

Parent & Carer
Guide



GO HIGHER
WEST YORKSHIRE



HIGHER
EDUCATION

GO HIGHER WEST YORKSHIRE

Go Higher West Yorkshire (GHWY) is a group of universities, specialist institutions and Further Education (FE) colleges from across West Yorkshire. We work together to provide information and advice about choices young people face and opportunities available to them. Our main aim is to encourage students to enter Higher Education (HE).

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Important Information

Some of the key information in this publication remains subject to change. Please check for the latest information using the websites and other resources referred to before making any decisions.

HE

We know that over the next few years you will see your child faced with many important decisions which will impact on their education and employment opportunities in the future. No matter how old they are, or at what stage of their education, it is important that they see Higher Education as an option for them.

This guide will introduce you to the choices your child will face over the coming years. It will help you understand the journey your child is on, and how you can help them make decisions in an informed way; allowing them to explore and pursue Higher Education (HE), should it be the route they decide to take.

We know that HE can be complex, which is why we've provided a glossary of terms used throughout this guide on page 29.

WHAT IS HIGHER EDUCATION?

WHY SHOULD MY CHILD GO?

Higher Education refers to the qualifications studied after and above the completion of Level 3 courses (A Levels, T Levels and BTEC Extended Diplomas, for example).

There are many Higher Education qualifications: degrees; foundation degrees, degree apprenticeships, and higher national certificates (HNC) and diplomas (HND).

There are over **400 Higher Education providers** in the UK including universities, colleges with Higher Education provision, and specialist institutions such as conservatoires. Altogether they provide over **50,000 courses** and along with the growing number of employers providing higher level or degree apprenticeships. There really is something for everyone!

Over 50,000 higher education courses to choose from in the UK



FINANCIAL AND CAREER BENEFITS

Higher Education students:

- On average earn more money over a lifetime than non-graduates.
- Have access to a wider range of career opportunities and higher salaried jobs or can 'fast track' with certain careers like the army or the police.
- Develop transferable skills for the workplace such as budgeting and organisation.
- Depending on the course, have the opportunity to gain work experience to develop skills suitable for a specific career.

