

Parents Information Evening

June 2018

HEE  
HEE

**Apprenticeships /  
Student Finance**

## University

Most QE students will successfully apply for university. A degree opens up a wealth of opportunities and options for students. Universities are responding to concerns around graduate employment by introducing an increased focus on employability and most are now offering the opportunity to undertake a year in industry or work placement as part of the degree. Students apply for university through UCAS and the college supports the application process right from the initial research, through to accepting a final place.

We appreciate and understand that there are a number of big decisions to be made around universities, courses and finance, and hopefully the information you received this evening and in this booklet will make some of these decisions a little easier.

## UCAS : Key Dates



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|------------------|---|
| May              | Courses available via UCAS search tool  |
| May              | UCAS Apply Opens for registration – Students will be taken through the registration process in Progress Tutor Groups  |
| 5th September    | Completed Applications can be sent. Students supported by tutors and careers advisers with applications including personal statements. Regular workshops and drop-ins to support process.   |
| 23rd September   | Internal deadline for Oxford and Cambridge, and Medicine/Dentistry/Veterinary Medicine  |
| 15th October     | UCAS deadline for applications to Oxford and Cambridge, and Medicine/Dentistry/Veterinary Medicine  |
| 23rd November    | Internal College Deadline for UCAS applications – Please allow two weeks for applications to be processed by the college  |
| 15th January     | UCAS deadline for most undergraduate courses. Applications can still be submitted after this date, but universities are under no obligation to give it equal consideration. Students can track their offers in UCAS Track where they can also make decisions regarding their offers. Students are advised to wait until they have heard from all of their universities before making their final choices. |
| 25th February    | UCAS Extra Opens. If students are not holding any offers then they can add one choice at a time in Track.   |
| February - March | Student Finance open for applications   |
| May - June       | Student makes Firm and Insurance decisions depending on when they receive replies   |
| 5th July         | Clearing vacancies shown in UCAS search tool  |
| 15th August      | A Level results day. If student does not meet conditional offer then they will drop into Insurance choice. If student misses grades for Insurance choice then they are eligible for Clearing  |

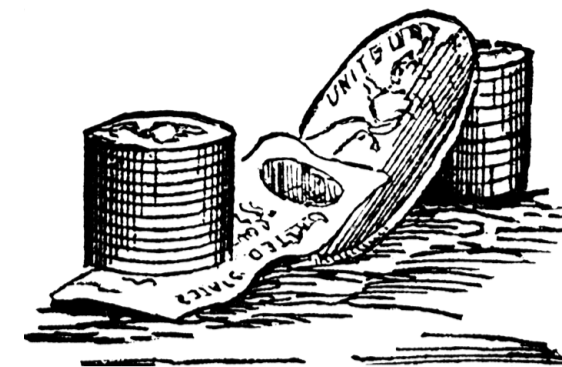
## Support for QE Students Applying to University

- Progression tutorials started in January 2018 to encourage early research into progression options
- Every first year offered the chance to visit the HE Convention in April at Teesside University
- HE/Careers Sessions in June offered to all first years. The purpose of the talks range from university academics giving information on what it is like to study a subject at university, industry professionals giving an insight into their working life and their career path, employability sessions aimed at developing the skills to help get that perfect job, and talks on how to successfully look for and apply to higher and degree apprenticeships.
- Every first year student given 'After QE' workbook to complete in June tutorials. Booklet details all progression options and resources, including skills map and personal statement exercise.
- As soon as students return from the summer break, tutorial sessions are focussed on progression. For those students applying to university, they will work with their tutor on personal statements and are encouraged to attend drop-in sessions offered by careers staff. Careers team also available for appointments if one-to-one guidance is needed.

## Student Finance

### Tuition Fees

- Tuition fees are typically £9,250 per year
- Fees are not paid upfront – students can apply for a tuition fee loan to cover all or part of their fees
- Not paid back until graduate is earning £25,000 p/a. Repayments made through PAYE so no risk of missing payments



### Living Costs

- Students can also apply for a maintenance loan to help towards living expenses such as accommodation, food and course materials.
- The amount students are entitled to depends on a number of factors including where they will be living, place of study, and parental income.

### Scholarships and Bursaries

- Most universities offer scholarships and bursaries based on academic achievement, financial hardship or other reasons such as disabilities. It is always worth checking with individual institutions for more information on what they offer.

