

# HOP



## humber outreach programme

ONLINE RESOURCE: For Parents

# ROUTES INTO HE

## QUALIFICATION LEVELS EXPLAINED

Anyone aged 18 and over can study for a Higher Education Qualification. There are different routes available to suit the needs of each person. This guide will help you navigate the choices and understand what Higher Education Levels mean.



**READ**

This icon shows where to find information and background about the subject.



**DO**

This icon will show an activity to take part in, this could be a practical or written activity.



**LINK**

This icon will show useful websites which link to our partners, local services or further study information about the subject.

# WHAT IS HIGHER EDUCATION?



Higher Education (HE) refers to any qualification at level 4 or above and can be studied at a university, college (Higher Education Institution, HEI) or in the workplace.

Education can provide a range of qualifications and subjects and studying a Higher Education qualification can bring a range of life long benefits.



**Use the table below to see how to progress through the levels**

Education levels go from Entry level to Level 8, a higher education level is anything above level 4



## USEFUL WEBSITES

[ucas.com](https://www.ucas.com) – University related information

[opendays.com](https://www.opendays.com) – A list of all university open days

[unitasterdays.com](https://www.unitasterdays.com) – A list of taster days available at UK universities

[thestudentroom.co.uk](https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk) – university guides, articles and question forums

[slc.co.uk](https://www.slc.co.uk) – Student loans company website for financial question

# ALTERNATIVE ROUTES TO CAREERS

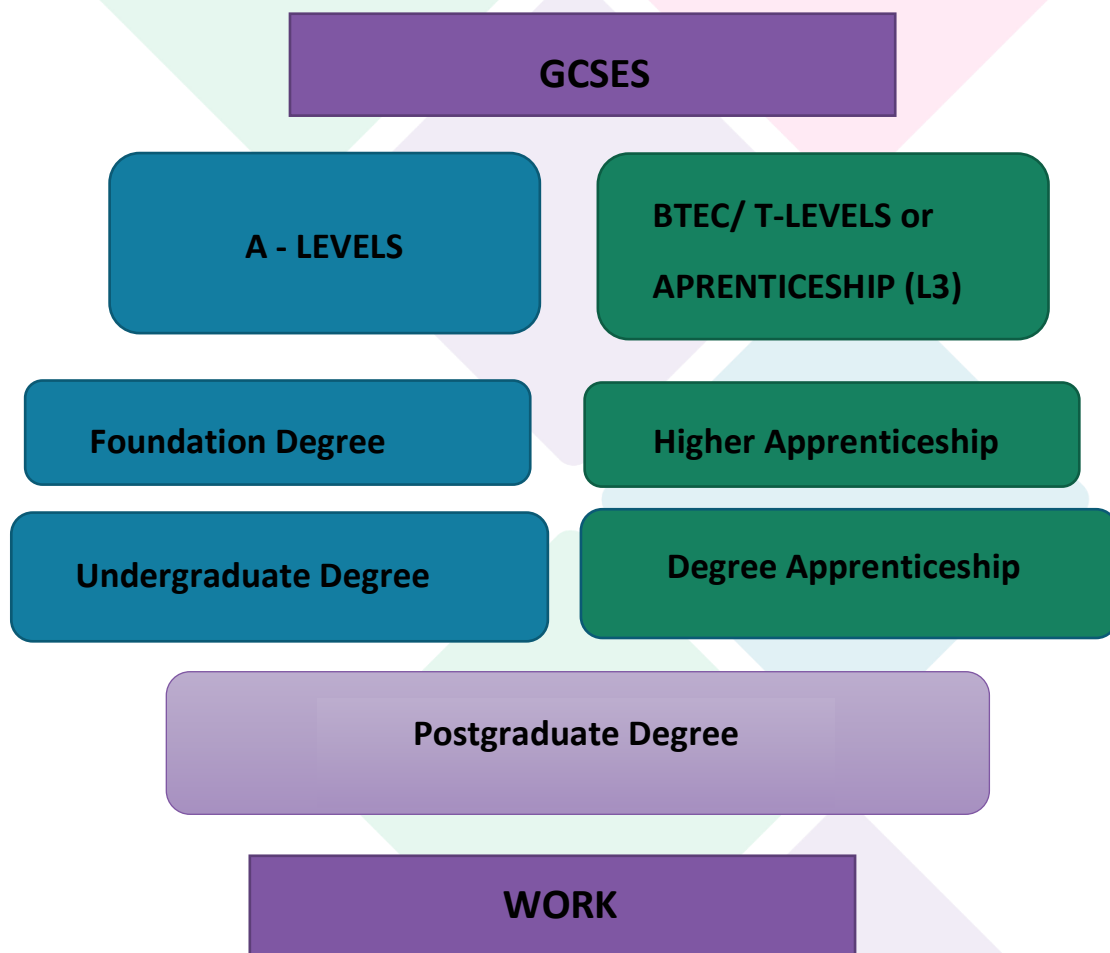


While studying a Higher Education qualification at university can bring a range of benefits and lead to better employability, it might not be for everyone. Some people have different learning styles, interests and ambitions and some might not know what they want to study.



Using the chart below, track some of the better known routes

The most common academic route is shown on the left in blue and the most common vocational route shown on the right in green.



These indicate possible routes from GCSE, however get advice from a careers advisor, UCAS or a course provider about the best route.

