

Which Way Now?

Post 18 Options Looking Ahead



University

- An academic course that's usually studied at a higher education institution. Learn through lectures, seminars, group projects and independent study. There's [funding](#) available to support you and you can study full or part-time.
- Location: At a university, college or online. You could go away to study, stay local or go abroad.
- Duration: 3 to 4 years
- Entry requirements: Universities set their own entry requirements. You'll usually need A Levels or equivalent qualifications
- Qualifications: Ordinary or honours degree
- Leads to: Postgraduate taught or research degrees, professional qualifications, graduate employment
- <https://www.ucas.com/>
- [The Complete University Guide](#)

Gap Year

A gap year offers you the opportunity to gain skills and experiences, while giving you time to reflect and focus on what you want to do next.

- A productive gap year can be valuable on your CV – many employers value the experiences students have gained if they've actively managed their time, set themselves goals, and stretched themselves.
- A gap year can also enhance your higher education studies – if you decide to apply for uni, you could tailor your gap year to relate it to the subject area you plan to study.
- Admissions tutors know that some students may take a little time to adjust to studying again, but many former gap year students are generally more focused and responsible.

www.gap360.com
www.responsibletravel.com
www.latitude.org.uk

Year in Industry: [Placements \(age 17 & over\)](#) | [EDT \(etrust.org.uk\)](#)

Apprenticeship

- Intermediate, advanced higher and degree apprenticeships combine practical on-the-job skills training with off-the-job learning. You'll get training that is relevant to your job and be paid a salary. Start at a level to suit you, with support if you have special needs or a disability.
- Location: You'll spend 80% of your time in the workplace and 20% off-the-job with some study in a college, training centre or Institute of Technology (IoT)
- Duration: A minimum of 1 year
- Entry requirements: Will be dependent on the industry, job role and apprenticeship level
- Qualifications: Apprenticeship certificate, diploma, degree and masters depending on level
- Leads to: Work, next level of apprenticeship, further education, higher education
- [Amazing Apprenticeships](#)
- <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>



Full Time Employment

- Get straight into the working world to start earning. You'll need an up-to-date CV and cover letter.
- Location: Workplace or from home
- Duration: Dependent on job offer
- Entry requirements: Requirements differ between employers. You may need qualifications or experience for some jobs.

Creating a CV & Cover Letter [CV Format Guide: Examples and Tips | Indeed.com UK](#)

<https://barclayslifeskills.com/> CV & Interview techniques help

Self Employment



Are you considering setting up your own business? The Prince's Trust Enterprise programme, helps 18 to 30-year-olds transform their big ideas into a business reality, it is made up of key stages to help you explore if self-employment is right for you.

Kicking off with a free information session, where you'll meet their experienced team and other like-minded people, you'll walk away with a clearer idea of how The Prince's Trust training, mentoring and financial support can help you.

[Click here for more information and weigh up advantages and disadvantages of self-employment vs employment](#)

Sponsored Degree/ Degree Apprenticeship

- A chance to learn and train with a large company while earning a wage. Offered in sectors like accountancy, engineering, finance, IT, law, leisure and retail. Similar to graduate employment schemes run over a longer period of time.
 - Location: You'll often rotate between different locations with the same company to get experience and it can include distance learning or time in college or university
 - Duration: 3 to 7 years
 - Entry requirements: Usually high-grade A levels or equivalent and a keen interest in the sector you want to work in
 - Qualifications: A university degree and/or professional qualification
 - Leads to: Professional employment
- [NGTU – Not going to Uni](#)