



Year 12

UCAS & Next Steps

Information Evening



Mr McCartney | Assistant Headteacher

Ms Hollingsworth | Director of KS5

Miss Burgess | Deputy Director of KS5

Programme of Speakers

Organisation	Topic	Room
University of Exeter	Changes to the personal statement	DR1
University of Kent	Student Finance	HU12
Apprenticeships	Overview of Apprenticeships	Main Hall
Brighton and Sussex Medical School	A career in Medicine	HU6
Oxbridge	Applying to Oxbridge	HU9
RWS Careers Department	Next Steps Provision	HU7
University of Winchester	Choosing the right course	Learning Commons
London Met	A Career in STEM	HU1

Frequency	Percentage
Daily	65%
Weekly	15%
Monthly	10%
Rarely	5%
Never	5%

Value Added: +0.12

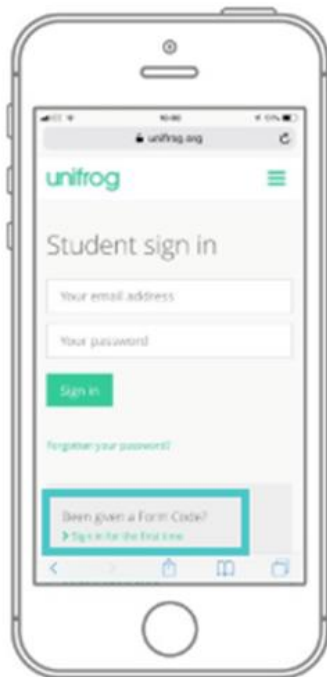


Every Year 12 student has a Unifrog account which is linked to their school email address.

This can be accessed via the school website.

Parents also have the opportunity to explore Unifrog and can set up an account, see information on next slide

Parents & guardians, get signed up!



Scan this QR code or go to

www.unifrog.org/student and click 'Sign in

for the first time'

You'll be asked for some details and a Sign up Code. This is what you need:

RWSPARENTS

After signing up, log into Unifrog using your email address and password via the student sign -in page!

unifrog

Unifrog

ACCESS ALL THE TOOLS BELOW

Exploring pathways

Interests profile

✕ Quiz not taken

Start >

Personality profile

✕ Quiz not taken

Start >

Work environments profile

✕ Quiz not taken

Start >

Careers library

✕ Careers favoured

Go to tool >

Subjects library

✕ Subjects favoured

Go to tool >

Know-how library

✕ Guides favoured

Go to tool >

MOOC

Make your first shortlist

Start >

Webinars

Hear directly from the experts

Go to tool >

Read, Watch, Listen

✕ Profiles favoured

Start >

1 Start 2 Subjects 3 Longlist 4 Shortlist 5 Complete

Select courses below

Pick the best courses for you by ranking, filtering and searching. Click next when you're done.
















Stuck on a strange term? Check out the [glossary](#) ✓

Rank ▾ Filter ▾

Keyword search









Aspirational (26)

Top of your range

	Combined Honours in Social Sciences - 3FT BA (Hons)	
	Durham University	
RG	A Level: A*,A,A	
	Geography - 3FT BA (Hons)	
	Durham University	
RG	A Level: A*,A,A	
	Geography - 3FT BA (Hons)	
	University of Cambridge	
RG	A Level: A*,A,A	
	Geography - 3FT BA (Hons)	
	University of Oxford	
RG	A Level: A*,A,A	
	Liberal Arts - 3FT BA (Hons)	
	Durham University	









Solid (116)

In the middle

	Geography (Study Abroad) - 4FT + Abroad BA (Hons)	
	Lancaster University	
TT	A Level: A,A,B	
	Geography (Study Abroad) - 4FT + Abroad BSc (Hons)	
	Lancaster University	
TT	A Level: A,A,B	
	Geography with Professional Placement - 4FT SW BSc (Hons)	
	University of Manchester	
RG	A Level: A,A,B	
	Geography with Professional Placement - 4FT SW BA (Hons)	
	University of Manchester	
RG	A Level: A,A,B	

Safe (115)

At the bottom

	Liberal Arts with Foundation - 4FT BA (Hons)	
	Durham University	
RG	Foundation year	
	Geography with Foundation - 4FT BA (Hons)	
	Durham University	
RG	Foundation year	
	Geography with Foundation - 4FT BSc (Hons)	
	Durham University	
RG	Foundation year	
	Geography with Foundation Year - 4FT BA (Hons)	
	University of Sheffield	
RG	Foundation year	

next ▶

or go back



Select Vacancies below

Pick the best vacancies for you by ranking, filtering and searching. Click next when you're done.
Stuck on a strange term? Check out the [glossary](#) ✓

Rank ▼ Filter ▼ Keyword search



Intermediate (1)



Equivalent to GCSEs



 **Level 2 Accounts/Finance Assistant**
 Kaplan
Nationwide



Advanced (7)



Equivalent to A-levels



 **Level 3 Assistant Accountant**
 Kaplan
Nationwide

 **Level 3 Finance Data Technician**
 Kaplan
Nationwide

 **Audit and Accounts**
 MacIntyre Hudson
Nationwide

 **Tax**
 MacIntyre Hudson
Nationwide



 **Finance**
 John Lewis Partnerships
Nationwide



 **Level 3 - Finance**
 Nationwide
Nationwide



 **Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship in Accounts Assistance**

Higher / Degree (45)



Equivalent to Foundation / Bachelor's



 **Tax Technology & Transformation (London)**
 EY
Distance: 11 miles

 **Accountancy Flying Start Programme**
 PwC
Distance: 11 miles

 **AAT/ACA Audit Associate Apprenticeship**
 Buzzacott
Distance: 12 miles

 **Finance (Level 4)**
 Transport for London
Distance: 12 miles

 **NAO School Leaver Scheme (London)**
 National Audit Office
Distance: 12 miles

 **L4 Finance Apprenticeship (Gatwick)**
 Nestle
Distance: 18 miles

next ► or go back

University / Apprenticeship / Job Application Process

Now:	Using Unifrog to research courses and universities Book Open Days, lectures and other visits Book careers interview (if needed)
Futures Day	3 rd July 2025 Off timetable all day Personal Statement writing (UCAS and Apprenticeship) CV Writing Unifrog Research
September	Completion of personal statement Approval by subject teacher, form tutor
October 2 nd	Completion of Conservatoire deadline for music applications
October 15 th	Completion of Oxbridge, Medicine, Veterinary Science and Dentistry applications
December 6 th	Completion of all other university applications



UCAS

The buzzword to link to our centre
this year is:

Ravens2026

[How to write your personal statement | 2026 UCAS applications - YouTube](#)

Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?



Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?



Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?





Careers office – Middle of the library
Mrs Borley – Head of Careers
Kirsty Taylor – External Careers Advisor



Transition into Year 13

- Entry to Year 13 is **not automatic**
- Enrolment into Year 13 = 3rd July
- Some students will be meeting with members of the Sixth Form Team before then
 - Minimum of 3 D grades expected
- BTEC students must be on track to meet their Minimum Target Grades

Academic Review Week

This event supports our academic Review and Next Steps week. The purpose of this week is to allow students to:

1. **Receive personalised academic reflection:** The one-on-one meetings with subject teachers will allow students to reflect on their academic performance in a focused and individual setting.
2. **Receive targeted feedback and support with goal setting:** Students will receive personalised feedback on their progress in each subject. This feedback will be used to set realistic academic goal.
3. **Explore Post-Secondary Pathways:** Students will get to experience short seminars from key areas to support with their next steps decisions. All students will be invited to attend a University Insight Day at Goldsmiths and Greenwich

Academic Review Week

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
During School	Lessons & 1-1 meetings	Lessons & 1-1 meetings	Lessons & 1-1 meetings	Lessons & 1-1 meetings	Trip to 2 London Based Universities (TBC)
After School	E3/U Meetings	E3/U Meetings	E3/U Meetings	UCAS & Next Steps Event	

- Students will have completed a self-evaluation document in advance of the meeting and teachers will add their feedback on each of the areas during the meeting. Student and Teacher will then create agreed academic targets. These documents will be shared with Parents/Carers
- Those students that obtained an E3/U in PPE1 and EOY assessment to complete a resit in that particular subject (11th/12th June). These students will also have a 1-1 meeting with a member of SLT/Sixth Form team to discuss transition into Yr13

University Insight Day



- All Yr12 students were given the opportunity to register and attend a University Insight Day
- This will take place tomorrow Friday 6th June
- Students will visit Goldsmiths and University of Greenwich
- Students met with Mr McCartney today to discuss logistics. This information has also been shared with students via SMHW and Parents/Carers via email

Work Experience



RWS CAREERS



- All Yr12 students are expected to complete Work Experience 7-11th July
- A critical part of the Sixth Form Journey to support students making more informed decision over their next steps destinations
- Students must upload this placement onto Unifrog ASAP
- Students yet to upload this placement onto Unifrog met with Mr McCartney and Mrs Borley prior to half term
- Students that do not have a work experience placement will attend school and complete virtual work experience

FLAT Revision



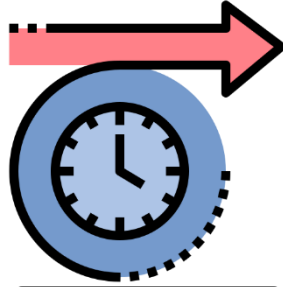
Focused

Phone away

Music off

Avoid
distractions

Be in the right
environment



Long-Term

Start earlier to
avoid cramming

Create a revision
timetable

Interleave
different topics



Active

Engage your brain
by actively
creating resources

Practise exam
technique

Revise areas you
struggle with



Transformed

Transform
content into a
different format:

- Flashcards
- Timeline
- Mnemonic
- Mind maps
- PowerPoint

The 4 pillars of Wellness



Physical Activity

Exercise produces feel good hormones

Physical health = mental health

Can be as easy as going for a walk



Diet & Nutrition

BALANCE is key

Limit caffeine intake (energy drinks)