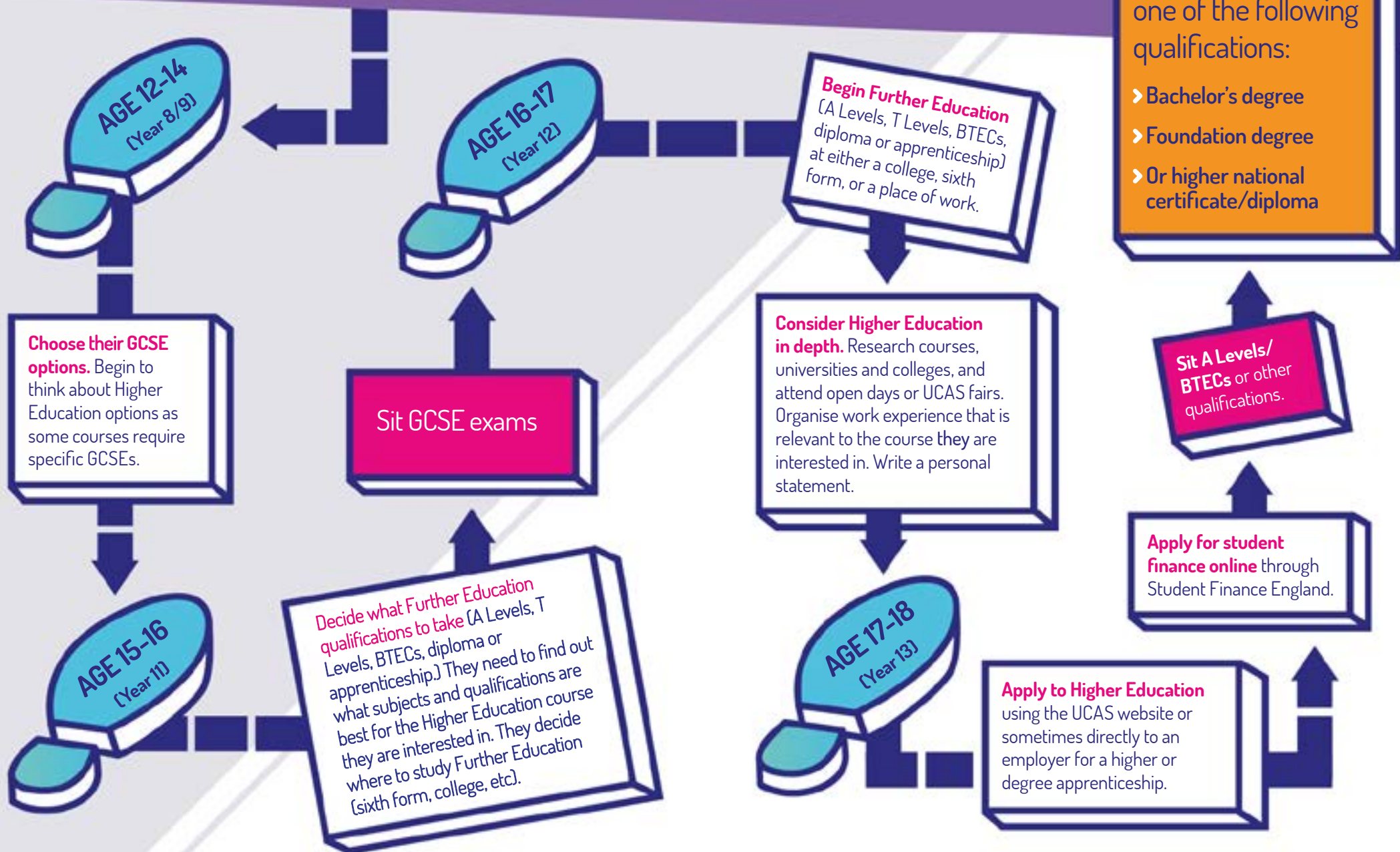
EARNINGS

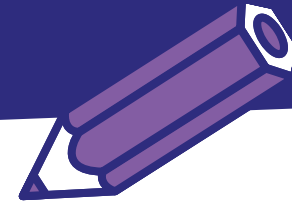
OPPORTUNITIES

SKILLS

EXPERIENCE

THE HIGHER EDUCATION JOURNEY





The decisions that will shape your child's future begin in Years 8/9 when your child is asked to choose the subjects they want to study at GCSE.

GCSEs are extremely important. Nearly every course offered at Higher Education providers across the UK will ask for a minimum achievement level at GCSE.

GCSEs are no longer graded using letters A* - U. Instead, students now receive grades 9 to 1 for each subject, with 9 being the highest and 1 the lowest.

The minimum achievement level required by Higher Education providers varies depending on the university, college, and course. Usually, a minimum of five or six GCSEs at grades between 9 and 4/5 is required. Most often Mathematics and English Language GCSEs are required at grade 4 or 5. Some courses will ask for much higher grades, for example some medical courses ask for five or more 8/9 grades.

CHOOSING GCSE SUBJECTS

Each school is different when it comes to which GCSE subjects must be taken by students and which subjects are optional. Every student has to take a core set of subjects that include Mathematics, English and Science. Typically, optional subjects are chosen from groups such as:

Arts (e.g. Art, Drama, Theatre Studies, Dance), Design and Technology (e.g. Graphic Design, Food Technology, Textiles), Humanities (e.g. History, Geography) and Modern Foreign Languages (e.g. French, German, Spanish).

When making their choices, your child must consider what they might want to do at sixth form or college and even at Higher Education. If there is a specific Higher Education subject they have in mind, it is worth looking at some of the universities/colleges that offer that subject to see if there are specific GCSE requirements. For example, to study French at Higher Education, in most cases the language must have been studied at A Level, and to study French at A Level, in most cases it must have been studied at GCSE.

GCSE CHOICES: THINGS TO CONSIDER

Make sure your child:

- › Picks subjects that they enjoy as they are likely to achieve better grades in these.
- › Discusses their choices with you before committing to them.
- › Speaks to their teachers before picking subjects which they haven't studied before to ensure they know exactly what is involved.
- › Makes a decision that is right for them, not a decision based on what other people think they should do.
- › Does not choose to take a subject just because their friends are taking it or because they like the teacher.

FURTHER EDUCATION

In Year 11 your child makes their next set of big decisions. These decisions determine what they study at Further Education and where they study, e.g. sixth form or college. At post-16 level study there is a wider range of subjects and qualifications on offer to students. Some of the main types of post-16 level qualifications are: A Levels, T Levels, BTECs and apprenticeships.

