



# PROGRESSION INFORMATION

FOR PARENTS / CARERS

JUNE 2021

QUEEN ELIZABETH SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

## University

Most QE students will successfully apply for university. A degree opens up a wealth of opportunities and options for students including the financial reward which many graduates gain as a result of going to university. 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, especially in the current circumstances. However, we hope that explaining the process and how we support students will be of benefit.

### The University Process

Students will make a single application through UCAS (University College Admissions Service) and can apply for up to five institutions. We advise throughout the application process and some students will have already registered onto UCAS and started their application. Please see the UCAS timeline below.

### UCAS : Key Dates



18th May	Students can register on UCAS and start their application - courses available via UCAS search tool
7th Sept onwards	Completed Applications can be paid for and submitted to UCAS. Students supported by Progress Tutors and Careers Advisers with applications including personal statements. Regular workshops and drop-ins to support the process
1st October	Application deadline for UCAS Conservatoires music applications. Applications for dance, drama and musical theatre may have a different deadline - students need to check conservatoires' websites for information
15th October	Deadline for applications to Oxford and Cambridge, and Medicine/Dentistry/Veterinary Medicine
29th November	<b>Internal College Deadline</b> – Students need to allow two weeks for their application to be processed by the college as quality checks are carried out
26th January	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 - July	Student makes Firm and Insurance decisions
5th July	Clearing opens for eligible applicants, and vacancies are displayed in UCAS' search tool
To be confirmed	A level results day

## QE Students Applying to University

- Students have followed a programme of progression tutorials throughout the year. These have been with support from Progress Tutors and Careers Advisers to encourage early research into progression options.
- Week beginning 8th June we are holding a virtual careers fortnight – students will have access to a range of virtual presentations, both general and subject specific.
- Since April students have had access to virtual resources provided by universities and employers through the college bulletin and the QE Careers homepage – these include virtual open days, subject specific talks, information on how to choose a university/course, work experience and employment – please encourage your son/daughter to take advantage of these.
- Students have had access to specialist careers advice throughout the year initially virtually and now face to face.
- Students have had access to work experience opportunities through liaison with Sarah Griffiths, Work Experience Co-ordinator.
- Students receive on-going support with their applications through their Progress Tutors and Careers Advisers
- Early applicants: those applying for Oxbridge will be supported by Simon Nicholson, the Oxbridge Co-ordinator [snicholson@qeliz.ac.uk](mailto:snicholson@qeliz.ac.uk) and Rachael Duff, Careers Adviser [rduff2@qeliz.ac.uk](mailto:rduff2@qeliz.ac.uk) and the Medics, Vets and Dentists by Liz Bryan, Careers Adviser [ebryan@qeliz.ac.uk](mailto:ebryan@qeliz.ac.uk)
- All students signed up to Unifrog in their second term at college. Unifrog is a universal tool for progression options where students can look for university courses and apprenticeships as well as accessing a vast library of careers information.



## Choosing a course and university

With so

many courses and institutions to choose from, making a decision about what and where to study can be a long process, requiring careful research. We always say to students that the best university is the one which best suits their needs, taking into account different factors including entry requirements, the course on offer, facilities, distance from home, accommodation, graduate employment prospects etc.



Students are advised to use Unifrog to generate a list of universities based on their predicted grades which allows for them to have a spread of courses; aspirational, safe and solid. It is fine to use league tables, but we advise not to over rely on them. Normally students would be able to visit their intended universities, and hopefully this may be possible later in the year. For now, we advise using the virtual resources which every university is providing including virtual open days.

interests.

Students can also use Unifrog to watch on-demand webinars relating to their

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For students with a particular career in mind, such as medicine, law, journalism for example, finding a suitable course is fairly straightforward. However, if your son/daughter is torn between different possibilities, asking themselves the following questions might be a good starting point:-

- Which subjects do I enjoy studying?
- Are there any subjects I'm particularly good at?
- Are the subjects I'm interested in ones I've studied before?
- What do I see myself doing after university? Would my choice of degree affect this?

