to help and guide you as you improve in your field of work.
- **No student debt** – start work from 18 with no debt or fees to worry about paying off each month.
- **Money!** – Most likely will be living at home making a good wage which will increase each year of your apprenticeship. This will allow you to save money and be in a good financial position by the time you start looking to buy better cars, a first house, etc, without any of the debt to pay off as mentioned above and from a young age as mentioned above.
- **You still get to have a life** – common misconception about apprenticeships is that you miss out on the fun that other people your age are having who choose a different route post 18. It is very possible and encouraged to have a good work-life balance, just because you are working hard and long hours does not mean that you will not be able to see and spend time with family and friends.







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Evie Mason



- Took Media, Drama and History A levels at CTK Sixth Form 2022-2024.
- Since leaving Sixth Form and not achieving the entry requirements for my first-choice university, I went through clearing on results day.
- I am now in my third year of my undergraduate degree in Acting and performance at Sheffield Hallam University.
- Although this was daunting at the time, I have ended up doing a course completely different to what I planned but much better suited to me.
- In the future, I plan to do my teaching training and become a Drama Teacher.

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Bethany Boswell

- When I was in sixth form, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do afterwards. I was working part time alongside my studies and found it difficult to decide on a university or what career path I wanted to take. I did apply for university even though I wasn't 100% sure.
- I applied to do psychology and criminology because psychology was a subject I enjoyed the most out of all my A-Levels. After receiving university offers, I chose to take a gap year to have a break from education and figure out my next steps.
- I had heard great things about the working at Briars and decided to apply for a volunteer year there. After attending an interview, I loved it and decided to take the opportunity, even though it was a big commitment.
- The experience taught me so much about myself and what I wanted to do in the future. It ultimately led me to my current job at CTK and continues to shape my future goals.
- In July, I was made aware of an opportunity to start a level 5 specialist teaching assistant apprenticeship while still doing my current role. By doing this apprenticeship it will give me more of an opportunity to develop my knowledge and after 18 months gain a Level 5 qualification. This course can lead onto teacher qualification if I decide to take that route after it is complete.

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Oliver Hill

- Took Biology, Chemistry and History for A-Levels at CTK Sixth Form 2017-2019
- Did Chemistry BSc at Nottingham Trent University which involved a lab-based dissertation project in organic chemistry
- Applied for Graduate Entry Medicine and sat several entrance exams for this before accepting a place at University of Nottingham
- Currently doing foundation training (the first 2 years of being a qualified doctor)
- Interested in Paediatrics and Surgery as future career options



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Support Available

- In school: Careers (Miss Mason and Sean Panting), form tutors, subject teachers and achievement leaders.
- External: Unifrog, UCAS, National Careers Service, GOV.UK Apprenticeships



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Making the Decision

Ask:

- What are your strengths and interests?
- What lifestyle do you want?
- What qualifications do you need?

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Thank you for coming!