▶ A Levels

A Levels are academic qualifications that are taught in a similar way to GCSEs with exams taken at the end of two years of study. There is a broad range of subjects on offer and they can be taken in combination with BTEC qualifications.

A Levels are accepted by all universities and colleges, including the most academically competitive institutions.

▶ T Levels

T Levels are technical courses taken after GCSEs that are equivalent to 3 A Levels. Developed in collaboration with employers, these two-year courses ensure content meets industry needs and prepares students for work, further training, or study. T Levels offer a blend of classroom learning and 'on-the-job' experience through an industry placement of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days).

To support progression into Higher Education, T Levels attract UCAS tariff points. While most universities now accept T Levels for a wide range of degrees, requirements vary by institution, so students should check specific course entries before applying.

▶ BTECs and diplomas (such as OCR nationals)

BTECs take a practical or hands-on approach to learning and often involve a lot of coursework but also often include end of year exams. BTECs can be taken by themselves, allowing the student to specialise in one subject usually over two years, or they can be taken alongside A Levels.

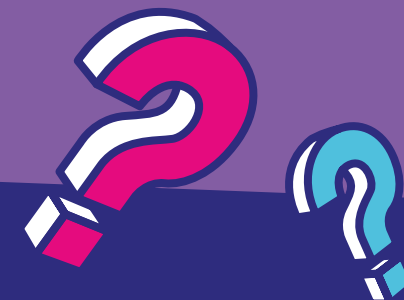
BTECs are accepted by most universities and colleges, however, some of the more competitive universities do not accept BTECs or specify that they must be taken along with A Levels.

▶ Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are designed to develop skills for a specific career by studying and working a paid job at the same time.

Up to 80% of hours are spent at work – for example, 4 out of 5 working days. However, other apprenticeships are organised as placement blocks, with weeks at a time in work or at study.

There are different levels of apprenticeships. Degree or higher level apprenticeships lead to a Higher Education qualification.



POST-16 SUBJECT CHOICES

The subjects and qualifications studied at sixth form or college determine which Higher Education courses your child will be able to study. It is important that your child understands the impact of these choices on their future options. See the table on the next page for guidance on subject and qualification choices.

WHERE SHOULD THEY STUDY FURTHER EDUCATION?

If your child decides to follow an apprenticeship route their employer will decide their place of study. If your child chooses to study A Levels, T Levels or BTECs they also need to choose where to study. There are three main options:

1. Sixth form at a school
2. Further Education college
3. Sixth Form college

Below are some questions to consider when discussing your child's options for studying Further Education:

- ▶ Do they want to stay somewhere familiar or go somewhere new?
- ▶ Do they want to study at a large institution where there are lots of students, or would they prefer a smaller institution with fewer students?
- ▶ Does the school or college offer the subjects or qualifications your child wants or needs to take?
- ▶ Is your child predicted to meet the entry requirements for this institution?
- ▶ How easy is the institution to get to?
- ▶ Will your child be able to afford the transport costs?
- ▶ Does the institution have the facilities that are important to your child (e.g. sporting facilities, art studios)?

SUBJECT CHOICES

Below is a guide to subject choices and considerations. These are suggestions only. Requirements vary for each provider. As such, we strongly advise that you check the UCAS website and speak to individual institutions for exact, and up-to-date, course requirements.

SUBJECT AREA	POST-16 OPTIONS	CONSIDERATIONS
Humanities and Arts	<p>A Levels: choose two humanities or essay-based subjects such as History, English Literature, Geography, Law, Politics, Economics or Classics.</p> <p>T Levels: Accounting, finance, legal.</p> <p>BTECs: Health and Social Care, Business, Travel and Tourism, and Law.</p>	<p>Essay-based subjects typically help access the majority of Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences (e.g. economics, human geography, politics), Business, and Law courses.</p>
Science and Engineering	<p>A Levels: choose at least two science subjects such as Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Psychology, Environmental Science, Maths.</p> <p>T Levels: Design and development for engineering and manufacturing, maintenance, installation and repair for engineering and manufacturing, engineering, manufacturing, processing and control, onsite construction.</p> <p>BTECs: Applied Science, Maths and Statistics, Sport Science, Forensic Science, Construction and the Built Environment.</p>	<p>If planning on pursuing Life/ Human Sciences at HE then focus on Biology and Chemistry A Levels or Biology based BTECs.</p> <p>If pursuing Physical Sciences/ Engineering then focus on Physics and Maths A Levels and similar BTECs.</p> <p>For Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science both Biology and Chemistry A Levels must be taken. BTECs will not be accepted in place of these qualifications.</p>