Use Discover Uni website to look at options [discoveruni.gov.uk](https://www.discoveruni.gov.uk)

# UNIVERSITY: PROS & CONS



Going to university can offer a good career after completing studies as well as wider employment opportunities. Whilst studying at University students can become experts in their chosen subject, develop skills and knowledge to prove their future employment prospects. However, going to university may not be the right route for everyone and considering the pro's and con's can be a good place to start when making a decision.

## PROS OF A UNIVERSITY DEGREE

- University can prepare students for a specific career path such as medicine, for which a University Degree is needed
- Students can become an expert in a chosen subject or specialist area
- Graduates typically earn more – 35% more than school leavers
- University gives a chance for independent living.

## CONS OF A UNIVERSITY DEGREE

- Graduates may not get employability or technical skills at university
- A degree does not guarantee a graduate job
- It's at least a three year commitment to study, coursework and exams
- Graduates do leave with debt, although repayments are linked to earnings.

## HOW TO APPLY FOR AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE



UCAS is the central organisation responsible for processing applications for full-time undergraduate study at UK universities.

Students can either register and complete their applications using the UCAS online system or through their school or college.

There are some key dates for applications and information expected as part of applications so use the guides provided on the UCAS website for up to date information.

## USEFUL WEBSITES



[ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/filling-your-ucas-undegraduate-application](https://ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/filling-your-ucas-undegraduate-application) – UCAS website, guides to completing university application

[notgoingtouni.co.uk](https://notgoingtouni.co.uk) – to find out about alternatives to university

[careerpilot.org.uk](https://careerpilot.org.uk) - to look at options at the ages of 16,18 and afterwards

[gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean](https://gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean) – to learn about the different qualification levels

[findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk](https://findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk) – to find a full list of apprenticeships in the UK

[prospects.ac.uk](https://prospects.ac.uk) – Careers website with details on a variety of careers options

# ABOUT HIGHER & DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS



Apprentices are an alternative route to study after finishing GCSE's and could lead to a Degree level qualification. Apprenticeships combine practical training in a job with studying at a college or university. Apprenticeships allow students to earn while they learn, an apprentice is entitled to National Minimum Wage or over depending on age and there is no need to apply for a student loan while studying for a degree apprenticeship.



**The table below shows the Apprenticeship levels and academic equivalent**

Because apprenticeships are another way to study, students will split their time between work and studying and get paid while they learn.

Apprenticeship Type	Qualification Level	Academic Equivalent
<b>Degree Level Apprenticeship</b>	6 or 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bachelor's Degree, a traditional university degree at level 6</li><li>• Master's degree or other professional qualification at Level 7 such as teaching or legal practice.</li></ul>
<b>Higher Level Apprenticeship</b>	4 or 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Foundation Degree awarded at Level 5</li><li>• Certificate of Higher Education awarded at level 4</li></ul>
<b>Advanced Apprenticeship</b>	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A Level's</li><li>• BTEC's</li><li>• T Level's</li></ul>
<b>Intermediate Apprenticeship</b>	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GCSE's</li></ul>



Some apprentice providers may require students to complete the apprenticeship route level by level. This means that even if they have GCSE's or A - level's they may need to start an Intermediate or Advanced Apprenticeship to progress onto a Higher Level. Always check with the Apprenticeship provider which level the apprenticeship will be starting at and make sure it's right for the chosen careers progression.

# APPRENTICESHIPS: PROS & CONS



There are pro's and con's to studying for a degree through an apprenticeship route. This route is not right for everyone, but it is important to understand the options and be able to make the best decision for the future.

## PROS OF A DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP

- The employer pays the tuition fees, so no student loans
- Real experience of the world of work
- Earn a salary while studying
- Guaranteed job at the end of the apprenticeship

## CONS OF A DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP

- Degree Apprenticeship are not available in all subject areas
- It might take longer to complete a Degree Apprenticeship than a traditional Undergraduate Degree
- A Degree Apprenticeship means balancing full time work and degree level study
- Degree Apprenticeships are still rare so gaining a place on one can be very competitive.



## HOW TO APPLY FOR A DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP

To apply for a Degree Apprenticeships you will need to search and apply like you would for a job and apply directly to the company, however a good place to start might be university website or UCAS. Because applying for a Higher or Degree Level Apprenticeship is like applying for a job, you may be asked to submit a CV and covering letter.

Degree apprenticeships are very competitive and the application process can be tough, be prepared for a telephone or Skype interview and an assessment which show individual skills.



## USEFUL WEBSITES

[apprenticeship.org.uk](http://apprenticeship.org.uk) – Government website that gives information about Apprenticeship and Traineeships

[gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](http://gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship) – National Apprenticeship Application Portal

[university.which.co.uk/advice/choosing-a-course/is-a-higher-or-degree-apprenticeship-really-right-for-you](http://university.which.co.uk/advice/choosing-a-course/is-a-higher-or-degree-apprenticeship-really-right-for-you) – Which? Independent guide to Higher and Degree level apprenticeships

[ucas.com/apprenticeships-in-the-uk](http://ucas.com/apprenticeships-in-the-uk) – UCAS guide to apprenticeships

[getingofar.gov.uk](http://getingofar.gov.uk) – Get in, Go far; apprenticeship website.