Stay hydrated

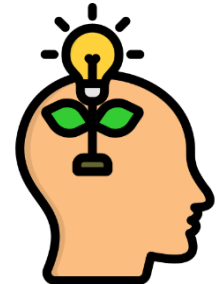


Sleep & Recovery

People your age should be getting 8 -10 hours

Set a bedtime routine

Relax – preferably without a device



Growth Mindset

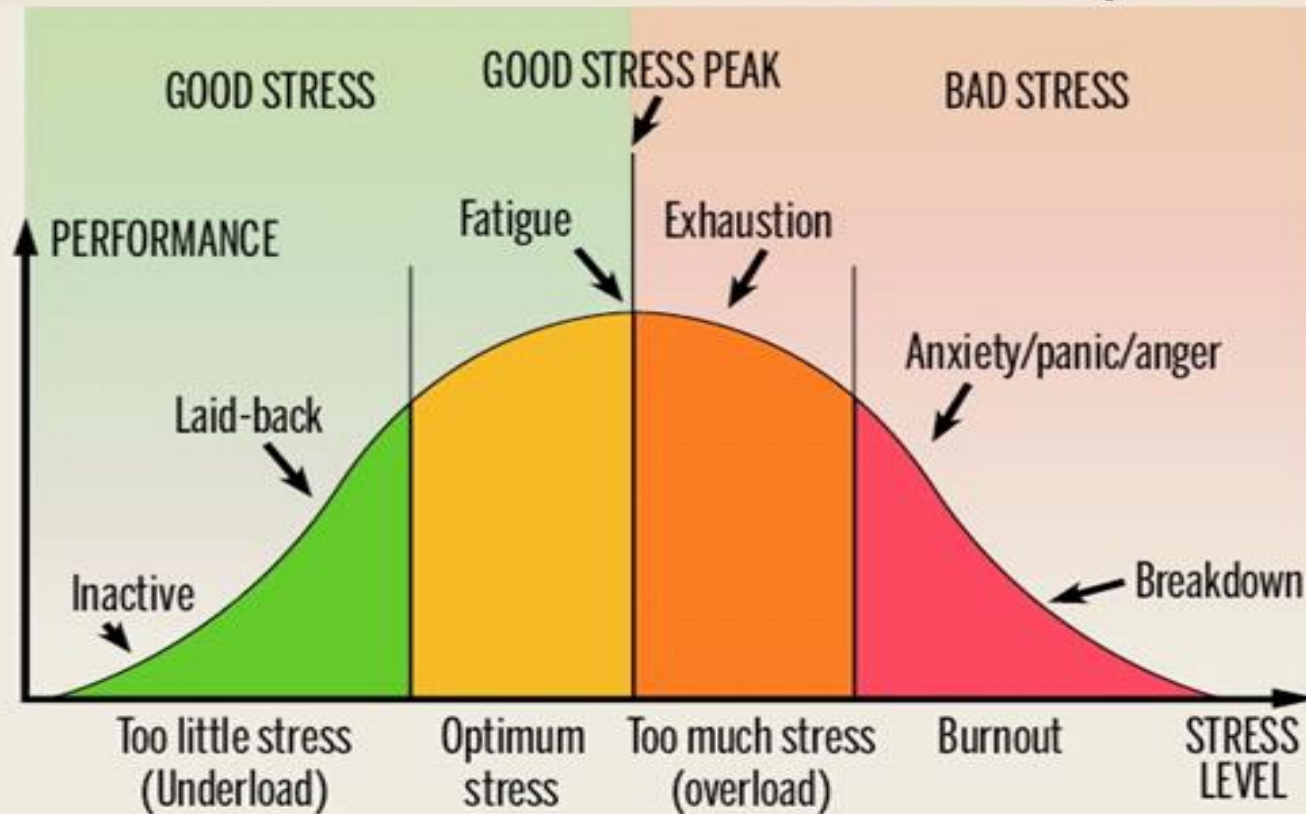
Learning how to manage stress (meditation etc)

Take regular exercise

Know when to ask for support

**Stress is a state of mental or emotional strain or tension, resulting from adverse or demanding situations/circumstances*

Is stress Harmful or Helpful?



Programme of Speakers

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Oxbridge	Applying to Oxbridge	HU9
RWS Careers Department	Next Steps Provision	HU7
University of Winchester	Choosing the right course	Learning Commons
London Met	A Career in STEM	HU1

Timings of the sessions

- Session 1 = 5:30 – 5:50
- Session 2 = 5.55 – 6.10
- Session 3 = 6.15 – 6.30
- Session 4 = 6.35 – 6.50
- Session 5 = 6.55 – 7.10



TALK

If you are **worried about something or someone**, you can email us at talk@rws.uk.net or drop a note in the green post box.

The email account is checked daily, and the post boxes are checked weekly, so if you have an urgent concern speak to a member of staff or email talk@rws.uk.net



NSPCC

HELPLINE

0808 800 5000

help@nspcc.org.uk



ChildLine

0800 1111



SAFEGUARDING



Kooth is an online and confidential service giving help and advice about emotional health

kooth.com

kooth



When life is tough, we're here to listen



SAMARITANS

www.childline.org.uk



Call us on 0800 1111



Chat to us online



Email us



Text SHOUT to 85258

shout

for support in a crisis



Call us free 24/7 on

116 123

samaritans.org

A registered charity



University
of Exeter

Writing an effective personal statement.

Sara Pittman - School and College
Engagement Officer

University of Exeter campuses

Travel times from Exeter

Location	Distance from Exeter	Distance from Exeter by train
London	180 miles	2 hrs
Bristol	80 miles	1.5 hrs
Birmingham	173 miles	2.5 hrs
Manchester	240 miles	4 hrs 20 mins

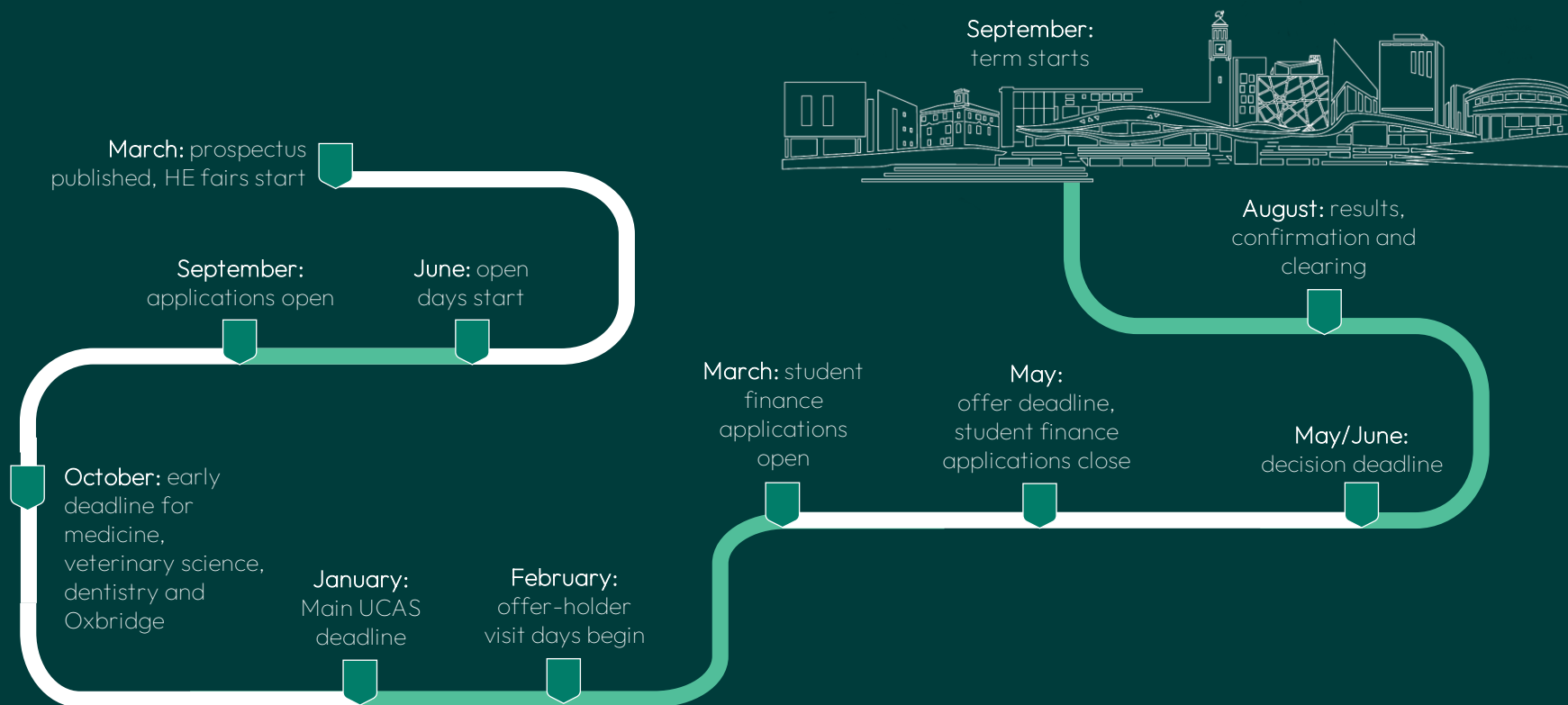


We will look at

- What a personal statement is
- How to get started
- What to include



Your journey



Application process

Universities consider:

- achieved academic performance
- predicted academic performance
- personal statement and teacher reference
- any extenuating circumstances
- possible interviews / admissions tests / portfolios / auditions etc





Specifics

- Same statement for each choice
- 3 separate sections
- Each section will have a minimum character count of 350 characters
- 4000 characters in total; this includes spaces



Statement sections



Why do you want to study this course or subject?

Show your passion and knowledge for your chosen subject. It lets universities and colleges know why you're a good fit.



How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare?

Talk about the skills you've developed in your education, and how they'll help you succeed.



What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

Reflect on any other activities or personal experiences outside the classroom that make you suited to the course.

1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

- Opportunity to showcase your passion, curiosity, interest, and knowledge of your chosen subject area.

Including:

- motivations for studying this course
- knowledge of this subject area and interests: highlighting super-curricular activities
- Future plans and why this course/subject/vocation is a good fit (if relevant)



2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

- Reflecting on current or previous study and how it links to your chosen course or subject

Including:

- Recent and relevant examples of topics studied
- Transferable skills gained
- Educational achievements



3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

- Work experience, employment, or volunteering
- Personal life experiences or responsibilities
- Hobbies and any extracurricular or outreach activities
- Achievements outside of school or college



What you might include

- In person work experience
- Positions of responsibility
- Projects or essays
- Mentoring
- Paid employment
- Virtual work experience
- Documentaries
- Awards
- Books, blogs, vlogs
- Work shadowing
- Hobbies
- Podcasts
- Challenges
- Influencers
- Online subject courses
- TED Talks
- Personal life experiences
- Trips or visits
- Volunteering
- Work based learning / training
- Clubs
- Competitions

Extra-curricular and skills

Activity	Skills attained	Links with your subject
EPQ	Harvard referencing	I'll be required to reference all sources during my history degree.

