

# Life after Edgbarrow 6<sup>th</sup> form – focusing on university



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# 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](http://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://www.ucas.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](http://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.

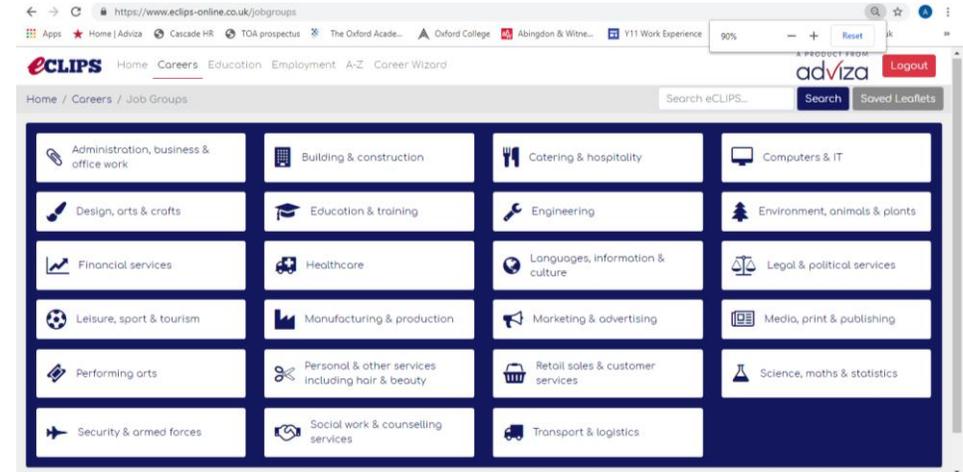


# Tips for researching your industry

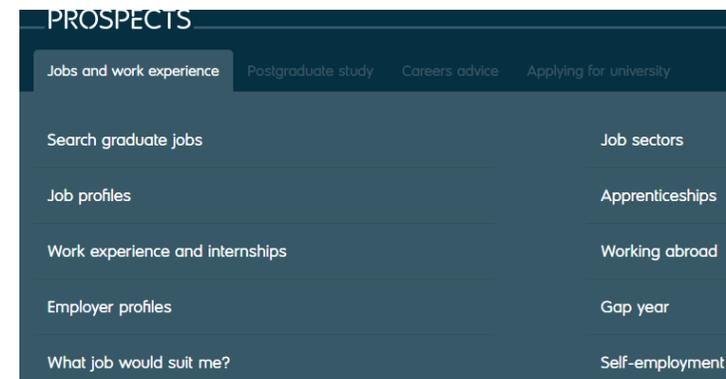
## Questions to ask

- 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](https://www.eclips-online.co.uk) LOGIN: moasko64



[www.prospects.ac.uk](https://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 😊**