

Notes From Post-18 Provision Talk

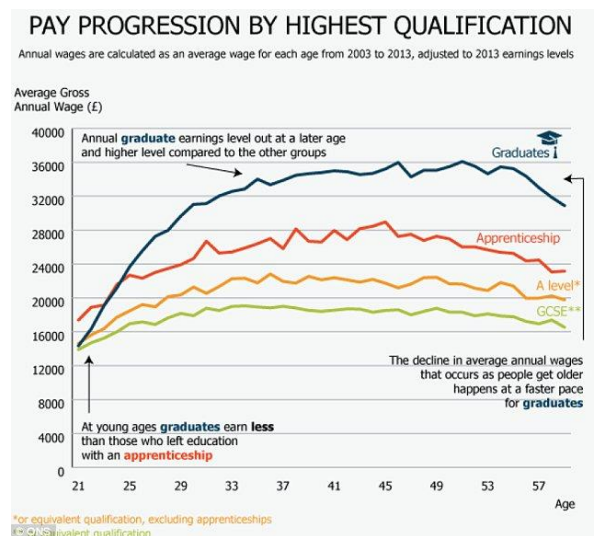
Support available for students:

- Individual Interviews
 - Early entry
 - Specific university courses
 - Apprenticeship programmes
- Interview Workshop
 - General technique
- Enrichment
 - Talks from colleges/universities/employers/Gap Year providers
- CV Writing
 - Recommended for all
- General application support
 - UCAS
 - College
 - Apprenticeship
 - Work

University

Why go to University?

- For the intellectual challenge
- Three or four more years of developing academic potential and transferable skills.
- A huge variety of opportunities and a wide range of extra curricular activities.
- To enable students to enter the profession of their choice.
- To secure a better future – the future financial gains could outweigh the costs of going to university.



What to Study?

- 51,000 separate courses in the UK at 325 universities and colleges.
- Continuation of a familiar subject or a new subject.
- Don't be put off by new terms e.g. Human Sciences, Natural Sciences – research them as they may offer ideal subject combinations.
- **Single Honours /Combined Honours/ Joint Honours/ Vocational/ Sandwich**
- Year abroad or a year in industry

How to apply?

- UCAS
- Internal deadlines: Early entry October. For all others November
- Cost for 2018 = £24

Entry Requirements

- Offers are usually based on 3 A level grades or total points.
- Other qualifications are sometimes included in points offers
- As part of an offer, grades are sometimes required in specific subjects

Where to apply

Factors to consider:

1. Teaching methods/quality, **including contact time**. Check www.unistats.com where student satisfaction is surveyed, Independent Guide, or The Times Good University Guide www.timesonline.co.uk.
2. Size & Style. Do you prefer city (Sheffield) or campus (Nottingham) or collegiate (York, Durham, Oxford or Cambridge)?
3. Employability of graduates. Check university guides like those of The Guardian and The Times. The Destination of Leavers Survey is published six months after graduation. www.which.co.uk has an excellent section showing the average graduate salary, student satisfaction and percentage employed
4. Distance away from home and the cost associated for travel.
5. Accommodation availability.
6. Facilities for study and recreation.
7. Cost of living.

Early Entry

- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Veterinary
- Oxbridge

Oxbridge

- Preparation ongoing with Mr Martin & within departments
- Purpose?
- Oxford and Cambridge now use them far more. different colleges within each may use them. Details on line or in prospectus
- Many other universities use them for certain courses and this will increase

- LNAT and UKCAT sat at a test centre, all the others can be sat at school (BMAT, ELAT, HAT, PAT, TSA and so on...!)
- Must check and register this with Exams Officer.

School Support for Early Entry

- July-September: Personal Statements/ current affairs/ subject of interest
- September: Sixth Form Discussion Group
- October-November: Interview Workshops leading to Interview Evening
- From nowCheck courses and requirements and visit S6!