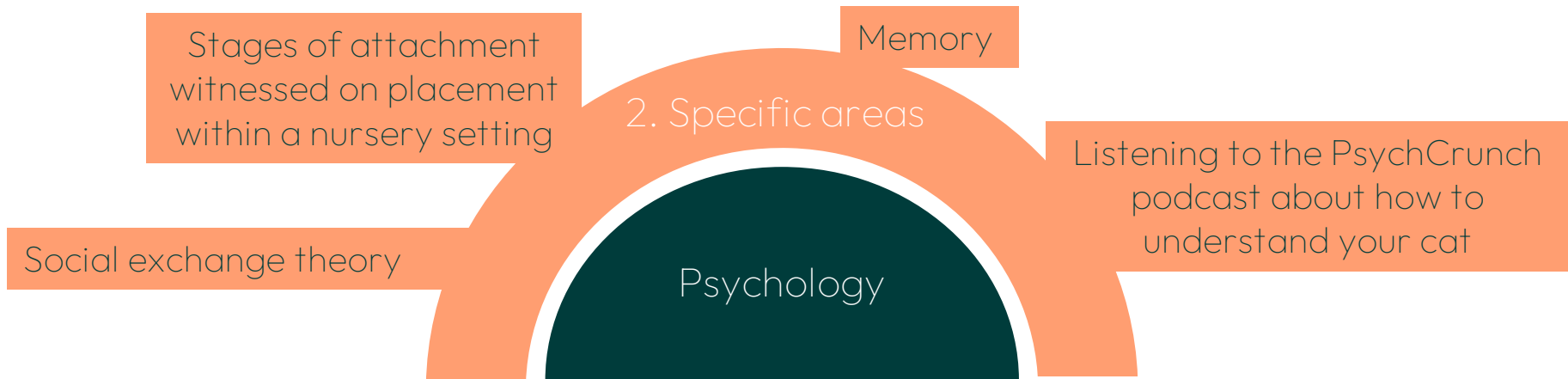
Getting started on your Statement



Step 1

1. Subject(s) you
are interested in

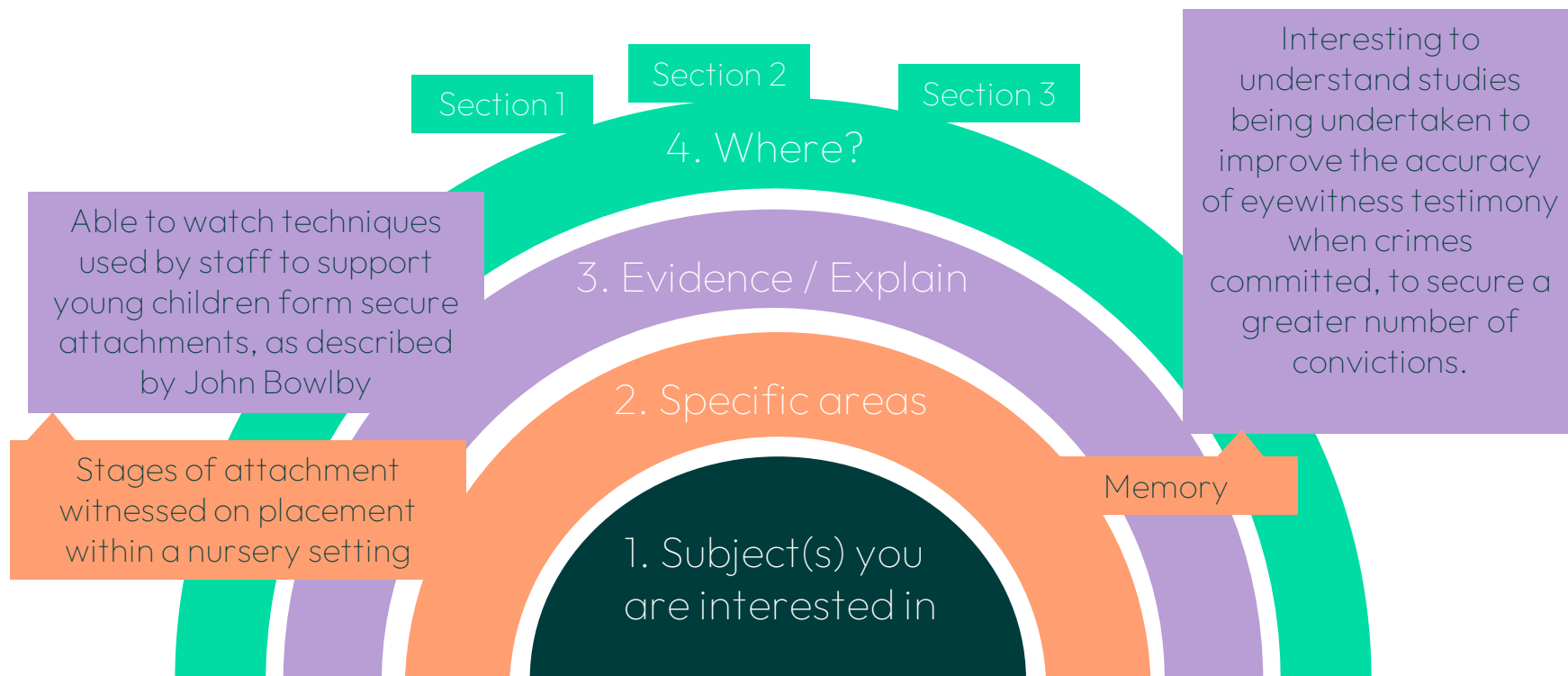
Step 2



Step 3



Step 4



Command words

curiosity subject extra curricular
experience suitability interest
knowledge reflective relevant
recent
demonstrate super curricular
transferable skills evidence

Where to add value

- Research the courses, accreditation, modules – similarities
- Watch useful TV programmes, lectures, documentaries, current affairs
- Use help on university website about competency and skills we want to see



Things to consider

- Research is the foundation of a strong statement
- Don't worry if the information is not in quite the right section, universities will see the statement as a whole.
- Character count – don't repeat information that is in another section, or elsewhere on your application (e.g. grades, qualifications)



All universities use personal statements the same way

It's fine to take phrases and sentences from other personal statements

Jokes and puns are a good way of making your personal statement stand out

Extracurricular activity is a really important part of your personal statement

The best personal statements include really exciting work experience/ opportunities

Your personal statements may be referred to in interviews

You have to demonstrate as much knowledge of your chosen subject as possible

Over-used opening lines...



For as long as I can remember I have...	[1,451]
I have always been interested in...	[927]
Reflecting on my educational experiences...	[257]
Nursing is a very challenging and demanding [career/profession/course]...	[211]
Throughout my life I have always enjoyed...	[310]
I am applying for this course because...	[1,370]
I have always wanted to pursue a career in...	[160]
I have always been passionate about...	[160]
From a young age I have (always) been [interested in/fascinated by]...	[1,779]
Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world...	[148]

Remember to...

- Choose your subject(s) before you start writing
- Complete super-curricular exploration before starting to write
- Think about your audience
- Check spelling, punctuation and grammar
- Get feedback
- Redraft



Try to avoid...

- Mentioning any university by name
- Any misleading information
- Cliches
- Leaving it until the last moment



Your own statement

- Generating (and then copying, pasting and submitting) from an AI tool, could be considered cheating by universities and colleges.
- This could affect your chances of an offer.
- Use builders and guides when getting started but ensure your final statement is all your own work



Academic examples...



Upskill your knowledge

- MOOCs
- Articles e.g. JSTOR, ScienceDirect, PubMed
- University-led free online courses
- UCAS Springpod tool
- Subject tasters
- Virtual work-experience





Summary

DU Webinars

We host regular online conferences which take place on Monday evenings from 6-7pm. They are an opportunity for you to find out more about university, consider your options and to hear about specific courses.

There are also 3 subject specific sessions; medicine, law and finance, accounting and economics.

Topics included:

- Introduction to higher education
- Choosing a course and university
- Considering a competitive university
- UCAS process
- Degree apprenticeships
- Student life
- Considering the University of Exeter
- Student finance
- Personal statement



Book to attend

Feel free to sign up for as few or many sessions as interests you.

exeter.ac.uk/discoveruniversity



Essay Competitions

We run termly essay competitions, giving you the opportunity to share your knowledge across various subjects.

Submit 1000 words or 6/7minute video and you could win £100 voucher prize & a UofE hoodie!

Please be excited for the upcoming cycle of essay competitions starting in September of 2025!

More information of essay questions and topics can be found at exeter.ac.uk/discoveruniversity



DISCOVER UNIVERSITY



@DiscoveruniExe

exeter.ac.uk/discoveruniversity



University
of Exeter

**RUSSELL
GROUP**



University of Kent

The University of Kent has over 200 programmes of study and have additional opportunities abroad, in industry placements, in interdisciplinary subject areas and can learn a language for free with our Fluent Futures programme.

We believe that every level 3 qualification should be considered fairly, so T-levels will allow you entry on to our courses – though some subjects will require a particular subject like requested for other qualifications too.

We also have [contextual and flexible offer policies](#) which do not require you to do anything extra – we get everything we need via UCAS.

Subject areas at Kent include:

- Medicine, Pharmacy and Social Work
- Ecology and Conservation
- Law, Criminology, Justice
- Drama, Film, Media
- English, History, Classical Studies and Languages
- STEM
- Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Forensic and Medical Sciences
- Psychology, Politics, International Relations, Sociology
- Business

During your time at Kent, you will learn in industry standard facilities and can receive a variety of support to aid you as a student and a person to reach your ambition, with our academic and support services and careers and employability team.

You can also join one of our many societies and clubs in sport, academics, student media, community action, special interest, and faith, culture and identity.

Students make up a third of the population in Canterbury, providing a thriving social scene and lots of potential part-time jobs to boost your employability further whilst studying.

We are also a campus-based university with a variety of facilities, including a gym, cinema, nightclub, bars and eateries.

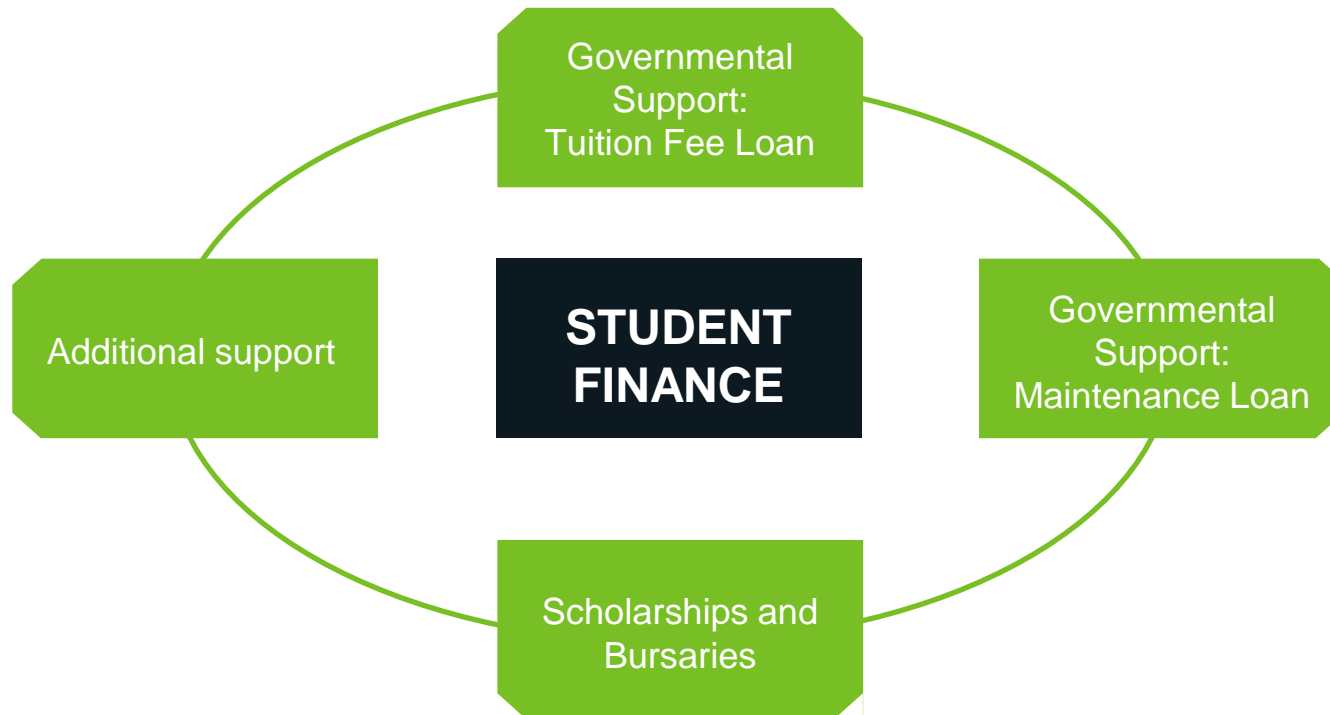
First year students get guaranteed accommodation and a free premium gym membership.



Student Finance



What makes up your student finance?



Tuition Fee Loan

- Available from the UK government to cover the cost of the course itself
- Foundation Year tuition fees might be lower for certain courses
- Not means tested- full amount needed is always available
- The loan is paid directly to the university, not to the student

**Maximum
UK Tuition Fee**

£9,535

**For full-time UK
undergraduate students**

Maintenance Loan

Available from the UK government to cover the cost of living (e.g. accommodation, food)

Means tested based on two criteria:

- Household income
- Residence while studying

Paid directly to the student in termly instalments

What counts as household

Your household income includes any of the following that apply:

- your parents'/guardians' income, if you're under 25 and live with them or depend on them financially
- the combined income of one of your parents/guardians and their partner, if you're under 25 and live with them or depend on them financially.
- your partner's income, if you're over 25 and live with them (even if they spend most of their time abroad)
- income you get from your own savings, investments or property, for example dividends on rent

Income assessment is based on the previous full tax year- i.e. 2023-24 if applying for the 2025/26 academic year

Maintenance Loan

Household income thresholds for 2025-26

HOUSEHOLD INCOME	LIVING AWAY FROM HOME	LIVING AT HOME	STUDYING IN LONDON AND LIVING AWAY FROM HOME
£0 - £25,000	£10,544	£8,877	£13,762
£30,000	£9,791	£8,123	£12,997
£35,000	£9,038	£7,387	£12,231
£40,000	£8,285	£6,642	£11,465
£42,875	£7,852	£6,214	£11,025
£45,000	£7,532	£5,897	£10,700
£50,000	£6,779	£5,152	£9,934
£55,000	£6,026	£4,407	£9,168
£58,200	£5,544	£3,930	£8,678
£60,000	£5,273	£3,907	£8,403
£62,286	£4,929	£3,907	£8,053
£65,000	£4,915	£3,907	£7,637
£70,000	£4,915	£3,907	£6,871

Please note: students who qualify for benefits, or who are aged 60 or over on the first day of the first academic year of their programme, may qualify for different amounts

How to apply for student loans

- Apply online at Student Finance England
- You will need your passport, National Insurance (NI) number and bank details
- You DO NOT need a confirmed place at university to apply
- It can take up to six weeks to process so apply as early as you can
- Parents / Supporters only need to provide their National Insurance number.

