

Whether students are applying to University or are intending to seek employment or a gap year, it is very important that they research thoroughly before making any decisions. Here are a few suggestions about where to begin their research:

- <http://www.ucas.ac.uk>- this is a comprehensive website which offers so much more than just information about applications.
- [youngofuther.co.uk](http://youngofuther.co.uk) - this is part of the UCAS website - if you register you will receive regular updates and information and it is intended to be a social community site
- <http://www.whatuni.com>- this site enables you to compare courses and universities.
- [www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance) - the site to research tuition fees, student loans and all the financial implications of further education.
- [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk) - website for national apprenticeship scheme
- Youthoria.org - website for 11-19 year olds in Cambridgeshire - includes training, apprenticeship and employment opportunities
- [www.notgoingtouni.co.uk](http://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk) - this site is useful as it offers a range of alternatives for students with A levels/BTECs who decide not to go to University.
- Job club every Thursday in St Neots' Library 2 - 4pm



**PLEASE SEE ENCLOSED INFORMATION ON NEW UCAS TARIFF POINTS FOR 2017 ENTRY**

## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS TO SUPPORT POST-18 STUDENT CHOICES



## KEY DATES FOR YEAR 13 2016-2017

<p>Early May onwards June to end of term</p>	<p>Rotarian interviews available. Assemblies for year 12 on choosing careers and courses. All students attend 'tracking' mentoring with tutors. All students to complete a draft personal statement and CV.</p>	<p>September/November</p>	<p>Linear A level assessments Application forms filled in. References written.</p>
<p>15 June 20 June</p>	<p>Rotarian CV Workshop tbc Higher Education Convention Bedford University. For all students.</p>	<p>October (date tbc) 15 October 2016</p>	<p>Rotary Club Mock Interviews <b>LAST DAY</b> for applications for Oxford or Cambridge Universities and for Medical courses.</p>
<p>14 July**</p>	<p>'Destinations' event, including Lincoln University presentation 'How to write a Personal Statement', HRC presentation on Apprenticeships and end of Year 12 celebration.</p>	<p><b>15 January 2017</b></p>	<p><b>LAST DAY</b> for applications to all other universities and colleges. Further interview practice and guidance for students seeking employment.</p>
<p>15 July</p>	<p>Destination Interview with tutor - parents invited to attend</p>	<p>January/February</p>	<p>Applications for finance ie student loans.</p>
<p>July/August</p>	<p>Students begin to choose 5 universities and/or colleges to which to apply.</p>	<p>February/March 2017</p>	<p>Interviews and/or offers made and opportunities to visit universities and colleges. Students confirm firm and insurance choices.</p>
<p>18 August</p>	<p>Results day legacy AS. Staff available at the Academy for consultation.</p>	<p>November/April</p>	<p>Examinations.</p>
<p>19 August</p>	<p>Staff available for consultation at the Academy.</p>	<p>March-June</p>	
		<p>May - June</p>	
		<p>(** Students will receive letters outlining, in more detail, the programme for these events)</p>	

## UCAS Tariff points explained

UCAS Tariff points are used by some universities and colleges to set their entry requirements and to make offers. Currently, one third of courses in the UCAS search tool have a Tariff entry requirement.

Instead of asking for grades, a university might express the offer as a number of points. To help understand how many points a qualification is worth, UCAS has a [Tariff calculator](#) that you can use.

For courses starting from September 2017, a new Tariff will be in place. The new Tariff provides a fair and more transparent process of allocating Tariff points across a wider range of qualifications.

## What the new points mean to you

- The new UCAS Tariff points should not have any impact on your decisions about qualification choices at school or college, or your preparation for or application to a higher education course.
- You'll still need to achieve the same A level, Scottish Advanced Highers, Scottish Highers, or BTEC grades (or grades in any other qualification you're taking) to meet the higher education course entry requirements.
- All qualifications that are currently on the UCAS Tariff will continue to be allocated points under the new system.
- The new Tariff is based on a different approach, using a qualification's size and grades to calculate total Tariff points.
- The numbers are much lower, for example an A level grade A\* gets 56 points under the new Tariff, in comparison to 140 under the current Tariff.
- The AS level is now worth 40% of an A level – this is more accurate according to qualification regulators.
- 2017 entry courses advertised in the UCAS search tool from May 2016 will refer to the new UCAS Tariff points **only**. Approximately one third of courses on UCAS search currently refer to Tariff points. It is anticipated a number of courses will refer to the new Tariff from September 2017 onwards.

