

NEXT STEPS AFTER A-LEVELS: 18+

Finishing school and preparing to make your own decisions is very exciting, yet with limitless possibilities and a variety of career choices available it can be confusing deciding which path to follow. That's why we are here to help, and have provided you with steps that you can further research to understand the process and weigh your options.

UNIVERSITY

Universities offer a range of courses to suit different interests and ambitions. Thinking about how you might use your degree in the future might help you decide on the right course, as well as a suitable location and university for you.

UCAS supports you through your journey of choosing a course at foundation, undergraduate and postgraduate levels and how to apply to study in the UK: www.ucas.com

Speak to the university about internship or work placement opportunities within your course. You can find out more about the **Erasmus** programme here: www.erasmusprogramme.com

Find out what financial support you are eligible for through **Student Finance**.
England: www.gov.uk/student-finance OR Wales: www.studentfinancewales.co.uk

Blackbullion also provide digital personal finance courses and university funding through their platform to develop confidence and empower better financial decision making: www.blackbullion.com

APPRENTICESHIPS

Apprenticeships provide opportunity to study for qualifications while gaining paid working experience and new skills for ages 16 years or over. After completing an apprenticeship you can continue with another qualification or develop within your role.

Take a look at the websites for further guidance and information.

National Apprenticeships Service: www.gov.uk/topic/further-education-skills/apprenticeships

Apprenticeships Wales: gov.wales/apprenticeships-skills-and-training

EMPLOYMENT

In the UK, you must stay in education or training until you are 18, after that you can be in full time employment.

First you can explore the type of jobs available, their requirements and responsibilities at:

UCAS:

www.ucas.com/ucas/after-gcse/find-career-ideas/explore-jobs

Prospects: www.prospects.ac.uk

Youth Employment UK:

www.youthemployment.org.uk/careers-hub/

Then you can explore job posts at:

Indeed:

www.indeed.co.uk/School-Leaver-jobs

Totaljobs:

www.totaljobs.com/jobs/school-leaver

You can also search google for roles specific to your interests or go directly on the company's career site.

START YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Starting a business can be challenging and there are many elements you need to consider, but there is plenty of support to encourage you to start small and gauge if this is the path for you.

Find out more information on how to get started on **Gov.uk**

www.gov.uk/browse/business/setting-up

Princes Trust work with 18 – 30 year olds to support you in starting a business through workshops that help you business planning, budgeting and networking.

www.princes-trust.org.uk

Find out if you qualify for the **Department for Work and Pensions** 'New Enterprise Allowance Scheme' that is designed to help unemployed people become self-employed, over the age of 18.

www.gov.uk/government/collections/new-enterprise-allowance-campaign

GAP YEAR

Gap years offer you the opportunity to enhance your CV, travel, learn a new skill and more, while giving you a chance to reflect and focus on your next steps!

UCAS helps you explore your options with ideas and things to think about for your gap year.

www.ucas.com/alternatives/gap-year/gap-years-ideas-and-things-to-think-about

Prospects and **Go Overseas** provide you with programmes abroad that you may wish to consider.

www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/working-abroad

www.gooverseas.com

VOLUNTEER

You may wish to do some volunteering in your spare time, it will allow you to connect with your community, explore an industry you would like to enter or boost your confidence and experience within the industry you wish to progress in!

You can explore volunteering opportunities through your university's volunteer team.

You can also sign up to be a **Do It** volunteer and access a wide variety of volunteering opportunities across the UK

<https://do-it.org/>

FURTHER SUPPORT

If you would like further support, you can talk to **National Careers Service** who offer information, advice and guidance with your decisions on careers, courses and work.

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/about-us

Student Ladder also support students aged 16 – 24 years through career development, with advice on apprenticeships, universities, jobs and more, to help you decide on your next steps!

www.studentladder.co.uk