Students must re-apply for each successive year of student finance around the same time each year.



Additional Support

Government Grants and Allowances

Scholarships

Bursaries



Disabled Students Allowance (DSA)



Funding for additional support for students with specific learning difficulties, mental health conditions, physical disabilities and long-term health conditions

- Money is paid either to you or to the University providing the support
- Apply through Student Finance England
- 'Needs assessment' carried out

Support may include:

- Specialist equipment, for example a computer if you need one because of your disability
- Non-medical helpers, for example a British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter or specialist note taker
- Extra travel to attend your course or placement because of your disability
- Other disability-related study support, for example having to print additional copies of documents for proof-reading.

Ambition to Succeed



This free programme is designed to help young people from Kent and Medway explore both the academic and social side of university life and runs throughout Years 12 and 13.

You will also be part of an enrichment programme whilst studying and will be eligible for a scholarship worth between £500-£2,000 for each year of undergraduate study at the University of Kent.

All interested Year 12 or FE Year 1 students can apply. Priority is given to those who meet more than one of the following criteria:

- Live in an area deemed to have lower than expected participation in Higher Education
- Have achieved 5 GCSEs at grades 9-4 including Maths and English
- You are eligible to receive Free School Meals
- Your parent(s)/guardian(s) did not attend university
- You are from a group which is under-represented in Higher Education. (See website for further information)

Kent's Financial Support Package 2025



The University offers a generous financial support package for the duration of your degree.

Kent has a minimum £3,000 financial support package for 2024 across three stages of full-time study, or more for course over three years.

Who is eligible?

- Those whose household incomes fall below £30,000 per year and who satisfy other financial eligibility criteria (eg, state educated, care leavers, DSA recipients).
- Full information on the 2024 package is published on our website: www.kent.ac.uk/guides/kfsp

University of Kent Support

Care Leaver Funding

Young Independent Student Funding

Estranged Student Funding

Homeless Student Funding

Student Carer Funding

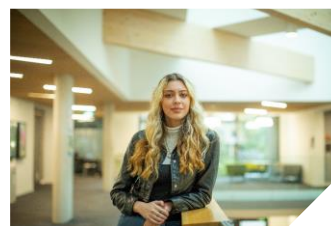


Repaying loans

Tuition Fee Loan + Living Cost Loan = Student Loan

9% of earnings
after £25,000

Written off after
40 years



No payments until
the April after you
graduate

Scholarships and
bursaries do not
need to be repaid



Monthly repayments

$$\begin{aligned} \text{£30,000} - \text{£25,000} &= \\ \text{£5,000} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 9\% \text{ of } \text{£5,000} &= \text{£450.00} \\ &\text{per year} \\ &\text{£37.50 per month} \end{aligned}$$

Monthly repayments

Monthly repayments based on salary



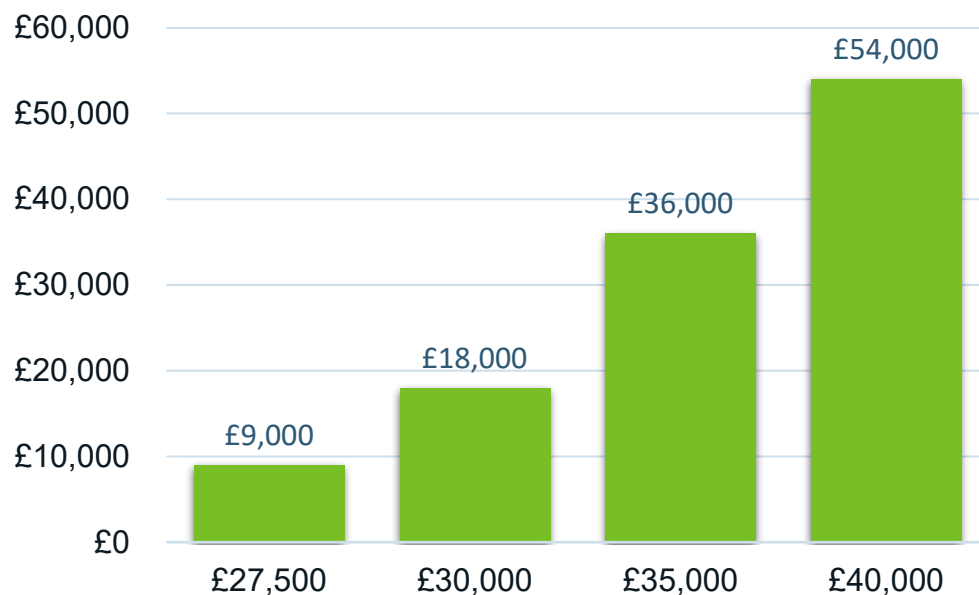
Repaying loans: Interest rates

Interest fixed at
 $\text{RPI} + 0\%$

Aims to ensure that amounts repaid over the life of the loan are equal in real terms to the original amount borrowed

Investment into your future

Total repayments over 40 years



University is a long-term investment into your future

- Greater salary potential
- Wider range of career opportunities
- Faster progression
- Social benefits

Remember the cost is in the repayment, not the fees or the total amount borrowed. Whether you borrow £50,000 or £500,000, your repayments are based on earnings

The problem for most students is being unable to borrow enough- can you cover the cost of living at university if your Living Cost Loan is below the expected cost?

Conclusion

- Submit your application in good time to avoid any delays
- Remember to look into additional forms of support such as Disabled Students Allowance
- The financial costs look imposing, but the true cost depends on your earnings and is spread over a long time
- Don't focus on the 'debt' but rather consider the cost of living while at university
- University is an investment in your future – it costs time, effort and money, but it has considerable long-term benefits



Visit our campus



CAMPUS TOURS

Medway
Tuesdays
Canterbury
Thursdays

OPEN DAYS

Canterbury
Saturday 26 April 2025
Saturday 5 July 2025
Medway
Saturday 21 June 2025



Find out more:
www.kent.ac.uk



Thank you.



Helpful resources

Kent Student Finance FAQ's

kent.ac.uk/guides/fees-faqs

Money Saving Expert

moneysavingexpert.com/news/tag/student-finance/

Government Student Finance Calculator

gov.uk/student-finance-calculator

Student Finance Application page

gov.uk/student-finance



Frequently asked questions

- **Will student loans affect my credit score?** No.

Having a student loan does not appear on your credit record, however, student loan repayments are likely to be part of affordability calculations.

- **What happens if I don't finish my course for some reason?**

The loan you have taken until that point still stands and repayments will start from the following April, assuming you earn more than the repayment threshold of £25,000 per year. However, no-one will start repaying their Plan 5 loan until April 2026. You can make voluntary repayments at any time if you wish.

- **Does the household income assessment take into account other children, pension payments, rent and other expenses?**

– Certain allowances are made for things like additional children and private pensions as well as students entitled to benefits, but many expenses are not accounted for. We would recommend consulting GOV.UK for detailed criteria.

Can I pay back my loan early? Yes. However, we recommend that you take advice before doing this as working out whether this is the best decision for you can be complicated. There is no penalty for making extra repayments, but once made they are not refundable.

How do repayments work if I'm not paid an annual salary? Repayments will only start if you earn more than the repayment threshold of £25,000 a year, which is £2,083 if paid monthly or £480 if paid weekly.

At what point are repayments deducted from my salary? Repayments are automatically deducted by your employer whenever you get paid and at the same time as tax and National Insurance. If you are self-employed, your repayment is calculated from your annual tax return and paid at the same time as any tax you owe.

This presentation was produced in April 2024.

The University of Kent makes every effort to ensure that the information contained in its publicity materials is fair and accurate and provide educational services as described. However, the courses, services and other matters may be subject to change.

For the most up-to-date information see kent.ac.uk/ug

Full details of our terms and conditions can be found at kent.ac.uk/termsandconditions



Understanding apprenticeships

Version 1: August 2024

**THE
ASK
PROGRAMME**
APPRENTICESHIPS
AND TECHNICAL
EDUCATION



**ASK PROGRAMME
2024/25**

FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION

Today's session

What we'll be covering

APPRENTICESHIP
S

WHAT THEY ARE

ROLES & LEVELS

APPRENTICESHIP OPTIONS

SEARCH &
APPLY

NEXT STEPS

What are apprenticeships?



Employed



Off the job



Intermediate -
degree



Paid a salary



Typically 1-6
years



Real
responsibilities



Contract

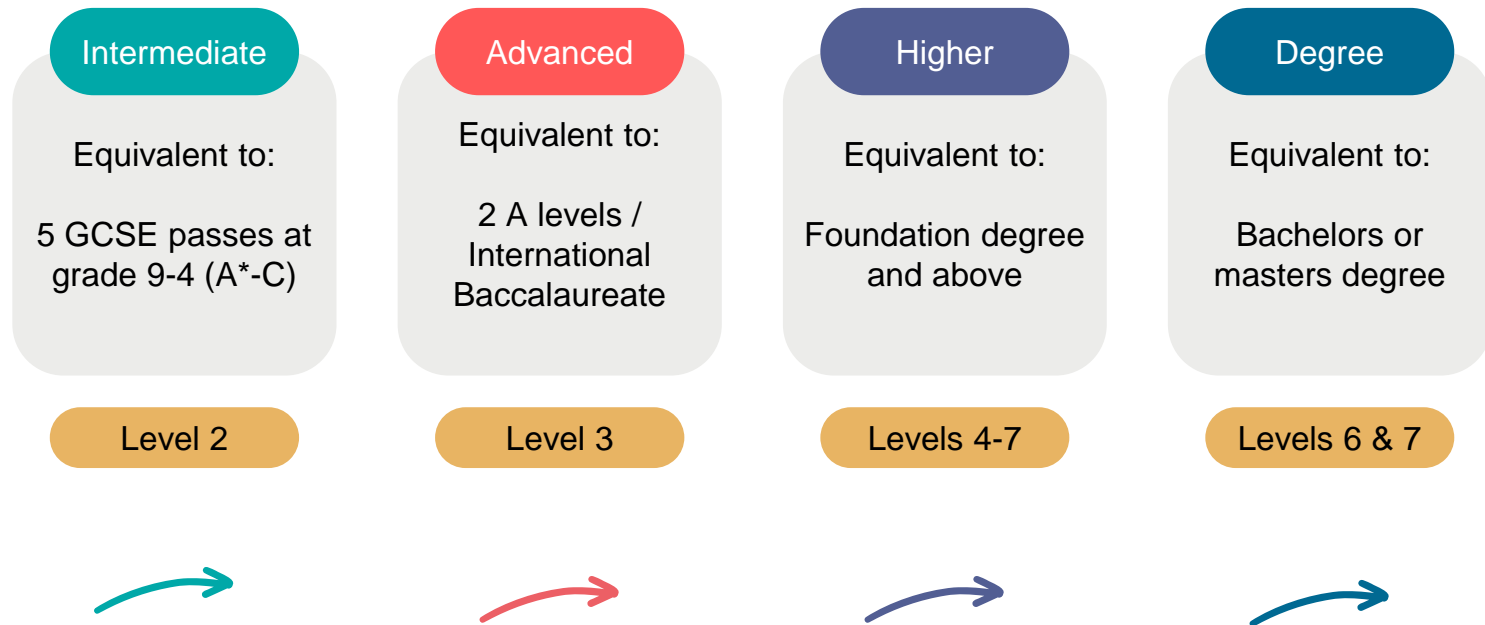


700+ standards



Not the easy
option

Levels of apprenticeships



Higher & Degree apprenticeships

- ✓ University fees paid by employer and/or Government
- ✓ No debt
- ✓ Integrated degree or degree level
- ✓ Experience
- ✓ 4-6 years
- ✓ 100+ universities (plus colleges, training providers)
- ✓ Employer selects University/provider