SUBJECT AREA	POST-16 OPTIONS	CONSIDERATIONS
Creative Arts	<p>A Levels: choose one or two arts based subjects, e.g. Graphic Design; Design Technology; Art; Textiles; Photography.</p> <p>T Levels: Media, broadcast and production.</p> <p>BTECs: Art and Design; Creative Digital Media Production.</p>	<p>If pursuing Music at HE usually it must have been studied at A Level. For Acting and Drama, subject choice matters less because applications will be accepted based on an audition and/or portfolio (pieces of creative work to demonstrate your child's ability).</p>
Performing Arts	<p>A Levels: many performing arts courses require the subject to have been studied at A Level, but not all.</p> <p>BTECs: Performing Arts, Music, Music Technology, Acting, Dance, Musical Theatre.</p>	<p>Many institutions will offer places based on an audition and/or portfolio (pieces of creative work that demonstrate your child's ability).</p>
Languages	<p>A Levels: most foreign language courses require the subject to have been studied at A Level.</p>	<p>There are some courses that do not require previous study of the language – make sure this is checked before application.</p>
New Technologies	<p>A Levels: choose one or more subject like Graphic Design, Art, Computing, IT.</p> <p>BTECs: Interactive Media, Graphic Design, IT, etc.</p>	<p>This is a rapidly growing industry sector and new courses are being created every year to reflect the speed at which new skill sets are desired by employers.</p>
The All-Rounder	<p>A Levels: choose a broad range of subject disciplines to keep future options open, for example Maths, English Literature, Biology, Art.</p>	<p>Choosing a broad range of subjects might prevent an application to a course like Medicine but it will lead to a broad range of HE options being available.</p>

HIGHER EDUCATION: CHOICES

Your child has a huge range of options when choosing a Higher Education provider. In the UK, providers come in all shapes and sizes; the perfect route for one person may not be the perfect route for someone else. It is important that your child considers a range of factors when picking Higher Education routes.

Below are some questions you could discuss with your child to ensure they have thought thoroughly about their choice of Higher Education:

› What type of course does your child want to study? Are they ready and willing to enter work? If so, would a higher level or degree apprenticeship be best?

› Is your child very engaged with a particular subject or subjects and **do they** wish to study in depth? Perhaps a university/college/specialist institution is best?

› Does your child want to live in the middle of a city or would they prefer living on a campus (an area where everything they need is in one place)?

› Does the course offer any additional financial support (scholarships, bursaries, etc.) that they would be eligible for?

CHOOSING QUALIFICATIONS: WHAT'S WHAT?

There are a few different types of Higher Education qualifications, which can be split into three main groups:

› Academic

These qualifications focus on developing deep knowledge of specific subjects. Students studying these qualifications develop skills in independent learning and research, and often have the option of gaining industry experience.

› Vocational

These qualifications allow students to develop a knowledge base so that they can learn important theory. However, they also offer more practical learning opportunities and link to specific careers or jobs.

› Apprenticeships

This route can result in obtaining either an academic or vocational Higher Education qualification. As apprenticeships are jobs, up to 80% of the time will be spent in a work environment rather than in the classroom.

WHICH HE ROUTE?

Level 3	A Levels/T Levels/BTECs		
	ACADEMIC	VOCATIONAL	APPRENTICESHIP
Level 4	Foundation degree Takes a minimum of two years to complete. Combines academic study and workplace learning. Designed with employers. Can often be topped up to a bachelor's degree.	Bachelor's degree Academic study focused on independent study and research. Typically studied full time for three years. Can include an additional study abroad year or placement year (a year working) depending on the course and provider. Bachelor's degrees offered by specialist institutions often focus on a more practical and practice-based approach.	Higher National Certificate (HNC) One year to complete full time, often with the option to study part time. Designed to teach practical skills for a specific career.
Level 5			Higher National Diploma (HND) Similar to HNC but takes two years to complete full time. Part time study often an option.
Level 6			Degree apprenticeship Similar to a Higher Level Apprenticeship but leads to a full undergraduate degree while you work. Takes a minimum of three years to complete. You'll spend most of your time working and you'll also study part-time at university.

