

25 OPTIONS AT 18+

An extremely brief guide for Sixth Form/FE college students
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Alan Bullock

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THE NEW LANDSCAPE

- Previously 3 main things most students did at 18

UNI

JOB

GAP YEAR

- Globalisation + vocational agenda + rise in tuition fees have now created a more complex landscape

- We've identified 25 options!

- But there is overlap between them

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25 OPTIONS: SECTION 1

FULL-TIME HIGHER EDUCATION IN UK

Key advantage:

- **Despite hundreds of course options, hundreds of subject combinations, 100+ universities and 200+ other providers....**
- **....at least these options are finite and can be sourced and applied for in one place – UCAS!**

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Great websites

Ucas.com

University.which.co.uk

bestcoursefor.me.com

Unistats.direct.gov.uk

Push.co.uk

FULL-TIME UNI DEGREE IN UK

OPTION 1: DEGREE IN A 'PROFESSIONAL' SUBJECT

- When you apply for the degree, you're also applying for the career
- It does what it says on the tin

Examples:

*Medicine, Occupational Therapy,
Building Surveying*

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FULL-TIME UNI DEGREE IN UK

OPTION 2: DEGREE IN A 'SEMI-PROFESSIONAL' SUBJECT

Linked to a specific career but:

- you may not necessarily need that degree for that career
- graduates won't necessarily enter that profession
- some variants may lead to professional accreditation, while some may not

Examples: Law, Psychology, Architecture

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FULL-TIME UNI DEGREE IN UK

OPTION 3: DEGREE IN AN 'ACADEMIC' SUBJECT (with no clear career connections)

- will keep a wide range of career options open
- developing your **EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS** will be important
- **POSTGRADUATE STUDY** may also be a way of opening up more subsequent career options

Examples: Philosophy, History, English Literature

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FULL-TIME UNI DEGREE IN UK

OPTION 4:

JOINT/COMBINED/MULTIDISCIPLINARY DEGREE

- **combine 2 subjects**

History and Spanish or Physics and Music Performance

- **combine 3 subjects**

PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)

- **take a major/minor course**

Maths with Management

- **or a multidisciplinary course**

Natural Sciences or Liberal Arts or Arts & Sciences

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FULL-TIME UNI DEGREE IN UK

OPTION 5: ALTERNATIVE DEGREE COURSE PROVIDERS

Mainstream universities are now supplemented by a growing range of smaller more specialist providers, such as:

- **Liberal Arts universities**, like New College for the Humanities; Richmond University
- **Other specialist universities**, like BPP; Pearson College; University of Law; UCFB(Business/Football)
- **Popular Music colleges** like Academy of Contemporary Music; Tech Music School; BIMM; Institute of Contemporary Music

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FULL-TIME UNI DEGREE IN UK

OPTION 6:

2-YEAR DEGREE, FOUNDATION DEGREE OR HND

Examples:

2-year LLB Law degrees

Such as: BPP, Buckingham, Kaplan Holborn, University of Law

Institutions specialising in 2-year degrees

Such as University of Buckingham, SAE Institute, Edge Hotel School

Higher National Diplomas (HND) or Foundation Degrees

Normally 2 years full-time, lower entry grades, can top-up to full degree

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FULL-TIME DIPLOMA IN UK

OPTION 7: DIPLOMA COURSES AT PRIVATE COLLEGES

Examples:

Aviation

Such as 16-month course at CAE Oxford Aviation Academy

Professional Cookery

Such as Cordon Bleu School; Tante Marie Culinary Academy

Fashion industry

Such as Fashion Retail Academy (19+ courses); Condé Nast College of Fashion & Design

Executive PA Diploma

Such as Pitmans; Quest; Lucie Clayton; Oxford Media & Business School

Not in UCAS

Fees vary widely from around £3K

(FRA – 16-18 courses free) to around £80K (CAE)

SLC Student Finance not applicable, so any loans must be repaid in full

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25 OPTIONS: SECTION 2

HIGHER EDUCATION ABROAD

**There's a global revolution going on –
a new era of transnational university education**

Young people worldwide are embracing the global economy and equipping themselves to be part of it, but UK students are losing out by not doing it to the same extent

More UK students should get out there and join them - in one way or another....