Work full-time and study part-time



Competitive



Progression



Required

Levels of apprenticeships

Intermediate (L2)

- Furniture maker
- Security operative
- Barber
- Aviation ground handler
- Dog groomer
- Florist
- Accounts assistant
- Pharmacy assistant
- Marina operative
- Junior estate agent

140+ standards

Advanced (L3)

- Engineering technician
- Pastry chef
- Multi-channel marketer
- Fundraiser
- Scenic artist
- Electrician
- Community wellbeing worker
- Data technician

230+ standards

Higher

- Visual effects artist
- Town planning assistant
- Sports coach
- Space engineering technician

110+ standards
(L4)

- Vet technician
- Nursing associate
- Rail engineer
- Marine pilot
- Nuclear technician

40+ standards (L5)

Degree

- Geoscientist
- Accounting manager
- Midwife
- Social worker
- Civil engineer

110+ standards
(L6)

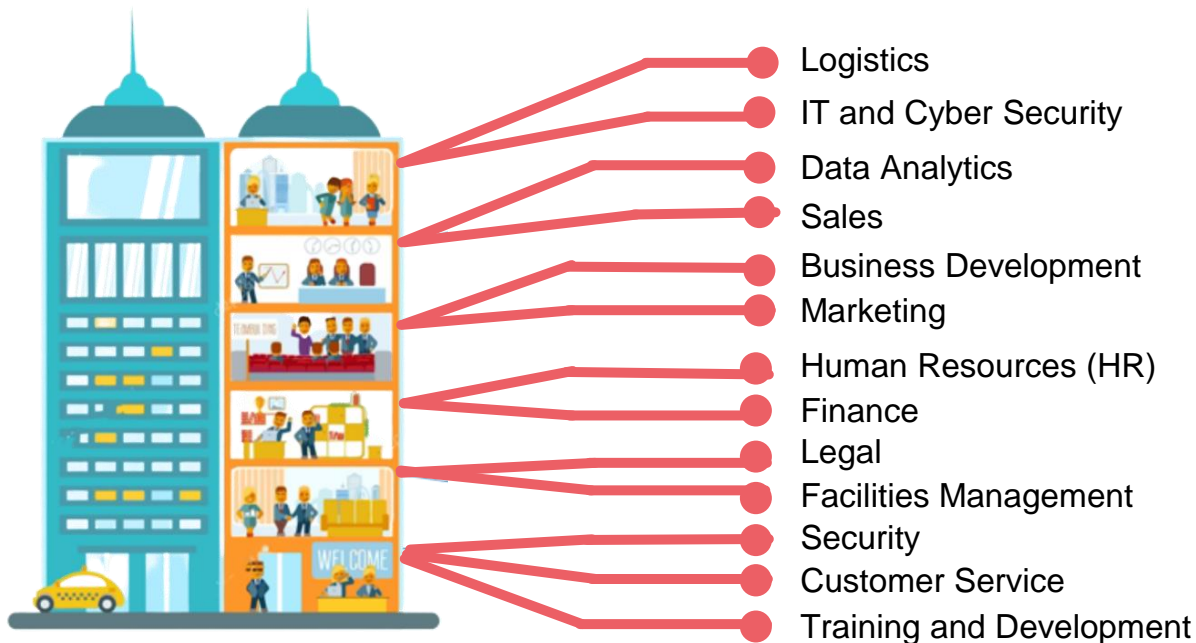
- Doctor
- Game programmer
- Play therapist
- Solicitor
- Economist

60+ standards (L7)

Range of employers



Look inside the company



Are there vacancies?

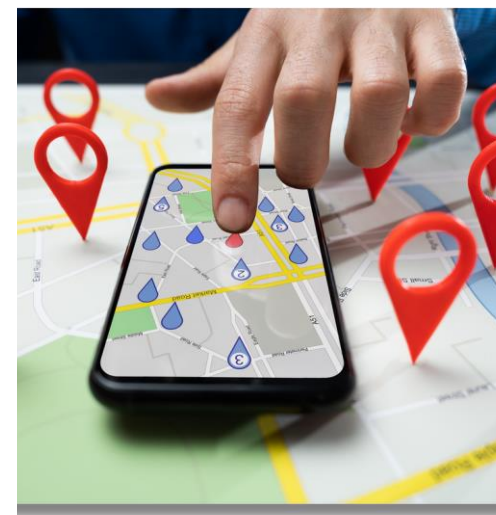
(data from 17.4.25)

Radius	Number of vacancies
5 miles	112
10 miles	279
15 miles	718
20 miles	988
England	6095

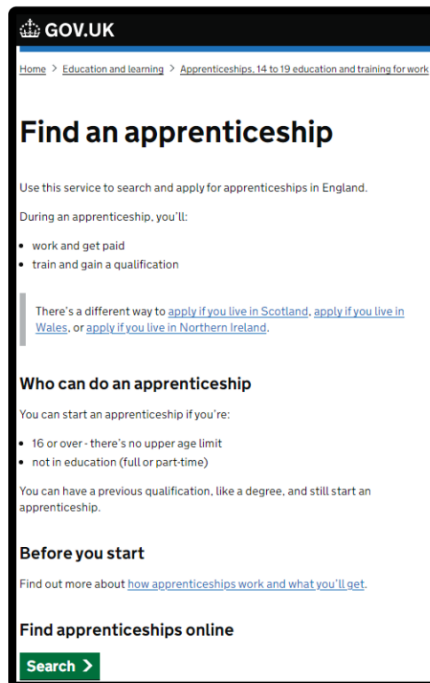


Apprenticeships in the local area (within 20 miles of London)

Job opportunity	Closing date	Start Date	Annual salary
Level 6 / Degree Level Project Management Apprentice Colas Rail Limited	2 May 2025	1 Aug 2025	£26,000
Level 4 / Higher Level Outsourcing Apprenticeship Programme 2025 Mercer & Hole LLP	30 May 2025	1 Sep 2025	£20,000
Civil Engineering Apprentice Level 6 / Degree Level KILNBRIDGE CONSTRUCTION SERVICES LTD	10 May 2025	8 Sep 2025	£21,000



How do you find apprenticeships?



WHAT IS FAA?

Showcasing live apprenticeship jobs



20,000+ vacancies
over the year



Free to use



Secure site



Apply quickly

Searching for apprenticeships



Find an
apprenticeship



CITY
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
— EST 1894 —

LSBU London South
Bank University

Training providers
/ universities



Company websites



Careers websites



Social media



Friends and family



Higher and Degree
listing

UCAS

UCAS

Useful websites & resources

Resources to support you in learning about apprenticeships



Application guides



Factsheets



Using Faa guide



Webinars



Employer profiles



Apprentice advice

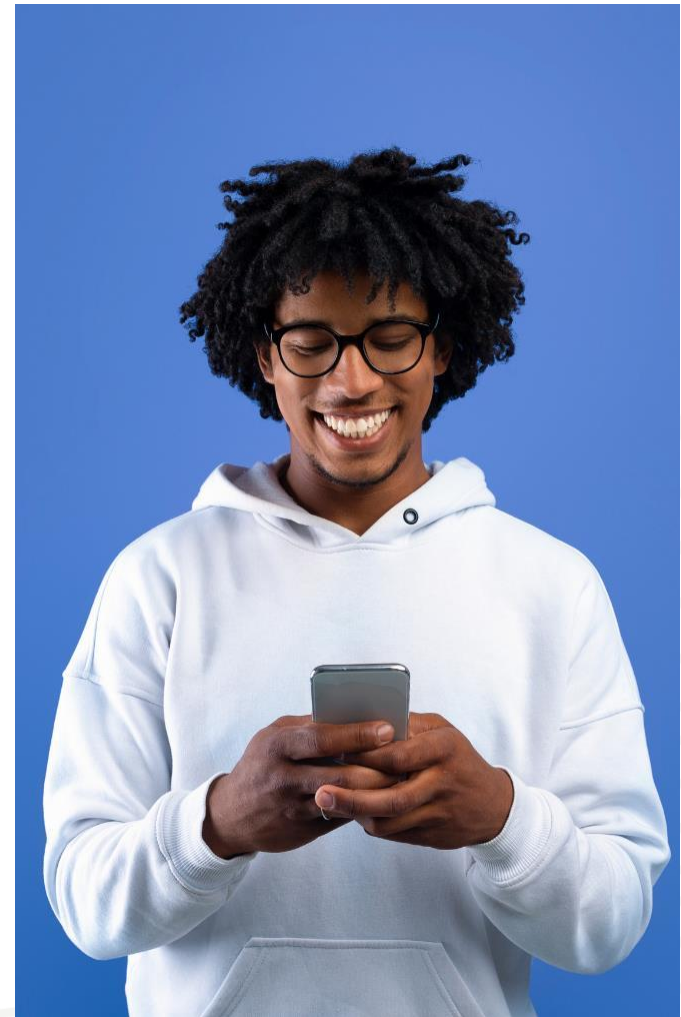


www.amazingapprenticeships.com

Useful websites

- <https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentices> **general information about apprenticeships**
- <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/> **for careers information, advice and guidance**
- <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/> **lots of apprenticeship related resources such as how to 'apply for apprenticeships' / 'how to write a CV' / 'higher and degree vacancy listing' / webinars / employer profiles / A-Z of apprenticeship standards**
- <https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch> **government website for live apprenticeship vacancies**
- <https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships/degree-apprenticeships> **information, advice and guidance and links to vacancies**
- <https://notgoingtouni.co.uk/> **apprenticeship information and vacancies**
- <https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/> **apprenticeship information and vacancies**
- <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/> **information about the apprenticeship standards (qualifications); also useful information such as 'occupational maps' to plan your career**
- **Online Practice Tests:**
 - <https://www.psychometrictest.org.uk/>
 - <https://www.shl.com/shldirect/en/practice-tests/>

***remember to also look directly on employer websites and training provider websites**



Any questions?

Thank you for participating



Your feedback

We hope you found this session helpful.

Please complete the evaluation form using the link or QR code below.

<https://tinyurl.com/ASKLondon>



Choosing the right course

Lucy Dixon (She/Her)
5th June 2025



About the University of Winchester!



UNIVERSITY
OF
WINCHESTER

1840

Founded as a
Teacher
Training
College

82

Undergraduate
Course options

8

Degree
Apprenticeship
options

5

faculties across
the Arts, Social
Sciences and
Sciences

**Campus
University
in the city of
Winchester**

**60-minute
direct train to
London
Waterloo**

**Top 25
for Graduate
Employment**
(Graduate Outcomes
Survey 2024)

**Top 5
safest university
cities**
(Complete University
Guide, 2025)

The right course for you



What is HE?