THERE ARE **OVER**
50,000
UNDERGRADUATE
COURSES

at over 400 providers in the UK. Narrowing it down to the best course for your **child** can be challenging, so it is important that **they have** all the support and guidance they need to help them make their choice.

Encourage them to reflect on what they enjoy, both academic and extracurricular (activities outside of class). Think about whether these interests could lead to a Higher Education course or a particular career. Below are some key things to consider when helping your child choose a course.

Choosing a course: things to consider

- › Does your child have a particular career in mind?
- › Are they taking the correct subjects and qualifications at school/college to get onto the course?
- › Do they meet the GCSE entry requirements for the course?
- › Do they need to have completed any work experience to apply for the course?
- › Do they learn best through practical work or independent study?
- › Do they want to know more about a particular subject? Is it the whole subject or something specific about it?
- › Do they want to study abroad/complete a placement year as part of their course?
- › Are they aware of the different deadlines and application requirements for each course? e.g. some specialist institutions require a portfolio of work

These courses are for students **aged** 19 years or over (by 31st August in the year the course starts). **They** are an alternative route to help people continue to study in Higher Education but who left school or college without qualifications at **Level 3** such as A Levels. A good place to start research is the Access to Higher Education website – www.accesstohe.ac.uk.

Access courses are taught in a range of ways depending on the provider. Often they allow **students** to combine **their** current commitments, such as work, with returning to study.

Many students on Access courses go on to study at university, or at a university centre in a college.

Funding for Access HE courses is available through Student Finance England. For students who progress and pass their degree, the loan cost of the Access course will often be written off.

For more information, contact the Higher Education provider.




OPEN DAYS

University and college open days are the best way for your child to get a feel for the providers they are interested in. By visiting Higher Education providers, your child can make an informed decision about where to apply and, ultimately, which one to attend. Open days usually take place at the beginning of summer and during autumn; each Higher Education provider advertises their own open days. Many institutions now offer virtual tours and online open days.

It is important that you make the most out of an open day.



The following page should give you some tips on how to do this!



“For me personally open days were very important for choosing the right university and college. I think when you visit an open day, you instantly get a feel for the place and know if it’s for you or not. I’d strongly suggest attending as many as possible before making your decision.”

Laura, a student from West Yorkshire

THINGS TO DO

Attend subject talks

These are very important. Attending subject talks will give your child the best idea of what studying that course will be like. It may help them to decide whether it is definitely the right course for them. Some universities also offer subject focus days for Year 12 students. Courses vary between each institution, so it is important that your child is happy with the course at each Higher Education provider before applying.

Attend other optional talks

Universities and colleges will often put on talks on subjects such as student finance, student life, student support and extracurricular opportunities. These can help your child to get a feel of what studying at that institution would be like.

Visit the facilities

It is a good idea to look at facilities such as laboratories (if your child is studying a scientific course), sporting facilities, and the Students’ Union (an organisation run by students which represents and supports them) to allow your child to see if they can pursue any extracurricular interests they may have.



Plan your day before you go! Open day programmes are usually made available by the institution before the day itself.

View accommodation

If your child is planning to move away from home to study, it is important that they know where they could end up living. Although it is unlikely that they will see the exact accommodation they will end up in, it is useful to know what the institution can offer so that your child can make an informed choice about where they will live. Some key accommodation questions to ask could be:

- Are students guaranteed accommodation in their first year?
- What type of accommodation is available and what does it cost?
- What help and support is available to students after their first year?

HOW TO APPLY

Your child's school or college should help them with the application process, however it is a good idea for you to be aware of key dates and actions to help them stay on track and complete the process.

WHO ARE UCAS?
 UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) is an organisation that manages applications to courses in the UK. Universities only accept applications made online through UCAS. Further Education colleges may accept direct applications. Conservatoires may use UCAS, UCAS Conservatoires or direct applications.

If your child wants to apply for an apprenticeship their application process will be different from the flow chart below. Look out for apprenticeship fairs, employer open days and refer to page 27 of this book for further information.

TIMELINE

ACTION

Throughout **Year 12** and the beginning of **Year 13**:
 Research courses and universities/specialist institutions and Higher Education colleges.

- ▶ Attend UCAS events and university/Higher Education college open days.
- ▶ Decide which five courses to apply for.
- ▶ Start writing a personal statement.
- ▶ Make sure any required work experience is completed.