## Example of a UCAS Tariff table

(you can amend this table to only include qualifications offered at your school)

This table shows the new Tariff points for some popular qualifications.

Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate	Extended Project Qualification	AS level	A level	New Tariff points	BTEC Extended Diploma	BTEC Diploma	BTEC Subsidiary Diploma	BTEC Certificate
				168	D*D*D*			
				160	D*D*D			
				152	D*DD			
				144	DDD			
				128	DDM			
				112	DMM	D*D*		
				104		D*D		
				96	MMM	DD		
				80	MMP	DM		
				64	MPP	MM		
A*			A*	56			D*	
A			A	48	PPP	MP	D	
B			B	40				
C			C	32		PP	M	
	A*			28				D*
D	A		D	24				D
	B	A		20				
E	C	B	E	16			P	M
	D	C		12				
		D		10				
	E			8				P
		E		6				

If you have any questions about the new Tariff, call UCAS' Customer Experience Centre on 0371 468 0 468 (+44 330 3330 230 if you're calling from outside the UK), or find more detailed information at [www.ucas.com/new-tariff](http://www.ucas.com/new-tariff).

There is also a helpful [video which explains the Tariff in more detail](#) on the UCAS website.

# A parent's guide to apprenticeships



## Introduction

As a parent you want your child to get the best possible start in their career. There are many options available to young people after they leave school, and in this guide we outline information and benefits about apprenticeships as a key route into a successful career.

## What is an apprenticeship

An apprenticeship is a real job with training which would allow your daughter or son to earn while they learn, whilst gaining a nationally recognised qualification. Apprenticeships take between one and five years to complete and cover 1,500 job roles in a wide range of industries, from engineering to accountancy, public relations to veterinary nursing. Apprenticeships are now available up to degree level and beyond.

## Benefits of doing an apprenticeship

- Earning a salary;
- Training in the skills employers want;
- Excellent progression opportunities, whether looking to study further or climb the ranks within the workplace;
- Increased future earning potential
  - apprentices enjoy marked salary increases when they complete their training, and those completing a higher apprenticeship could see increased earnings of an estimated £150,000 over their lifetime;\*
- Learning at a pace suited to the individual with the support of a mentor;
- Paid holiday.

## Entry requirements

Apprenticeships are available to anyone over the age of 16, living in England. There are different entry requirements depending on the sector and job.

## Apprenticeship levels

There are various levels of apprenticeship your son or daughter could apply for depending on their current skills and qualifications. Apprenticeships have equivalent educational levels:

Name	Level	Equivalent educational level
Intermediate	2	5 GCSE passes at grades A* to C
Advanced	3	2 A level passes
Higher	4,5,6 and 7	Foundation degree and above
Degree	6 and 7	Bachelor's or master's degree

All apprenticeships will include elements of on the job and off the job training leading to industry recognised standards or qualifications. Some apprenticeships will require an assessment at the end of the programme to assess the apprentice's ability and competence in their job role.

## Salaries

The minimum wage for apprentices is £3.30\*\* per hour, but many employers pay more than this. This is dependant on the sector, region and apprenticeship level e.g. some higher apprenticeships can pay as much as £300 – £500 per week.

More details on salaries and entry criteria in specific apprenticeship occupations can be accessed by looking at the vacancies on 'Find an apprenticeship'.

## School leaving age

The government has increased the age to which all young people in England must continue in education or training.

If your child was born on or after 1 September 1997 they must stay in some form of education or training until at least their 18th birthday.

This does not necessarily mean staying in school; young people have a choice about how they continue in education or training post-16, which could be through:

- An apprenticeship or traineeship.
- Full-time study in a school, college or with a training provider.
- Full-time work or volunteering combined with part-time education or training.

## Applying for an apprenticeship

At any one time there are up to 28,000 apprenticeship vacancies available on the 'Find an apprenticeship' site in a variety of careers and industries across England. Visit [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) and search 'Find an apprenticeship'. You can search by keyword (job role, occupation type or apprenticeship level) and by location.

Once the right job comes up, your son or daughter can simply register on the website and follow the step by step instructions to apply for the role.

Our "How to apply" film has useful hints and tips on applying. To see this and other films on apprenticeships visit YouTube and search apprenticeships/NAS.

If they are not quite ready for an apprenticeship or job, they could try a traineeship with a local employer to gain valuable work experience and the opportunity to improve their English and maths, if needed. Visit [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) and search 'traineeships' for more information or to apply for traineeship opportunities.

\*University Education - Is this the best route into employment?  
AAT and CIBR Feb 2013  
\*\*As at October 2015

**Search apprenticeships on gov.uk**