**HE stands
for Higher
Education**

**It is the level of
education after
college**

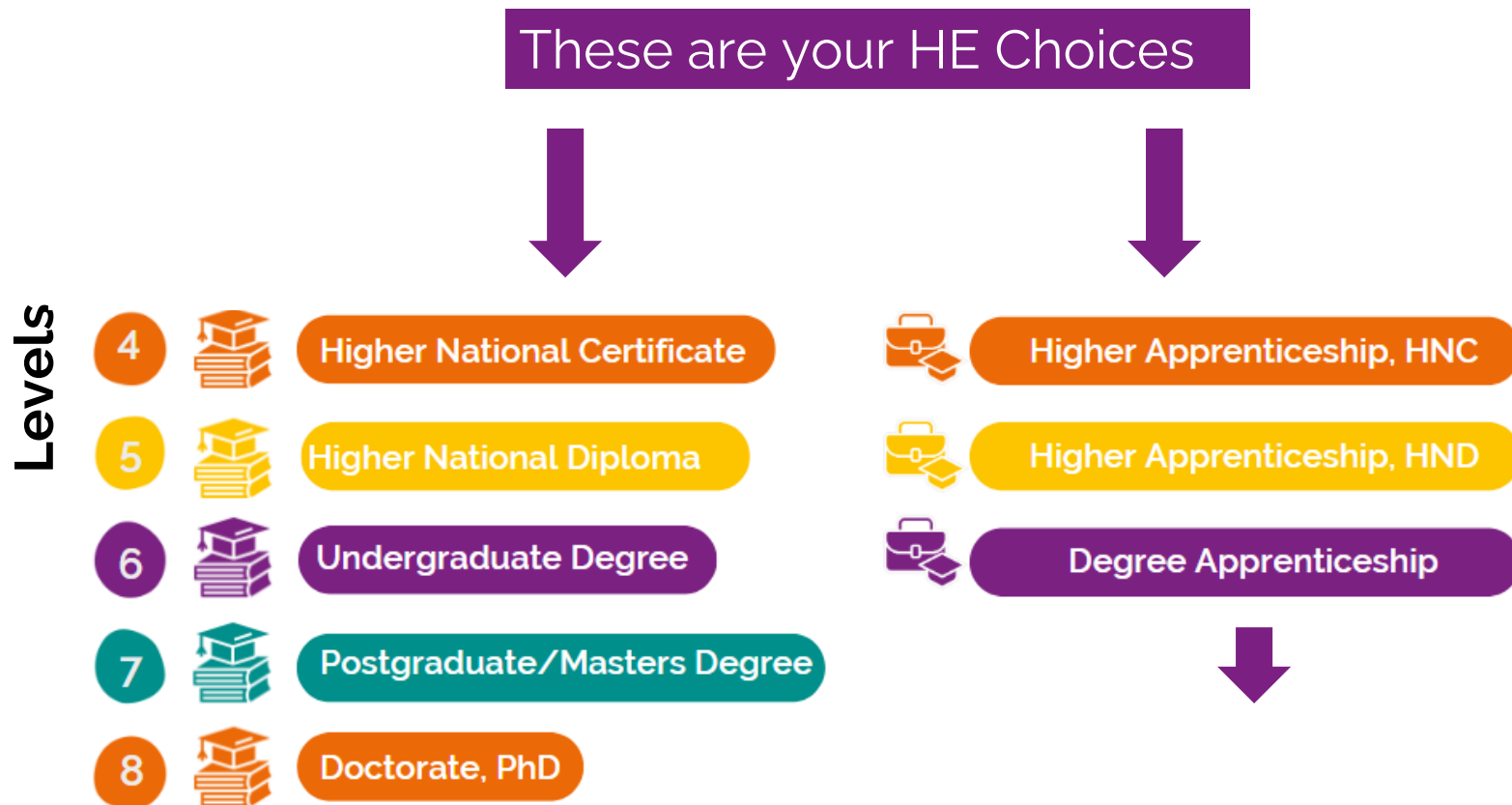
**Study a topic
in greater
detail, become
an expert**

**Boost career
prospects and
earning
potential**

Education Pathways



Education Pathways



What subject is right for me?

What do you enjoy
day to day?

Explore different job
sites and graduate
career options.

What are your career
goals?

Have a look at UCAS
subject guides.

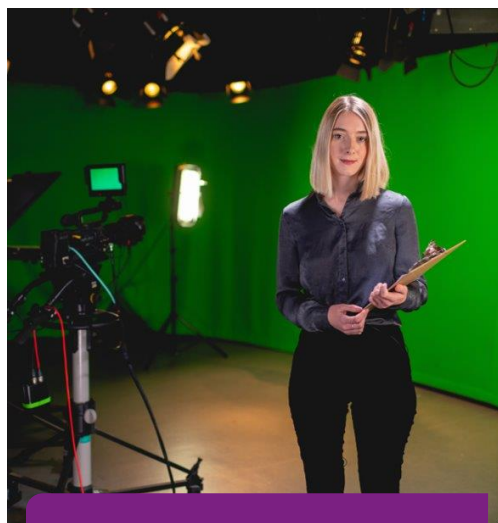
Take inspiration from
your school/college
course.

Types of courses





Vocational



Career



Academic

Vocational Accredited Courses

- These qualify students to work in a particular career. People employed in this industry **must** have a relevant qualification.
- Fuller timetable and work placements.
- **Example courses:**
 - Medicine
 - Nursing
 - Dentistry
 - Midwifery
 - Primary Teaching
 - Social Work
 - Policing
 - Physiotherapy
 - Architecture
 - Veterinary
 - Psychology



Vocational Accredited Courses

- **You will:**

- Have already made the decision on which career to pursue.
- Make industry links during work experience periods.
- Usually start earning a graduate salary straight away.



- **It is a great route if:**

- You are 100% certain you wish to pursue this career.



Courses which relate to a career

- You do not need to do this degree to go into the respective field of employment, but you would gain highly useful skills and links within the industry.
- Fewer timetabled hours and more focus on independent work, group work etc.
- **Example Courses:**
 - Accounting and Finance
 - Marketing
 - Business
 - Film Production
 - Sport Coaching
 - Journalism
 - Forensic Investigation
 - Health and Social Care



Courses which relate to a career

- **You will:**

- Learn industry relevant skills.
- Learn from academic staff who have industry links.
- Have greater choice in modules.



- **It is a great route if:**

- You are interested in working in the industry or you are confident you will learn valuable skills and knowledge for other careers.

Courses with an Academic focus

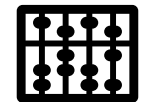
- These degrees give you the opportunity to study a subject that you love while still improving your career prospects through acquiring transferable skills.
- Fewer timetabled hours and more focus on independent work, group work etc.
- **Example Courses:**
 - History
 - Biology
 - Environmental Science
 - Drama
 - Psychology
 - Sociology
 - English Literature
 - Archaeology
 - Sport Science



Courses with an Academic focus

- **You will:**

- Study a subject you love in a stimulating learning environment.
- Learn from experts in their field.
- Have three years to explore and prepare for your career.
- Gain valuable transferrable skills.
- Have the choice of studying a huge range of subjects.



- **It is a great route if you:**

- Wants to keep your career options open or your chosen career does not have a related qualification.
- Keen to explore your subject in greater depth.

Types of Assessment



Types of assessment

It isn't all about exams!



So, what next?





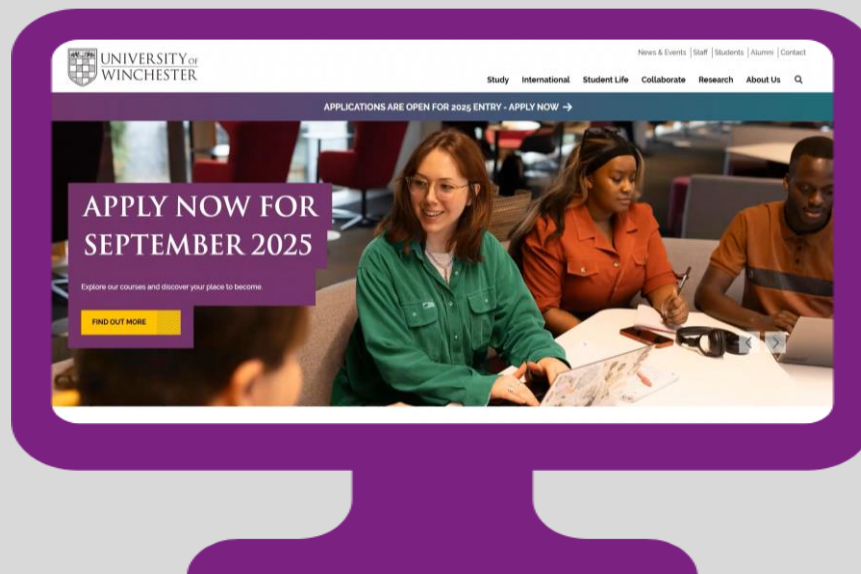
Find out more



Visit us!



Sign up for more!



www.Winchester.ac.uk



@uniwinchester



@_UoW



@winchesteruni



@UniofWinchester

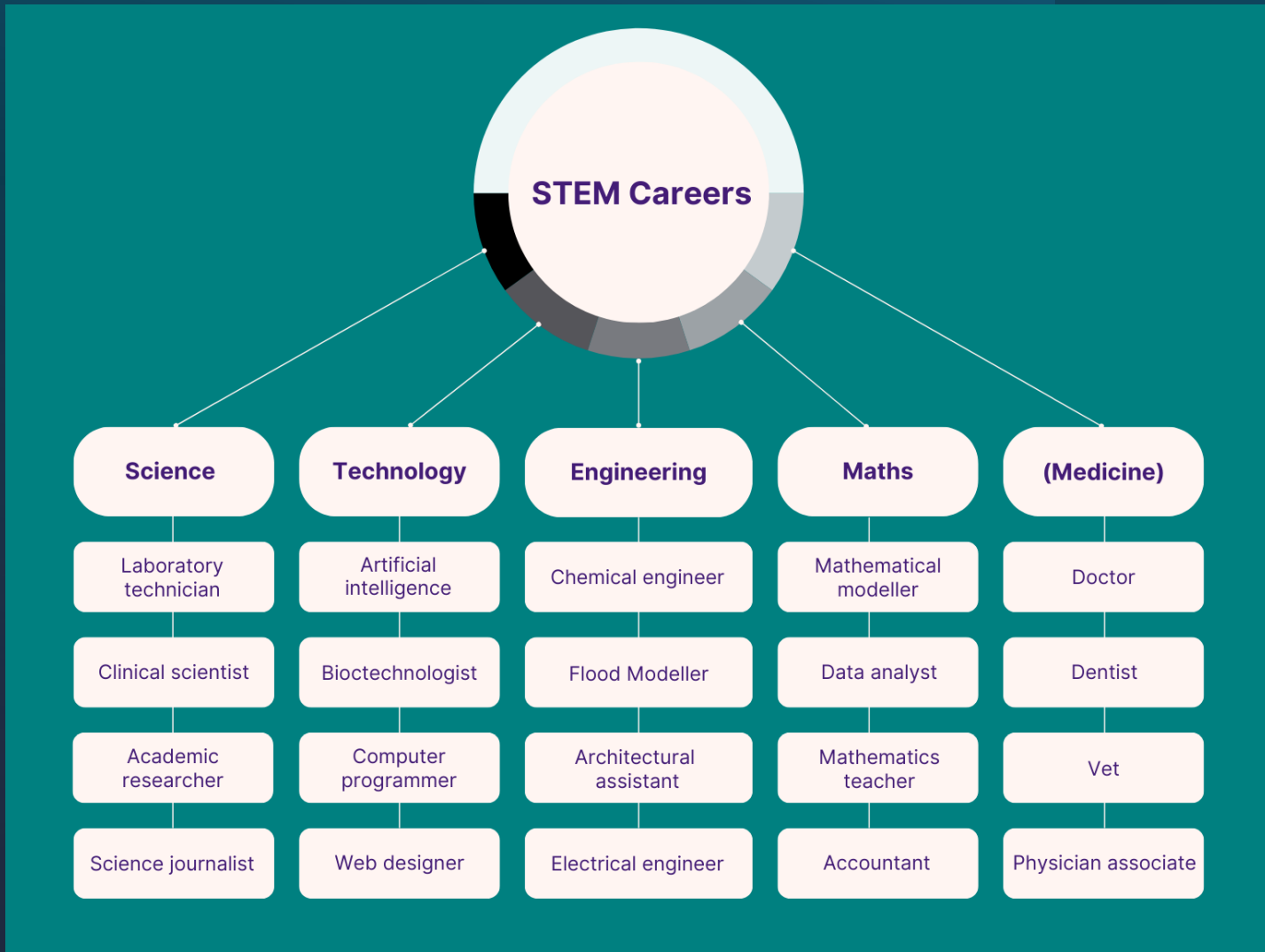
Thank you!