Year 13: Complete the UCAS application.

- ▶ **Sept:** UCAS applications open.
- ▶ **Oct:** deadline for applications to Oxford and Cambridge plus some specialist institutions, in particular conservatoires. Deadline for applications to courses in Dentistry, Medicine and Veterinary Science.
- ▶ **Jan:** deadline for applicants to be guaranteed consideration onto a course. Students are advised to submit their application before this deadline.

- ▶ Gather together any qualifications achieved (GCSEs) and any that are currently being under-taken (A Levels, BTECs, etc.)
- ▶ Write a personal statement.
- ▶ Ask a teacher to write an academic reference and provide predicted grades.
- ▶ Submit the application form to UCAS.
- ▶ Undertake any extra admission tests/interviews, etc. (not all courses will require this).

Wait for decisions from September of **Year 13** onwards.
 The length of time between application and decision varies greatly between providers. This will also depend on when the UCAS application was submitted.

- ▶ Offers/declines/invitations to interview arrive online on UCAS Track.
- ▶ Encourage your child to attend interviews or subject open days to help them make a decision about where to study.
- ▶ UCAS Extra opens in February for students who have not received any offers/have declined all of their offers. They can apply for another course through this.

Accept or decline offers by **May/June of Year 13**.
 Applicants will be informed by UCAS of the exact deadline.

- ▶ Inform UCAS of which offer is their firm choice (their first choice) and insurance choice (their back up or second choice). This can be done once all offers/declines have been received.

August of Year 13:
 Results day.

- ▶ Firm/insurance offers will either be met or not. If the applicant is not accepted by their firm or insurance choice, they can use Clearing to apply for other courses where places are still available.

September/October **after finishing Year 13**.

Start their chosen course!



RELAX...

Universities and colleges work hard to ensure that all students are supported in a variety of ways throughout their studies.

If you are a parent or carer of a child that requires additional support, this is available from universities and colleges. Providers are keen to help young people with disabilities, learning difficulties, mental health conditions, long-term health conditions, young people who have been through the care system, and young people who have caring responsibilities themselves.

Circumstances and conditions can be disclosed on your child's UCAS form and the university or college should get in touch to arrange an appropriate support plan. If you or your child have concerns, you or your child can contact the universities and colleges before applying to discuss what support they will be able to provide.

(See pages 26 and 27 of this booklet for contact information.)

SUPPORT IS HERE!

Personal tutors

An academic member of staff who offers advice and support.

Counselling services

Fully trained counsellors may be available by appointment or on a drop-in basis. They offer advice on any personal issues.

Specialist advisors

These advisors will provide assistance with issues like funding, finance, studying abroad, accommodation, etc.

Students' Union (SU) and the library

The SU and library may offer support on things such as study skills and time management, as well as help with managing money, for students dealing with the demands of Higher Education.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

Some examples of what is available.

Disabled Students' Allowance

As a Higher Education student living in England, your child can apply for a Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) if they have a disability, including a long-term health condition, mental health condition, or specific learning difficulty, e.g. dyslexia. The support they will receive depends on their individual need and not on household income. This allowance does not have to be repaid and is paid to the student on top of the standard student loan. The allowance can help with the cost of specialist equipment, for example: a computer, if they need one because of their disability; non-medical helpers; extra travel because of their disability; and other disability-related costs of studying.

Adult Dependants' Grant

If your child is a full-time student in Higher Education and an adult depends on them financially, they can apply for an Adult Dependants' Grant. This does not have to be paid back and is paid to the student on top of the standard student loan.

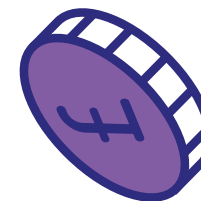
Up-to-date information on the amount available can be found at www.gov.uk/adult-dependants-grant

Further information can be found at: www.gov.uk/student-finance

Many universities/colleges also offer means-tested bursaries and scholarships which your child may be eligible for.

Information about these will be available on each institution's website.





What is available?

The following financial support may be available. All figures correct as of November 2022.

For further information go to: www.gov.uk/student-finance

Tuition fee loan

This covers the cost of the course fees. Your child can get the full fees covered. **Fees for year of entry 25/26 are currently up to £9,535 per year, and for the year of entry 26/27 will be £9720, although some universities and colleges charge less.** The fees are paid directly from the government to the university or college.