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UNIVERSITY ABROAD

OPTION 8: DEGREE AT A EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY

SOME ADVANTAGES COMPARED WITH UK

- Most public unis cheaper than UK
- Growing number of courses taught in English, especially in The Netherlands
- Later application window in most countries

SOME DISADVANTAGES COMPARED WITH UK

- Not entitled to UK loans/grants
- Halls of Residence are not the norm
- Risk of future political/economic changes

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Great websites:

eunicas.co.uk

thestudentworld.com

astarfuture.co.uk

UNIVERSITY ABROAD

OPTION 9: DEGREE AT UNI IN NORTH AMERICA

- US Ivy League unis highly competitive
- But some offer Needs-Blind Full-Need funding to applicants from low-income families
- Sutton Trust runs an annual summer school at Harvard, Yale or MIT
- 4,000 unis to choose from, so look beyond the brand names!
- Degrees normally 4 years with broader curriculum than UK
- And vocational training tends to be postgraduate
- Fees higher than UK but many offer scholarships to partly offset this
- Florida State Uni has Gateway Programme – 1st year in London
- Canadian unis are actively recruiting UK students

Great websites:

fulbright.co.uk

educationincanada.ca

UNIVERSITY ABROAD

OPTION 10: DEGREE AT UNI ELSEWHERE

Random examples:

Australia & New Zealand:

Great website: www.studyoptions.com

Far East:

4 unis in Japan and all courses at University of Hong Kong taught in English

Multi-national degree courses in Global Business:

S P Jain (Singapore/Dubai/Sydney)

Bocconi (Milan/Hong Kong/Los Angeles)

Hult (London/San Francisco + study tours to Dubai/Shanghai/Miami)

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UNIVERSITY ABROAD

OPTION 11: UK UNI WITH YEAR ABROAD

Many UK unis offer an optional year abroad, for example:

Aston: work, study or teaching placements worldwide

Exeter: 400 students at 40 different European unis

Nottingham: option to spend year/semester at campuses in China/Malaysia

Sussex: year abroad in 130 different countries

Swansea: partnerships with 100 unis worldwide or summer programmes in India, China, Zambia, Australia or NZ

Maximum tuition fee for year abroad = £1,350

25 OPTIONS: SECTION 3
**EMPLOYER/UNI PARTNERSHIPS,
EMPLOYMENT & APPRENTICESHIPS**

And now the landscape gets even more fragmented!

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EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

OPTION 12: UK UNI WITH YEAR IN INDUSTRY

Some unis offer a professional year or sandwich placement across a wide range of courses

- such as Aston, Bath, Brunel, Loughborough, Surrey

Extends the degree by 1 year but:

- placement year is usually paid (but not always)
- tuition fee for the placement year = £1,800 maximum

Employers like it and it may lead directly to employment

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EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

OPTION 13:

UNIVERSITY/EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIP SCHEMES

- Many different schemes across various career sectors
- Typical salaries range from £13K to '£24K + car' or '£21K + all fees paid'

Examples:

KPMG @ Birmingham/Durham (6 year Audit programme)

Harrods @ Anglia Ruskin (Retail School Leaver programme)

National Grid @ Aston (Electrical Power Engineering)

Nestlé @ Sheffield Hallam (Gatwick/York; HR/Sales/Marketing/Buying)

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Great websites:

notgoingtouni.com

directions.org.uk

allaboutschoollleavers.co.uk

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

OPTION 14: DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

- Currently only for digital careers in business analysis, software development and technology consultancy
- Employers include BT, Capgemini, CGI, Ford, Fujitsu, IBM, John Lewis, Lloyds Bank, Network Rail
- Combines on-the-job training with part-time degree studies
- Wage + uni fees paid
- Apply to the company, not through UCAS

Example:

Capgemini's 5-year Degree Apprenticeship in partnership with Aston Uni

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EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

OPTION 15: HIGHER APPRENTICESHIPS

- Salaried work-based programmes with p/t university level study
- Wide range of career sectors such as business, finance, logistics, law, technology, engineering, construction, IT and science
- Typical entry requirements range from 240-300 UCAS points
- Typical starting salaries range from £11K to £18K
- Typical providers: BBC, CILEX, Civil Service, Ford, GSK, Investment 2020, MI5/MI6, PwC, Transport for London, Unilever, Civil Service

Great websites include:

gov.uk/further-education-skills/apprenticeships

allaboutschoolleavers.co.uk

apprenticeshipguide.co.uk

lawcareers.net

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EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

OPTION 16: OTHER SCHOOL-LEAVER PROGRAMMES

Schemes that include study for professional rather than academic qualifications

Typical entry grades: 240 - 320 UCAS points

Typical starting salaries £14K - £21K

Examples:

- BDO: Audit/Tax/Advisory
- Deloitte: 5-year BrightStart scheme, Audit/Tax/Corporate Finance
- EY: 5-year School Leaver programme, Assurance/Tax/Corporate Finance
- National Audit Office: 5-year Accountancy programme
- Tesco: Trainee Management programme

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Great websites:

notgoingtouni.co.uk

icaewjobs.com

directions.org.uk

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

OPTION 17: OTHER UNUSUAL LEVEL 4 OPPORTUNITIES

These are schemes that don't quite fit into other categories:

Tesco F&F Fashion Apprenticeships: £20K, 240 UCAS points, in partnership with Fashion Retail Academy

Aviva Underwriting/Actuarial Apprenticeships: £15K, 300/340 UCAS points

British Airways Future Pilot programme: costs £84K, but repaid if you pass, needs minimum of BBC or BTEC DDM

Merchant Navy Cadetships: paid study at Southampton/Fleetwood/S.Tyneside + paid training at sea

Apprenticeships in Germany: 3–5 years, £9K + German language lessons + support for travel and relocation costs

www.international-business-academy.co.uk

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EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

OPTION 18: ADVANCED APPRENTICESHIPS

Level 3 apprenticeships - most are 16+, some are 18+

Usually GCSE A*- C entry, but may also suit A/AS/BTEC students

Pay ranges from around £100 - £300 pw (£5,000 - £15,000pa)

Some random examples of national providers:

- Arup, BAE Systems, BAM, BT, Creative Pioneers, EasyJet, EDF Energy, JTL, Microsoft Partners, Network Rail, QA, Virgin Media

Websites:

www.gov.uk/further-education-skills/apprenticeships

www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk

<http://schoolleavers.milkround.com/>

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EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

OPTION 19: OTHER APPRENTICESHIPS

Many other apprenticeships will be available with local employers across an extensive range of occupations, depending on your location

In addition the London area always offers up specialist apprenticeships in specific occupations, such as:

Savile Row Bespoke Tailoring,
Royal Academy of Culinary Arts
Joshua Galvin @ Central - Hairdressing

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Websites:

[gov.uk/further-education-skills/apprenticeships](https://www.gov.uk/further-education-skills/apprenticeships)

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

OPTION 20: THE HIDDEN JOBMARKET

Some school/college leavers find jobs at 18 through:

- Word of mouth
- Networking through family, friends or personal contacts
- Making speculative applications to employers you found by searching the internet/on-line recruitment sites
- Private employment agencies or Jobcentres
- Staying on where you work part-time or volunteer or did work experience or work shadowing

Some will also study part-time, either at a local college or by distance-learning (MOOC) or the Open University

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EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

OPTION 21: ARMED & EMERGENCY SERVICES

Recruitment patterns vary

Some ambulance services (including London) offer Paramedic Apprenticeships

Police forces need the CKP (Certificate in Knowledge of Policing)

All HM Forces are currently recruiting (Army, RAF, Royal Navy, Royal Marines)

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EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

OPTION 22: SELF-EMPLOYMENT, TEMPING, PORTFOLIO JOBS

Self-employment:

18 year-olds DO sometimes set up their own businesses or freelance
Support available through:

shell-livewire.org

gov.uk/start-up-loans

princes-trust.org.uk

Temping or seasonal work:

Another way to get a foot in the door e.g. through employment agencies

Portfolio careers:

Some students start their career by doing more than one job at the same time, or mixing part-time work with other activities

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25 OPTIONS: SECTION 4 **GAP YEAR OPPORTUNITIES & FURTHER EDUCATION**

There are many different ways you can spend a gap year

You can also choose to apply for deferred UCAS entry

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GAP YEAR

OPTION 23: GAP YEAR(S) IN UK

- Paid gap year schemes, such as:
Accenture Deloitte Scholars IBM Futures Year in Industry
Arup Pre-University scheme Step Forward
- Voluntary work:
great websites: www.do-it.org www.csv.org.uk
- Employment
- Further study
- Or a combination of these

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GAP YEAR

OPTION 24: GAP YEAR ABROAD

- Volunteering
- Paid employment
- Travelling
- Study schemes
- A combination of these
- One or more of these combined with one or more UK options

Great websites:

www.gapyear.com

www.bunac.org

www.campamerica.co.uk

www.yearoutgroup.org

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FULL-TIME FURTHER EDUCATION

OPTION 25: FULL-TIME FURTHER EDUCATION

Craft-level courses:

- such as Professional Cookery, Hairdressing or Building crafts

Technician-level courses

- such as Business, Construction, Engineering, Health & Care, Hospitality, IT, Leisure & Tourism, Media, Sport

Pre-Degree Art Foundation Diploma:

- required or preferred by some universities or art colleges before you progress to a degree programme in art/design

Level 4 courses available at some local FE colleges

- such as NCTJ Pre-Entry Journalism, PA Diploma

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FINAL THOUGHTS

QUALIFICATIONS + SKILLS + RESEARCH = SUCCESS

THE SOONER YOU START RESEARCHING, THE
MORE IDEAS YOU WILL HAVE

DON'T BE AFRAID TO THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX!

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