www.Winchester.ac.uk



**Senior Lecturer in Forensic Science
London Metropolitan University**

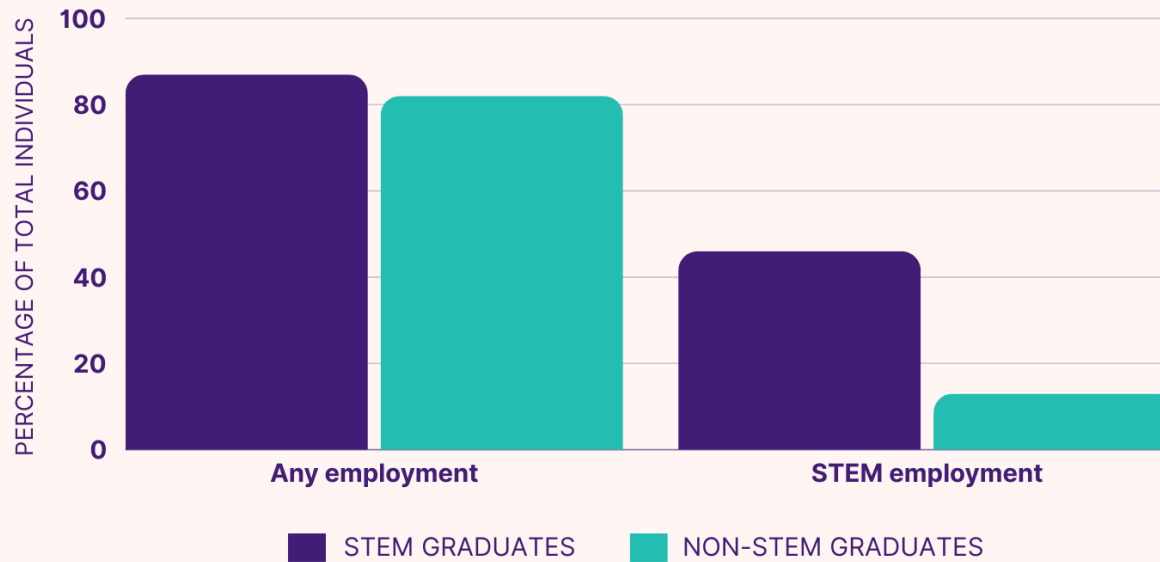
STEM Careers are vast and varied



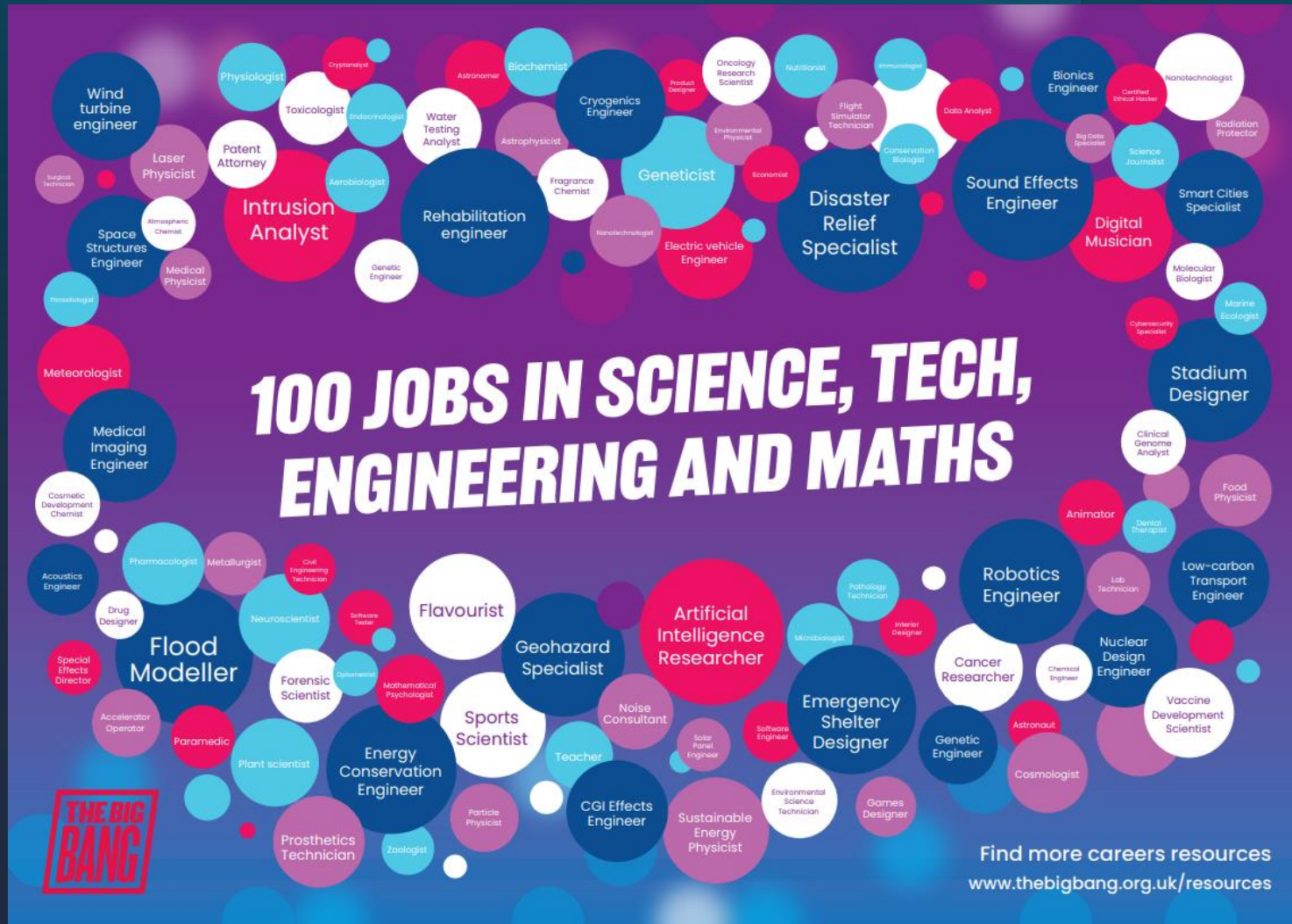
High demand and job security

DESTINATIONS: STEM VS NON-STEM GRADUATES

EMPLOYMENT 5 YEARS AFTER GRADUATION DATA FROM:
NUFFIELD FOUNDATION: THE EMPLOYMENT TRAJECTORIES OF STEM
GRADUATES FINAL REPORT



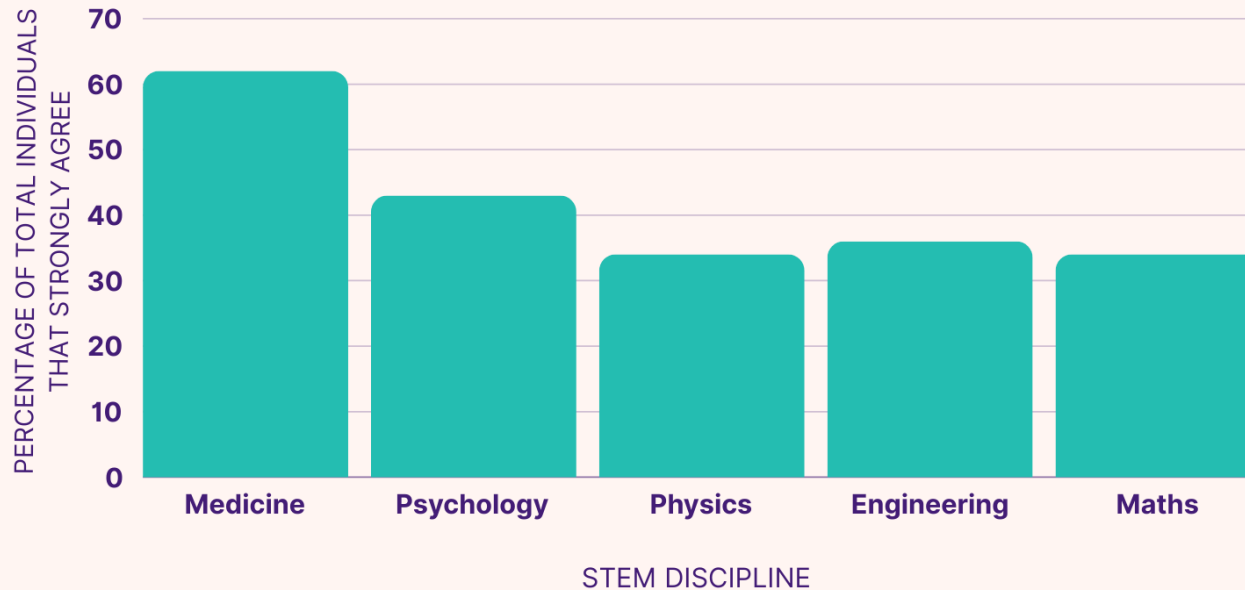
Forefront of innovation and discovery



Contribute to society

IS YOUR STEM CAREER MEANINGFUL?

DATA FROM: PROSPECTS LUMINATE: HOW GRADUATE
SALARIES VARY BY DEGREE SUBJECT



What are STEM skills?



HARD SKILLS



SOFT SKILLS



What qualifications do I need?



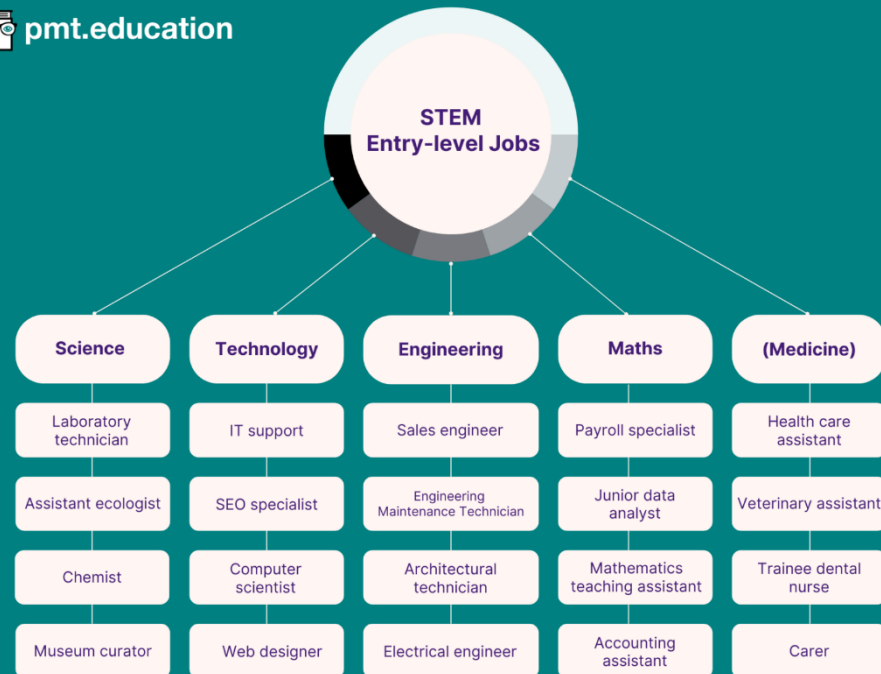
What qualifications do I need?

