



HIGHER EDUCATION: PATHWAYS TO YOUR FUTURE



Information for Parents, Carers and Young People

1. IT'S NOT 18 OR NEVER

There are many routes into higher education and careers, and pathways can change over time.



Gap years



Changing pathways



Returning later



Workplace study



Mature students



Career changes happen



It's never too late to learn, grow and achieve your goals.

2. USEFUL DEFINITIONS



Bachelor's degree – A qualification gained from completing level 6



Master's degree – A qualification gained from completing level 7



A graduate – Someone who has completed level 6



University – An institution that provides higher education



Apprenticeship – A full-time paid job – The employer pays for your further or higher education – Usually at a fixed college or university



Higher Education – All of the above or just parts of it

3. WHY YOUNG PEOPLE MIGHT CONSIDER HIGHER EDUCATION



Access to careers



Higher earning potential



Independence & control



Becoming an expert



Academic rigour



Personal growth



Higher education can open doors, build confidence and help young people reach their potential.

4. WHAT IS UNIVERSITY?



Study a subject in depth



Academic or vocational



Independent learning



3–4 years of dedicated study



Study from home or away



Thousands of courses & possible destinations



NEED MORE ADVICE OR INFORMATION?

Our careers team is here to help.

careers@durring.com



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5. WHAT IS A DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP?

Full-time job + a degree

3–6 years

Earn a salary

No tuition fees

Real work experience

CHALLENGES TO BE AWARE OF

- Far fewer places
- Highly competitive
- Employer-led applications
- Balancing work & study
- A strong application profile is often needed



Many degree apprentices still graduate in cap and gown – just like university students!

They receive the same degree qualification and graduate from the partner university.

KEEPING BOTH DOORS OPEN



University = structured, widely available



Degree apprenticeships = competitive, limited



Build a strong application profile so both are an option

6. STUDENT FINANCE: KEY POINTS



Tuition fees are covered by a loan from the government.



Students pay the loan back gradually once they are earning over the repayment threshold (currently £25,000).



Repayments are a small percentage of earnings and are taken automatically through the tax system.



Any remaining loan is written off after 40 years.



Maintenance loans help with the cost of living while studying. These are variable and based on circumstances.



Extra support is available, including bursaries, scholarships and contextual offers.



Don't let cost put you off exploring higher education. There is financial support available.

7. WAYS TO EXPLORE & ENCOURAGE



Light research using university websites, company websites and Xello



Explore university summer schools and virtual work experiences (Springpod / Futures For All)



Engage with careers teams in school and college to explore careers



Talk to people already on these pathways



Keep doors open through strong GCSEs, attendance



Read beyond lessons and explore interests independently



Take part in enrichment, clubs, volunteering and competitions where possible



Ask questions and stay curious about opportunities



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