OUR SUCCESS

| Year | No. Applicants to Cambridge | Offers (42%) | Year | No. Applicants to Oxford | Offers (48%) |
|------|-----------------------------|--------------|------|--------------------------|--------------|
| 2007 | 6 | 4 | 2007 | 5 | 1 |
| 2008 | 2 | 0 | 2008 | 5 | 2 |
| 2009 | 5 | 2 | 2009 | 9 | 1 |
| 2010 | 4 | 1 | 2010 | 7 | 6 |
| 2011 | 1 | 1 | 2011 | 12 | 7 |
| 2012 | 4 | 3 | 2012 | 11 | 4 |
| 2013 | 3 | 2 | 2013 | 4 | 2 |
| 2014 | 6 | 2 | 2014 | 8 | 5 |
| 2015 | 7 | 1 | 2015 | 6 | 4 |
| 2016 | 4 | 1 | 2016 | 9 | 3 |

- 2016: 8 students studying Medicine/Vet Science/ Dentistry
- 2015: 8 students studying Medicine/Vet Science/ Dentistry
- 2014: 7 students studying Medicine/Vet Science/ Dentistry

Advice to students

1. Research the types of universities and courses available
2. Shortlist the courses and institutions of interest. Open Days (in moderation please!) are useful
3. Complete the UCAS planning sheet to ascertain predicted grades and initiate discussions with teaching staff. *This is a very important part of the overall process.*

The Cost of University

- Tuition fees
- Accommodation
- Food
- Travel
- Books
- Equipment
- Insurance
- Spending money

See www.studentfinance.direct.gov.uk for a cost of living calculator & other sources of advice.

Main sources of funding:

- **Tuition fees loan** – repayable after graduation; *not income-assessed*
- **Maintenance loan** - repayable after graduation; *partially income-assessed*
- **Bursaries & scholarships** – not repayable
- **Special grants** for disabled, those with children etc. This replaces the maintenance grant for those who qualify.

It is important to consult the relevant government agencies for the most up to date information regarding student fees .

England: www.direct.gov.uk/yourfuture

Wales: www.studentfinancewales.co.uk

Scotland: www.saas.gov.uk

Northern Ireland: www.studentfinancenir.co.uk

Studying Abroad – To consider

- Check the budget! Count ‘hidden’ extras such as trips home from the U.S.A., local council taxes or the price of beer in Sweden. Exchange rates will change .
- Look into health insurance. Check if countries offer free health care or not. You may need to buy private insurance.
- Immigration Issues. A visa may be required– even within the EU there may be formalities, such as having a passport with 2 years validity remaining.
- Where to live? Where you live in the first year and how much it costs will vary so explore options thoroughly.

- Finances; a bank account in the country of study is the easiest choice, and you may need proof of address to open one. Check charges for international card payments and money transfers.
- Prepare for red tape. Make sure you keep copies of documents like birth certificates. Several passport photographs may be handy.

Gap Year

- 100,000 students take a gap year each year.
- Universities have differing views on their value. Some universities consider them worthwhile to develop skills and increase 'life experience'.
- The following websites provide useful information about how students can spend their gap year; www.gapyear.com and www.yearoutgroup.org.
- A recent survey showed that a majority of university departments in Mathematics, Engineering and Physics do *not* think a gap year is beneficial. Norman Stone (Professor of Modern History at Oxford until 1995) claimed a gap year 'damaged the academic continuum'.
- If considering a gap year, it is *essential* that students check with the universities to which they are applying.
- Voluntary work can be found through www.vinspired.com, Latitude Global Volunteering www.latitude.org.uk and Volunteer Africa www.volunteerafrica.org.
- Structured work placements are available through the Year in Industry www.yini.org.uk. Sponsorship mainly for business or engineering at www.everythingyouwantedtoknow.com

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships combine practical training in a job with study.

It will involve:

- work alongside experienced staff
- Allow individuals to gain job-specific skills
- Earn a wage and get holiday pay
- get time for study related to the role (usually one day a week)

Apprenticeships take 1 to 5 years to complete depending on their level

How to find an apprenticeship:

- Local papers
- Organisations that provide them e.g. Gen II
- Through a college
- Company websites
- Not Going to University – an excellent website with many opportunities