

Careers at QE:

At QE, we operate a whole college approach to successful progression. This includes support and advice from tutors, Progress Tutors and the Careers Team. Our designated Careers Lead in college is Meirion Baker, Assistant Principal, mbaker@geliz.ac.uk, telephone 01325 461315. One to one advice is also available through individual careers interviews with our professionally qualified Careers Adviser, Liz Bryan. Throughout your two years at QE, you will have the opportunity to take part in, and have access to, a wide range of opportunities.

We will offer you:-

- Information, advice and guidance on your Post 18 options.
- Individual career guidance interviews to help you to decide what to do after college – appointments can be made via reception or directly with Liz Bryan, ebryan@geliz.ac.uk who is based in Room L1 in the library
- A careers education programme which will cover all Post 18 options delivered via your tutorial programme
- A range of events and opportunities including university visits, visits to employers and speakers into college.

If you are a student who is applying for **Higher Education**, you will receive the following help and support:

- Guidance on choosing a degree course and university
- The opportunity to attend a Higher Education Careers Convention
- Help with writing a UCAS personal statement
- Mock interview practice
- Information on university taster days, summer schools, and talks in college from university admission tutors and ambassadors
- Visits to universities
- Information and support when applying for Student Finance

How can I find out about University?

For ideas on which degree course is right for you, have a go at doing the quiz on:

<https://www.ukcoursefinder.com/>

To find out which courses and what grades universities want, do a UCAS course search:

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/choosing-course/choosing-undergraduate-course>

In your tutorial programme you have access to Unifrog which is a valuable research tool, allowing you to create a shortlist of universities and courses based on your projected A Level grades

The UCAS website has everything you need to know about applying to university, including how to write your personal statement. Information on student finance is also provided:

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/student-life/getting-student-support/undergraduate-student-finance-and-support>

For help to find the right university and what it might be like to live and study there, check out the What Uni website <https://www.whatuni.com/>

It is also very important that you visit the universities you are considering and dates of open days including taster days are available at <https://www.unitasterdays.com/>

How do I find out about studying abroad?

You may be keen to find out about options for studying abroad – you can choose to do this as part of your degree course at a UK university, or study full time in another country. Have a look at

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/study-abroad>

<https://www.astarfuture.co.uk/>

What jobs can I do with my degree?

To see what jobs you can do from your degree, check out the Prospects website

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree>.

The Prospects website provides useful information on jobs and work experience. You can also do a careers quiz, which matches your skills and interests to jobs that may suit you. It is also a useful resource for labour market information.

For students considering **employment**, you will be given help with the following:-

- Identifying suitable job sectors
- Information on how to find vacancies
- Guidance on how to make a successful application for higher/degree apprenticeships and National School Leaver Schemes
- How to write a CV and letter of application
- Mock interview practice
- Up to date labour market information and how to make the most of it

How can I find out about apprenticeships/getting into the world of work and labour market information?

If you are considering an apprenticeship, it is really important that you start your job search early and prepare well. Progress Tutors and Careers Advisers are available to help you with this. However, to get you started and to build up a picture of what is available the following sites are helpful:-

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch> - you can register on this site for job alerts and search for a range of apprenticeships.

National School leaver schemes with major employers can be found at:-

<https://www.allaboutschoolleavers.co.uk/>.

It is important that you check out the college bulletin which posts regular updates on vacancies, also on the Student Area of Moodle.

Having a good CV means you can target employers yourself, particularly if you have identified an employer you would like to work for. Target Careers has some useful advice on this <https://targetcareers.co.uk/careers-advice/applications-and-interviews/198-how-to-write-a-cracking-school-leaver-cv>.

We also have sample CVs and templates on the Student Area of Moodle.

It is important to understand what jobs sectors exist and are common, both locally and nationally, so that you can gain a picture of sectors which are likely to be “growth areas”. For local information, the Tees Valley provides regular, up to date information on companies that are likely to expand: <https://teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/business/key-sectors/>.

For national information: <https://successatschool.org/blog/560/The-Best-Websites-to-Find-Labour-Market-Information>.

All students are able to enhance their **employability skills** and prepare for the world of work through:-

- Work experience/workplace visits
- Employability skills workshops
- Work experience schemes
- Speakers in college including support from QE alumni
- An annual Employment & Gap Year Fair
- Mock interview workshops with employers

How can I find out about taking a Gap Year?

If you are set on taking a gap year, then you need to have a clear idea of what you are going to do to ensure that you make the most of it, whether that is to travel, work abroad or volunteer. Whatever it is that you decide to do, take a thorough look at all the options. The following websites will help you to do this:-

<https://yearoutgroup.org/>

<https://www.planmygapyear.co.uk/>

In college we have a careers section in the Learning Resource Centre where you can find information about universities, HE Prospectuses, Information on Study/Work Abroad, How to pass Skills Tests including those for medicine, information on how to be successful at interview and much more.

All resources are regularly updated and provided on the Student Areas of Moodle.