Maintenance loan

This covers living costs (rent, food, bills, etc.). The amount your child receives depends on where your child will be studying and on your household income. The maintenance loan is paid from the government to your child in three annual instalments, at the start of each term. You need to re-apply for it each academic year.



“Don't pick the most expensive accommodation if you can't afford it. Try and get a part-time job whilst you're at university”

Gene, a student currently studying in West Yorkshire

Other financial support

Scholarships and bursaries are often provided by the university or college. Your child may have to apply for them and may need to meet certain criteria to be eligible. Each university or college usually has their own deadline for applications. These tend to be very competitive.

UCAS has [launched a tool](#) to help students find relevant bursaries and scholarships.

Disabled Students' Allowance; Childcare Grants; Parents' Learning Allowance; Adult Dependents' Grant; NHS bursaries; social work bursaries; and travel grants.

Employment

Many students take on a part-time job while studying. This could be working for the university/college or working for a local business - there are lots of options!

Apprentices are employed and receive a salary. They spend 80% of their time in the workplace and 20% of their time studying (typically at a college, university, or alternative training provider).

HOW DOES MY CHILD ACCESS TUITION AND MAINTENANCE LOANS?

Your child will need to apply online through Student Finance England for both. Apply for these as early as possible. Your child does not need to have made a firm decision on what course they are taking as they can change this information at a later date.

How does repayment work?

Your child will only begin repaying the loan(s) when they earn over the repayment threshold which for new borrowers starting courses in **2026** will be £25,000.

Once your child has graduated and is earning over the threshold (£25,000) they would begin to make payments, before tax, on earnings over the threshold towards their student loan.

Example: new borrowers starting courses in 2026 would pay £22.50 per month once they are earning £28,000.

For up to date information visit www.gov.uk/student-finance.

Student loans are unlike other loans. They do not appear in your credit history.

The amount you repay is entirely dependent on income, not on the size of the loan.

For new borrowers from 2026, loans are written off after 40 years

Scholarships, bursaries and grants do not need to be paid back!

GO HIGHER WEST YORKSHIRE PROVIDERS

University of Leeds
www.leeds.ac.uk

Leeds Arts University
www.leeds-art.ac.uk

Leeds Beckett University
www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Leeds College of Building
www.lcb.ac.uk

Leeds City College
www.leeds-city-college.ac.uk

Leeds Conservatoire
www.leedsconservatoire.ac.uk

Leeds Trinity University
www.leedstrinity.ac.uk

University of Bradford
www.bradford.ac.uk

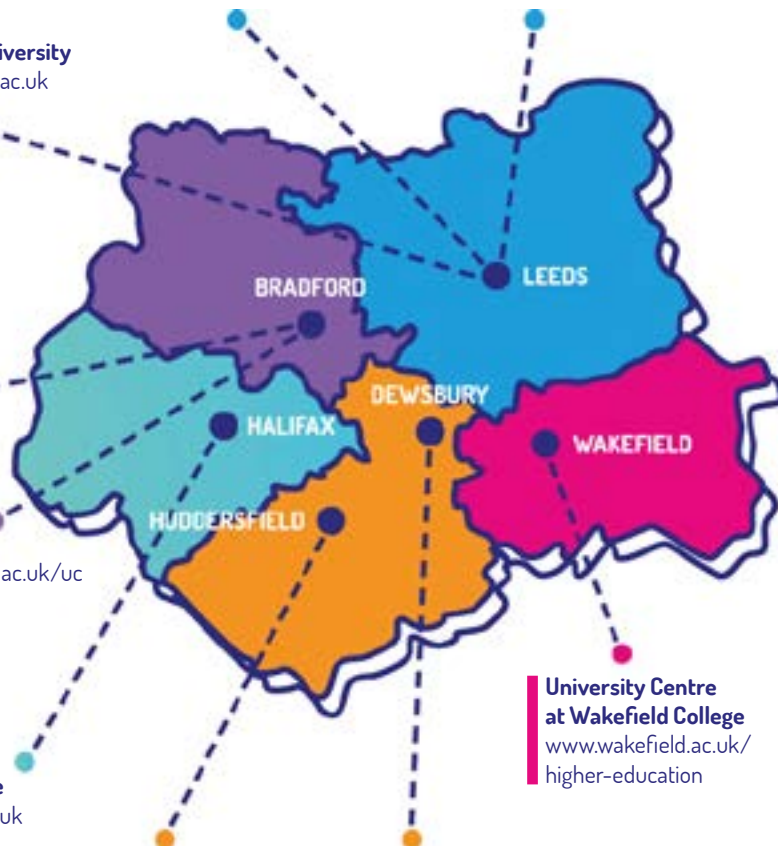
University Centre Bradford College
www.bradfordcollege.ac.uk/uc