### Resources

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|-------------------------------|--|
| UCAS                          | <a href="http://www.ucas.com">www.ucas.com</a>   |
| UCAS Parents' Guide           | <a href="https://www.ucas.com/file/101806/download?token=2DHk4PXV">https://www.ucas.com/file/101806/download?token=2DHk4PXV</a>                                  |
| Which University              | <a href="http://university.which.co.uk">university.which.co.uk</a>   |
| Unistats                      | <a href="https://unistats.ac.uk/">https://unistats.ac.uk/</a>  |
| Prospects                     | <a href="http://www.prospects.ac.uk">www.prospects.ac.uk</a>   |
| The Complete University Guide | <a href="http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk">www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk</a>   |
| Student Finance               | <a href="http://www.gov.uk/student-finance">www.gov.uk/student-finance</a>   |
| Money Saving Expert           | <a href="http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/student-loans-tuition-fees-changes">www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/student-loans-tuition-fees-changes</a> |

## Apprenticeships / School Leaver Programmes

A legitimate alternative to university but the higher/degree apprenticeships and school leaver programmes are incredibly competitive. The top companies are often seeing hundreds of applicants for each post. For students interested in this option they need to focus on developing employability skills through work experience and volunteering opportunities.

### Support for QE Students seeking Employment/Apprenticeship

- Every first year student offered opportunity to take part in work experience (25th June – 6th July) supported by Work Experience Coordinator.
- Careers Team identify every student who is looking for an apprenticeship and provide individual support as necessary.
- Careers team offer help with finding vacancies, filling in applications, mock interviews
- Vacancies are often advertised in-college via email, bulletin and moodle but it is essential that students also search independently for vacancies.
- Mock Interview Workshop (March) – Employers come in to the college to support a mock interview session. Students choose a vacancy a week in advance and prepare for interview. For many students this is their first time experiencing this kind of environment and employers offer constructive feedback.
- Employer visits and workshops offered throughout the year

## Things to Consider

- Legitimate alternative to university but vacancies are limited and very competitive – usually need some relevant work experience as well as good A Level grades
- Location and salary – are you willing to move or commute? Salary is usually minimum wage
- Progression – does it offer good progression routes? Further qualifications?
- Length – training can often be as long as six years for degree apprenticeships

## Resources

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|--------------------------|---|
| Get in Go Far            | <a href="http://www.getingofar.gov.uk/">http://www.getingofar.gov.uk/</a>                       |
| All About School Leavers | <a href="https://www.allaboutschoolleavers.co.uk/">https://www.allaboutschoolleavers.co.uk/</a> |
| Target Careers           | <a href="https://targetcareers.co.uk/">https://targetcareers.co.uk/</a>                         |
| Not Going to Uni         | <a href="https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/">https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/</a>                 |

## Gap Year

Some students opt for a gap year before going off to university. Many apply whilst at the college and defer their entry for a year but if a student decides to make a post-results application then the college will support this as well. Careers staff are still available for information and advice and help with personal statements.

There are a number of motivations for taking a gap year including travelling, volunteering or working for a year to save some money. Some students may also use the time to gain relevant work experience and demonstrate sustained commitment for applying to courses such as Medicine, Veterinary Science and Dentistry.

If your son/daughter is considering a gap year then we would encourage them to plan the year appropriately in order to ensure that the time is spent wisely. Every February we hold an Employment and Gap Year Fair so that students can collect information from gap year organisations such as Frontier, Project Trust, Camp America, and Culture Care Au Pair. The careers team are available for individual interviews if a student wishes to discuss gap year options.

## Resources

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| <a href="http://www.gap-year.com">www.gap-year.com</a>                |
| <a href="https://www.frontier.ac.uk/">https://www.frontier.ac.uk/</a> |

## How parents can help

- Support your son/daughter as they explore their options – research different options for universities and apprenticeships
- Ensure that your son/daughter is being sensible and strategic with their applications – do they meet the entry requirements for their chosen course? Is there a mixture of aspirational, solid and safe choices?
- Be aware of internal and external deadlines for applications
- Understand student finance – remember that it is different from other types of loan so the better you understand what you are entitled to, the easier it is to budget effectively
- Be prepared for results day and all of the possible outcomes – Familiarise yourself with how Extra and Clearing work

A large, stylized graphic of the letters 'Q' and 'E' in a black, serif font. The 'Q' is on the left and the 'E' is on the right, with the 'Q' partially overlapping the 'E'. The letters are bold and have a classic, slightly decorative appearance.