

Life after Edgbarrow 6th form – focusing on university



Adviza-Christine Turner - 2021

What are the Options after Sixth Form?

University

Local college

Employment

Apprenticeship

Gap Year

Volunteering

Self employment

Study or work
abroad

Focus on - University

There is a very wide range of universities offering a very wide range of courses!

There are over **50,000 undergraduate courses** at more than **395 providers in the UK** (UCAS)

How can you choose the **right university** and the **right course** for you??



Find out about different universities

Universities have unique personalities: Some are older, more **traditional**, and offer highly **academic** studies. Some are newer, **more modern**, and offer more **vocational** or technical options. Some are **creative** and want to recruit students who can demonstrate their talent in art, music or theatre.

Think about: size, distance from home, surroundings, prestige, student satisfaction, academic strengths, links with employers, study facilities, teaching staff, extra curricular opportunities.

You need to find one that feels right for you – **different universities suit different students.** **Action for you – visit or register for open days this Summer see www.opendays.com**

Tips for choosing what to study

1. What careers are degrees useful for?

Ask yourself “If I studied this subject at university what could I do next?”
Prospects website has a list of 100+ popular degree subjects with information about what careers graduates go into, the skills gained through this study and the employers you could work for.

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

2. What is available at university?

There are helpful subject overviews on the UCAS website which include typical graduate destinations, possible courses at university and tips for your personal statement <https://wwwucas.com/ucas/subject-guide-list>

3. Which degree subjects ask for your A-Levels?

Match your A-Levels to degree subjects by creating a degree cloud
<https://sacu-student.com/>

Tips for finding University Courses

1. Start with www.ucas.com to find courses and universities.
 - Use map view to see **where courses are located**
 - create a **list of your favourite courses**
2. Then, once you have a favourite list of courses, **read more about these on the university websites**. Questions such as: modules each year, employer partners, student career destinations.
3. **Use websites that present statistics** about universities – student satisfaction and employability numbers. Such as <https://university.which.co.uk/> or <https://unistats.ac.uk/>

Alternative Study Options

1. Study a Level 4/5 course at university, or at a local college.

- Local examples include: Foundation Degree in Childhood Studies, HNC/D Computing, HNC/D Engineering, Level 4 Art and Design, HNC/D Business, AAT Level 4 Accounting, Foundation Degree Counselling.
- Sometimes apply direct to college and sometimes through UCAS – check with college.
- Can often ‘top up’ to degree by spending a year or two at university later.

2. Study a foundation course - useful if you do not yet have the subjects or grades for your dream course.

3. You can study part time or distance learning – search on UCAS, look at Open University. Spread the costs – but a much longer commitment (often 6 years)

Paying for full time study

For Higher Education

- If you are to study at university level (level 4 or above) you can apply to Student Finance England for a loan.
- This is usually done through an online application by the end of May in Year 13 and you do not need a confirmed course place to apply.
- The loan will cover study fees (up to £9250 a year) and sometimes maintenance if you are eligible.

For further education

- Education to Level 3 (A-Levels or equivalent) is funded to age 19, or school Year 14.
- After this it is possible to apply for an Advanced Learner Loan to start a new course at FE level.

In both cases: Repayments are made once you meet the salary threshold and not before (currently about £26,000). You then pay 9% of your salary above this threshold.

Focus on Employment – apprenticeships, work or training

Why choose to go straight to employment?

- You want to **gain experience**
- You are a **hands on learner**
- You feel **ready for the workplace**
- Full time **university is very costly**

Many employers now offer apprenticeship schemes for school leavers. Allowing you to combine work and study – perhaps to university level.

Getting a job without study - What might be good employment for you?

- **Offers experience** in an industry of interest
- **Lets you try something out** – if you are still unsure
- Provides **training opportunities** and promotion paths
- Allows you to **develop and demonstrate your skills** – to show employers/universities what you can do
- Allows you to **try something different** and meet new people
- Provides **useful funds** to put towards travel/university or other plans
- Part of your self development and **building your CV**

Where can I find employment opportunities?

- **Research employers that work in your industry** some large employers have sought after apprenticeship or school leaver training programmes that are advertised widely with details on their careers webpages.
- **Check regularly for vacancies** – helpful to find smaller employers, who may be more local, with one-off apprenticeships. Use industry specific vacancy sources. Also general job websites.
- **Contact employers directly** - Do your research and talk to your contacts – employers may be willing to chat to you about entry positions (perhaps with training).
- **Use social media** – Linked In or Twitter, learn who is who in your industry.
- **Visit recruitment or industry events** – check professional body websites and also websites such as <https://www.thejobfairs.co.uk/>, <https://targetjobs.co.uk/events>,

There is no one place to look – you need to investigate fully!

What do employers want?