Many graduate jobs require candidates to be educated to degree level without specifying a particular discipline, so finding a subject you enjoy that develops transferable skills means you are more likely to obtain a higher classification of degree while having fun achieving it.

## Resources

UCAS

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

UCAS Parents' Guide:

[www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/ucas-undergraduate-advice-parents-and-guardians](http://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/ucas-undergraduate-advice-parents-and-guardians)

Which University

[www.theuniguide.co.uk](http://www.theuniguide.co.uk)

Discover Uni

[www.discoveruni.gov.uk/what-would-you-do/](http://www.discoveruni.gov.uk/what-would-you-do/)

Prospects

[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk) – information on applying for university, graduate destinations, work experience and graduate jobs

The Complete University Guide

[www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk](http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk)



# Apprenticeships/ School Leaver Programmes

The Higher/Degree apprenticeships and School Leaver Programmes are incredibly competitive but are a legitimate alternative to university. Top companies often see hundreds of applications 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/Apprenticeships



The college has a designated Work Experience Co-ordinator, Sarah Griffiths [sgriffiths@qeliz.ac.uk](mailto:sgriffiths@qeliz.ac.uk) who supports students to find placements and an Employability Co-ordinator Nicola Naisbett [nnaisbett@qeliz.ac.uk](mailto:nnaisbett@qeliz.ac.uk) who arranges Employability days and skills workshops

- Every first year student is encouraged to take part in work experience – normally students would go out during the first week in July, which owing to the current situation has not been possible. However there have been many virtual work experience opportunities which have been advertised to students and posted on the work experience page of the Careers website. From Monday 8th to 18th June, during our Careers fortnight, students will have access to a range of virtual presentations around higher education, apprenticeships and employability.
- Some students will have taken advantage of work experience opportunities which is beneficial for developing employability skills and an awareness of a specific job sector. Work experience is essential for some higher education applications.

Students seeking apprenticeships are encouraged to create an account on [www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship) and look for vacancies

- Opportunities are flagged up to students through the college bulletin, the apprenticeship google classroom and their Progress Tutors
- The Careers team work with students seeking apprenticeships for individual support and guidance
- The Careers team offer help with finding work experience, vacancies, filling in applications and mock interviews
- Apprenticeship application workshops are available with support from the ASK Apprenticeship project
- Employer visits and interview workshops are offered throughout the year (this year virtually).

## 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? The Apprentice minimum wage is lower than the National Minimum wage (although companies often exceed this)
- Progression – does it offer good progression routes? Further qualifications etc.?
- Length – training can often be as long as six years for degree apprenticeships
- Have a plan B – students may not be successful in their application first time around, so it is essential to have a back- up plan
- Persistence and proper research and planning is key to being successful

## Resources

Amazing Apprenticeships: <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/parents-resources/>

All About School Leavers: <https://www.allaboutschoolleavers.co.uk/parents/apprenticeships>

UCAS apprenticeship search: <https://careerfinder.ucas.com/jobs/apprenticeship/>

Not Going to Uni: <https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/>

Get My First Job: <https://www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk/>

## 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, gaining work experience or working for a year to save some money.

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. Careers advisers offer advice in making plans for a year out.

## Resources

<https://frontier.ac.uk/>

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

<https://projecttrust.org.uk/>



# Student Finance

Please see the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGoaNrPadPY>  
provided by Teesside University for detailed information on 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

Student Finance [www.gov.uk/student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance)

Money Saving Expert [www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/student-loans-tuition-fees-changes](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/student-loans-tuition-fees-changes)

If you would like further information about any of the above, please don't hesitate to contact the College's Careers Advisers:

Rachael Duff [rduff2@qeliz.ac.uk](mailto:rduff2@qeliz.ac.uk)

and Liz Bryan [ebryan@qeliz.ac.uk](mailto:ebryan@qeliz.ac.uk)

and they will be happy to speak to you and answer any queries you may have.

A large, bold, black serif logo consisting of the letters 'Q' and 'E' intertwined. The 'Q' is on the left and the 'E' is on the right, with the bottom of the 'Q' curving under the 'E'.

QE