Through University

- Bachelor's Degree
- Master's Degree
- PhD
- Conversion course into STEM field
- Sponsored degree

Alternative Routes

- Direct from Year 13 for entry-level jobs with A levels / L3 BTECs
- Degree Apprenticeships
- Diploma Course
- Online STEM certification courses
- Coding bootcamps
- School leaver programmes



Diploma level	Vocational equivalent(s)	University equivalent
Level 4	CertHE, HNC	First year of a bachelor's degree
Level 5	DipHE, HND	Second year of a bachelor's degree
Level 6	GDip	Bachelor's degree
Level 7	Level 7 PGDip	Master's degree
Level 8	Level 8 PGDip	PhD

Factors to consider when searching for a degree apprenticeship

- **Duration:** How long is the placement for?
- **Entry requirements:** Do you need any qualifications or prior experience?
- **Integrated or non-integrated:** Will you need to take more time after finishing your degree to complete the EPA?
- **Qualifications:** Which qualification(s) will you get upon completion of the apprenticeship?
- **Apprenticeship standards:** What will be expected of you? What industry regulations will you need to meet by the end of your apprenticeship?
- **Job role:** What will you actually be doing, and will you enjoy it?
- **Timetable:** How will your time be divided between your degree and work? Is your training delivered on day or block release?
- **Accreditation:** Is the placement recognised by the relevant organisations or committees?
- **Reputation:** Has this employer had apprentices before? What do people think of the employer and the placement they offer?
- **Employment:** If the apprenticeship is advertised by a training provider, does the vacancy include a job placement or will you need to find one? If not, will your training provider help you find a suitable job placement?

7 top tips for online STEM courses

1. **Check for compulsory elements:** Look for any mandatory components, such as time limits and required tasks, to ensure you meet all course requirements.
2. **Create a study plan:** Even with the flexibility of online courses, having a rough plan for allocating time can help prevent the course from becoming a lower priority.
3. **Supplement your learning:** Enhance your understanding by researching and reading additional materials on topics that interest you or that you find challenging.
4. **Apply your learning:** After each section, reflect on how the material applies to your job or area of interest, and make a note of this for your CV.
5. **Make your own notes:** Since course content may not be accessible after completion, take detailed notes as you go for future reference.
6. **Engage with the community:** Participate in forums and social media groups provided by the learning platform to connect with other students and discuss the course.
7. **Share your progress:** In addition to adding the course to your CV, consider sharing your progress on LinkedIn to demonstrate your enthusiasm to potential employers.

STEM Sponsored Degree Timetable Example

	TERM 1	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY	TERM 2	EASTER HOLIDAY	TERM 3	SUMMER HOLIDAY
Weekdays	University study	Work for sponsoring company	University study	Work for sponsoring company	University study	Free time
Weekends	Free time	Free time	Free time	Revision/ Coursework	Free time	
	Work for sponsoring company	Revision/ Coursework	Work for sponsoring company		Revision/ Coursework	

STEM Traditional Degree Timetable Example

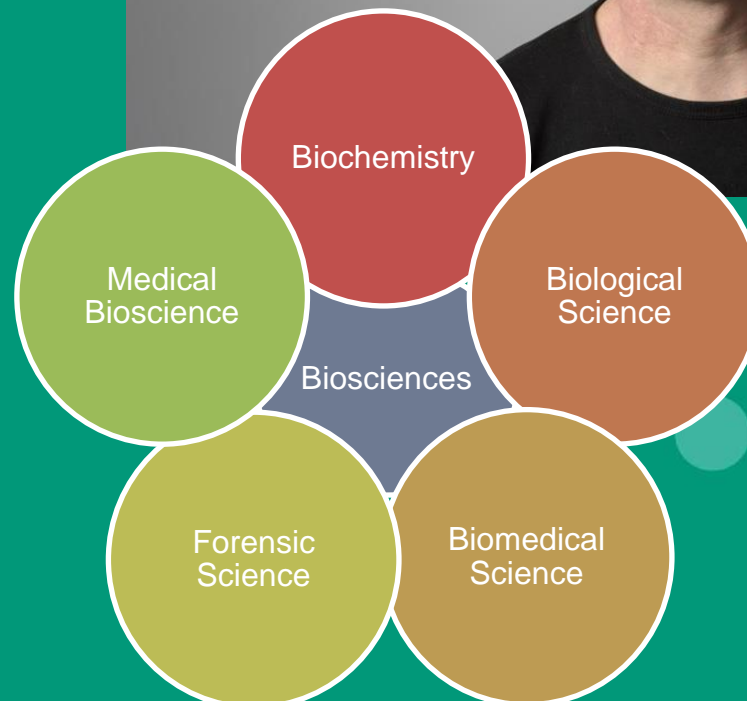
	TERM 1	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY	TERM 2	EASTER HOLIDAY	TERM 3	SUMMER HOLIDAY
Weekdays	University study	Free time	University study	Free time	University study	Free time
Weekends	Free time	Revision/ Coursework	Free time	Revision/ Coursework	Free time	
			Revision/ Coursework		Revision/ Coursework	



Some of Our Senior Staff

Dr Simon Dryden
Head of Biosciences

Ensuring our
Biosciences students
achieve their potential
for 20 years

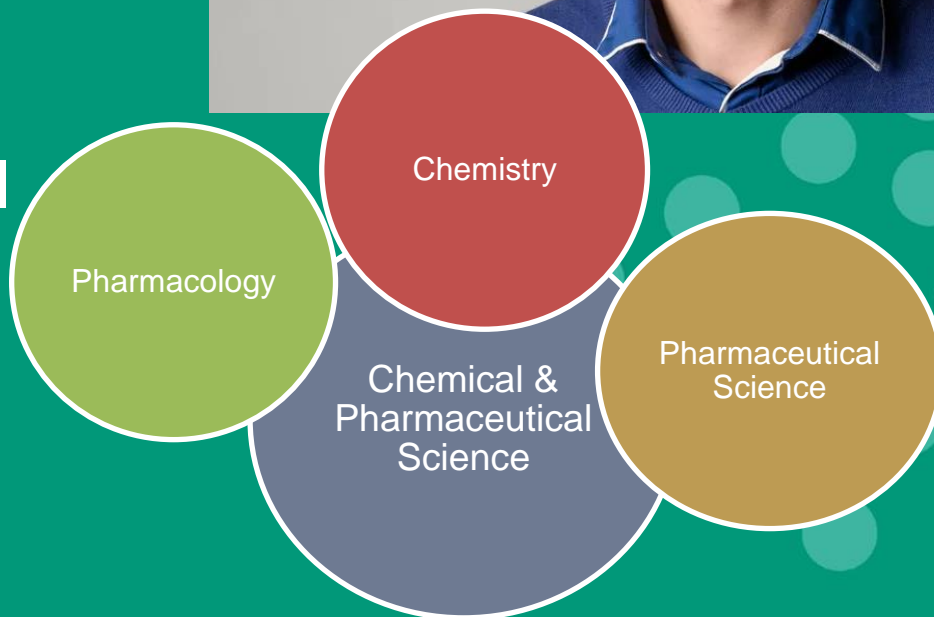


Some of Our Senior Staff

Dan Sykes

Head of Chemical and
Pharmaceutical
Sciences

"ensuring students
gain as much practical
experience as
possible"



Some of Our Senior Staff

Sarah Illingworth
Head of Health
Sciences

Dedicated to our
Dietetics and Nutrition
students for 15 years





LMU Forensic Science BSc

Year 1

BE4061 Introduction to Forensic Science

BC4056 Professional Studies

BC4053 Cell Biology

BC4055 Fundamentals of Molecular Biology

BC4060 Laboratory Skills and Techniques

BC4052 Biochemistry

BC4058 Anatomy and Physiology 1

BC4059 Anatomy and Physiology 2

Year 2

BC5051 Methods in Bioanalytical Analysis

BE5058 Metabolism

BE5059 Microbiology

BE5060 Molecular Biology

BE5072 Marks and Impression Evidence

BE5073 Scene Interpretation

BE5074 Firearms, Ammunition and Ballistics

CY5062 Spectroscopic Methods

Year 3

BE6057 Toxicology

BE6067 Inferences from Biological Remains

BE6068 Forensic Trace Evidence

BE6069 Crime Scene to Court

BC6P01 Research Project (30-credits)

CY6061 Advanced Bioanalytical Science

BC6055 Medical Genetics (optional)

BC6059 Genomics (optional)



LMU Forensic Science BSc



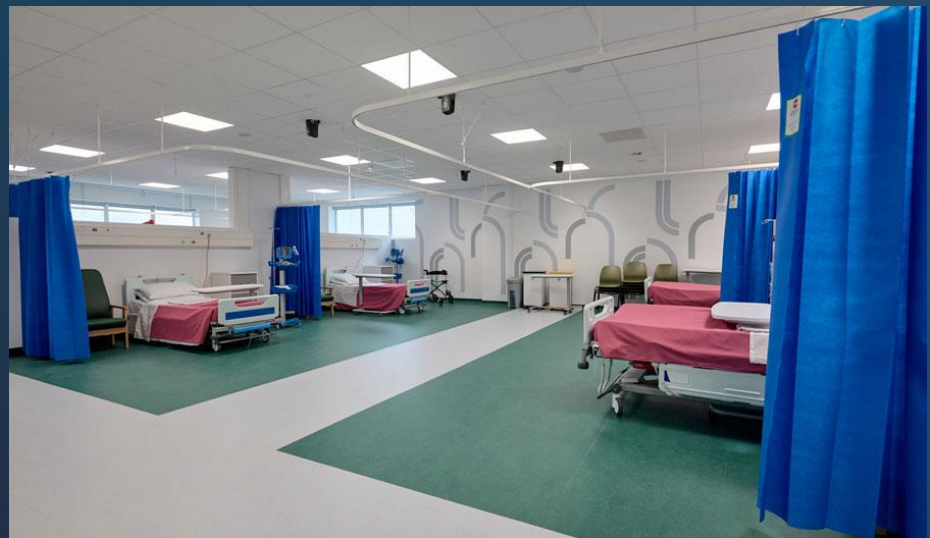


LMU Forensic Science BSc





LMU Wider Facilities



What should I be doing now to help secure my place on a STEM degree course /apprenticeship?



- ✓ Select the STEM field you are most interested in.
- ✓ **Write down your skills** and match them with those in the job descriptions.
- ✓ Write down your **weaknesses** and look for roles with **support and training** opportunities available in the areas you want to improve. Certain companies will offer on-the-job training or mentorship to encourage your professional development.
- ✓ See which job descriptions give you **excitement** for the role.
- ✓ Look at **job satisfaction reports**. Previous and current employees will share their experiences of a company on sites such as GlassDoors. This can help you get a feel for a company before applying.
- ✓ Set a **salary expectation**. It's likely you will be asked for your salary expectation in an interview and having an idea of what you need to earn for your lifestyle will help you to narrow your options.
- ✓ **Select locations**. Determine where you would be willing to relocate to, if at all, and use these parameters to narrow your STEM jobs list.

- ✓ Create and update your LinkedIn profile
- ✓ Get experience – Unifrog, MOOC, WEX
- ✓ Read, listen, watch – news, blogs, TED Talks, New Scientist, Open lectures e.g. Crick Institute
- ✓ Evaluate your experiences, draw links between them
- ✓ Practice interviews
- ✓ Get the best grades possible



Any Questions?



Abi Snasdell, BSc (Hons), MSc, PGCE, MCSFS, MBAFS
Senior Lecturer in Forensic Science
London Metropolitan University