- **Attitude** - self-confidence, maturity and resilience, a willingness to fit in and co-operate, business etiquette and professionalism, intellectual curiosity, reflective approach to work and experiences, management of self and career. (University of Warwick)
- **Skills** - transferable skills help you: do things independently, know how to find things out, think creatively, sort out problems, organise and manage your own work, get on with other people and make a good contribution in a team, show leadership. (UCAS).
- **Experience** –develops the right attitudes and skills. (Institute of Student Employers). Can be gained through: apprenticeships, paid work, work experience placements, sandwich courses.

Working with employers is key to your career success, whichever path you choose to go down.

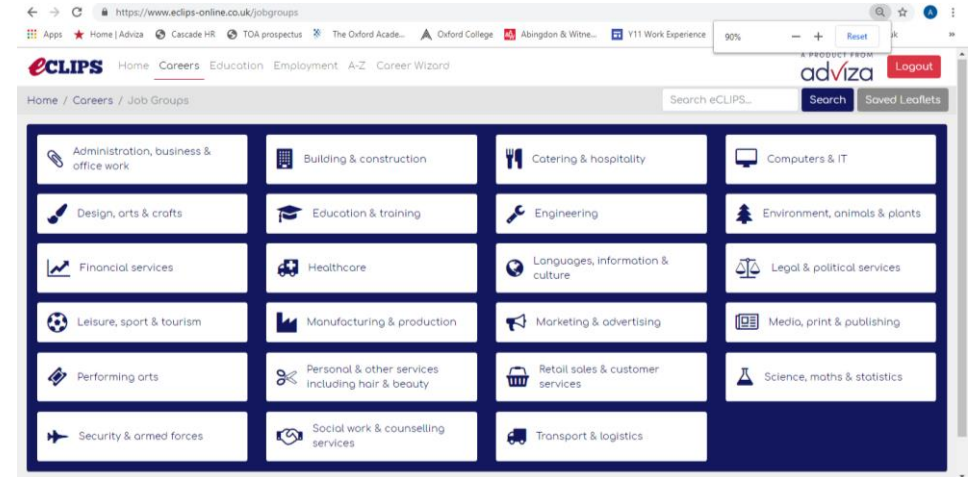


Tips for researching your industry

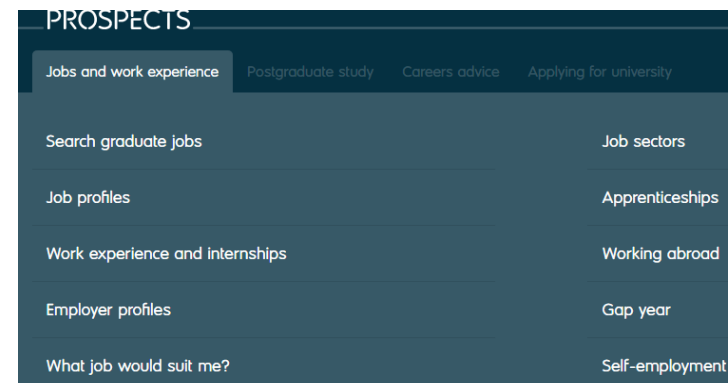
Questions to ask

- Who are the **main employers in your sector**?
- Who does this work **within your local area**?
- Which **vacancy sources** do employers use for the jobs you want?
- Who are the **professional membership bodies** for these employers?
- Which **social media platforms** are most useful? (e.g. Linked In, Twitter)
- **Talk to everyone** about careers and opportunities – parents, friends, teachers, employers, sports teams, careers advisers ...

Use the useful websites: eclips and Prospects ...



www.eclips-online.co.uk LOGIN: moasko64



www.prospects.ac.uk



Gap Years – the whys ...

- To **develop skills** – communication, organisation, initiative
- To **gain knowledge** – about people, places, organisations, projects
- For the **experience** – maturing, perhaps life changing, new people and cultures
- **Make a contribution** - to an ethical project, volunteer, teamwork
- **Meet new people** – make new friends and contacts, networking
- **For a break** - from studying, refreshed for your degree, preparing yourself
- **Increase your employability** – all this aids personal development, of interest to employers and universities



Make a plan for your gap year!

- **Have a goal!** - your planned activities should contribute to your future plans.
- **University** – will you apply and defer? Or will you apply next year (know your dates). Include your plans in your personal statement
- **Timescales** – will you travel, for when and how long?
- **Budget** – will you work and save, earn whilst travelling, apply for a grant
- **Practicalities of travelling** - compare providers, plan all the costs (flights, living costs, insurance, equipment), get insured, health – e.g. immunisations, arrange a work visa, record your trip - blogs, photographs, staying in contact - phone, skype, email.

Summary - Questions to ask when you are comparing your options

- What GCSEs, A-Levels or vocational subjects will you need?
- What is the likely career progression?
- Will you gain work experience and employment knowledge/skills?
- Is this path recognised and valued by employers?
- What is the competition for places?
- What is the application process?
- What qualifications can you achieve – at what level?
- What are the financial costs and gains?
- What will life be like?
- How long will you be committed to complete?

Thank you for listening and good luck 😊