

QE

Getting Started  
in Career Planning

with QE

# GETTING STARTED IN CAREER PLANNING



QE Y12 Parents' evening and Higher Education fair 2019

*Making decisions about your future can be challenging but there are many useful and reliable resources that can help you.*

*We have summarised just some of those resources to help you to begin planning your next steps.*

# GETTING STARTED IN CAREER PLANNING

## How can I find out about University?

UCAS

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/>

## Can I study abroad?

You may be keen to find out about options for studying abroad. You can study abroad as part of a degree that you have commenced in the UK and this can be one of the most affordable routes for students. Look for study abroad options on university websites.



# GETTING STARTED IN CAREER PLANNING

Students can also take part in an Erasmus+ European exchange programme through university.

*If you are interested in studying full time in another country then have a look at the following websites:*

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

<https://www.eunicas.ie/>

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

The Fulbright Commission runs a US-UK summer school in partnership with the Sutton Trust which is an excellent programme for high achieving students: <http://www.fulbright.org.uk/going-to-the-usa/undergraduate/sutton-trust-us-programme>

## 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

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## 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. The college runs an annual Gap Year and Employment fair to help students to explore options.



### Why take a gap year?

- Taking a gap year can help you to develop your skills and confidence, better preparing you for taking your next step; travelling can help you to become more independent and organised, working can improve your communication skills.
- Gain work experience essential for your application to university- ideal for students applying to Primary Education or a Health based degree course such as Nursing.
- Explore your interests- experiment with different careers and experience to help you to make an informed decision about what you would like to do next. Here at QE we can support you to make your university application after your gap year.
- Save money for University through employment.

#### USEFUL WEBSITES:

*Target Careers: How to plan a gap year*  
*EDT Year in Industry*

## What is Labour Market Information?

LMI can be any information relating to jobs and the world of work including salaries, entry requirements and graduate destinations.

This can include projections about growth industries both nationally and locally.

Labour Market Information can also tell us what skills are desirable, and the national and global labour market trends. For example, according to the UKCES Working Futures 2014-2024 report “the rate of technology progress within certain sectors is forecast to increase, driving innovation and increased demand”, in particular an increased need for employees with strong IT skills.

# GETTING STARTED IN CAREER PLANNING

Additionally, the aging population and longer lifespans in the UK is increasing demand in Health Careers, leading to excellent career opportunities with employers like the NHS, which is the 5th largest employer in the world.

## For national information:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket>

<http://www.lmiforall.org.uk/>

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>

## Careers in the Tees Valley

The Tees Valley Combined Authority report on the key sectors for employment in the Tees Valley. You can find out more on their website:

<https://teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/business/key-sectors/>

## Key Sectors in the Tees Valley 2019

**Energy & Renewable**

**Logistics Offshore**

**Manufacturing & Engineering**

**Advanced Digital**

**Chemicals & Process**

**Life Sciences**

**Business Services**



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## Looking for Apprenticeships?

If you are considering an apprenticeship, it is really important that you start your job search early and prepare well. Progress Tutors and Careers Advisors are available to help you with this.



## What are apprenticeships?

Apprenticeships are jobs where you will be trained in your sector/specialism, benefiting from on-the-job experience alongside a qualification. Anyone can apply to apprenticeships; there are no age restrictions. This is a popular choice and can be very competitive.

Apprenticeships are available in a wide range of job sectors and levels, from Level 2 all the way up to and including degree and level 7 qualifications. Not all roles are available across all levels so it's important to research standards/frameworks. You can research routes using website like Amazing Apprenticeships

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/>

However, to find and apply for vacancies you will need to create an account on the following Government website:

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch>



Earn a wage



Real job with a  
real employer



Contract of employment  
including holiday pay



Study towards a  
job related qualification



Work for at least  
30 hours per week

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QE Freshers Fair