University Centre Calderdale College
www.calderdale.ac.uk

University of Huddersfield
www.hud.ac.uk

Kirklees College
www.kirkleescollege.ac.uk

University Centre at Wakefield College
www.wakefield.ac.uk/higher-education



EXTRA HELP

Apprenticeships

Information from the government about apprenticeships and traineeships.

www.apprenticeships.org.uk

Informed Choices

Advice from the Russell Group about choosing GCSE and A Level subjects.

www.russellgroup.ac.uk and search for 'informed choices'.

National Careers Service

Impartial advice about choosing qualifications and progression routes.

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk

Not Going to University

Options for students who are considering options outside of university.

www.notgoingtouni.co.uk

Student finance

Information provided by the government.

www.gov.uk/student-finance

"Vising the university with my daughter, doing the campus tour to include looking at the accommodation, and spending time talking to the subject academics and student ambassadors is so important as it's impossible to make the right choice without experiencing it for yourself and gathering that information."

Jane from Pontefract

UCAS

Lists all the Higher Education courses available across the UK.

www.ucas.com

UCAS Progress

Progress is UCAS' information, advice and admissions service for people making decisions about what and where to study after their GCSEs, whether they are considering Higher Education or not.

www.ucas.com/ucas/after-gcse

Unistats

The official website for comparing UK Higher Education course data.

www.unistats.ac.uk



DID YOU KNOW?

In many industries and countries, the most in-demand occupations or specialties did not exist ten or even five years ago, and the pace of change is set to accelerate. By one popular estimate, 65% of children entering primary school today will ultimately end up working in completely new job types that don't yet exist.¹

1. Two thirds of graduate jobs are available to anyone who achieved well in their degree, regardless of the degree subject.
2. There is more than one way into a career, for example you do not need to have done a Law degree to become a lawyer.
3. Make sure that the choice your child makes is their choice. They are more likely to achieve in a subject which they enjoy.



- **A Levels** page 10
- **Academic** page 14
- **Academic reference** - A letter which a teacher writes to support an application. It highlights a student's character, their strengths - both academic and extracurricular, and academic and career goals.
- **Apprenticeship** page 10
- **Bachelor's degree** page 15
- **BTECs** page 10
- **Bursaries** - Money awarded to students for financial support. Each Higher Education provider has different bursary schemes which can be found on their websites. Bursaries do not need to be repaid.
- **Clearing** - Clearing matches applicants to courses which are yet to be filled. It's available to anyone who has made a UCAS undergraduate application and doesn't hold any offers, or has not been able to secure their first or second conditional choices.
- **Conservatoire** - A specialist institution that offers performance-based training in the performing arts, including music, dance and drama.
- **Foundation degree** page 15
- **FE (Further Education)** page 10
- **HE (Higher Education)** page 4
- **HNC (Higher National Certificate)** page 15
- **HND (Higher National Diploma)** page 15
- **Open Days** pages 18 and 19
- **Personal Statement** - A student's written description of achievements - academic and extracurricular, as well as interests. It is included as part of an application for a place at university or college.
- **Portfolio** page 13
- **Post-16 levels** pages 12 and 13
- **Russell Group** - Represents 24 leading UK universities which are committed to maintaining the very best research, an outstanding teaching and learning experience and unrivalled links with business and the public sector.
- **Scholarships** - A payment to support a student's education, awarded on the basis of academic or other achievement. Each university and college has different scholarship schemes, which you can find on their websites. Scholarships do not need to be repaid.
- **Students' Union** - A student-led organisation in a university or college which organises leisure activities, provides welfare services, and represents students' political interests.
- **T Levels** page 10
- **UCAS** page 20
- **Vocational** page 14

¹ McLeod, Scott and Karl Fisch, "Shift Happens".



[www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/resources/
student-learners/parents-and-carers](http://www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/resources/student-learners/parents-and-carers)



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