

POST-18 BOOKLET
2016

POST 18 OPTIONS

Life after A Levels can seem daunting for many students. Depending on examination results, personality, skills, hobbies and interests, there are several options students could consider. Gordon's Sixth Form has provided a strong foundation for students to build on and has equipped them with the necessary skills to be independent and self-motivated which will enable them to be successful in a wide range of post -18 options and pathways.

Gap year?

University?

Study abroad?

Apprenticeship?

Employment?

Each post-18 option has advantages and disadvantages and this booklet outlines details of some of those options in order to guide students in the important next steps they are taking.



APPRENTICESHIPS

What are apprenticeships?

Apprenticeships combine practical training in a job with education. They are offered by organisations who see this as an excellent opportunity to fill a vacancy by training a suitable candidate and teaching them relevant industry specific skills. During the practical on the job training they also fund the individual's education so he/she achieves relevant qualifications required for the job.

How does an apprenticeship work?

Apprenticeships vary in their delivery. Some have periods where the apprentice is placed in the industry, followed by a period of classroom teaching where the person attends a college for a period of time. Others embed the practical aspect with a day release to a college once per week. Apprentices are paid, so this option offers the opportunity to learn while bringing in a wage. Young people have the chance to work alongside experienced staff and gain skills unique to the workplace, as well as an increasingly well-respected qualification, over a period of one to four years. There are many levels of apprenticeships to suit individuals with varying qualifications.

Higher Apprenticeships are a level 4 qualification and are suitable for students who have finished their A Levels. This is a credible alternative to university and is an option increasingly in demand. Students opting for a Higher Apprenticeship should apply directly to the organisation advertising a vacancy for an apprentice in an industry or a career they wish to pursue. It is therefore important that applicants have an effective and up to date CV.



Example of apprenticeships:

Higher Apprenticeships are currently available in the following sectors:

- Business & IT
- Construction
- Creative, media & the arts
- Customer service & retail
- Energy, engineering & electrical
- Finance, health & care
- Hospitality & travel
- Manufacturing, processing & logistics
- Public services
- Vehicles & transport

For more information, please visit <http://www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk/>

EMPLOYMENT

How do A Levels prepare individuals for employment?

For individuals who do not wish to progress into Higher Education, employment is a logical and appealing alternative. A Level studies are a good preparation for employment as they teach individuals a wide range of transferable skills which are relevant for employment.

Good A Level grades indicate to an employer that the individual is a good learner, self-motivated, hardworking, and takes the job of being a student seriously. In addition, many A Level students who have engaged in work experience and a wide range of extra-curricular activities can demonstrate characteristics and traits that are valued by employers. For example, an individual who can evidence their commitment to a regular part time volunteering position or work placement suggests that they are responsible, reliable and know the importance of punctuality and customer service.

Any individual who is considering employment after their A Levels should have an updated CV, where they outline their profile in terms of education and work experience, as well as extra-curricular engagement.

For more information, please make an appointment with the careers advisor at Gordon's Sixth Form.

EMPLOYMENT



GAP YEAR

Why consider a gap year?

Many students choose to take a gap year before starting their next phase in life. The purpose of a gap year might be to take time out to consider future goals or simply to undertake an activity that the individual feels they will not have time to do later after commencing university.

It is important that the gap year is planned and well-researched in order to use it effectively and to benefit from the experience. An effective gap year experience is something that has relevance to the individual's considered career option, or an experience which demonstrates certain traits and characteristics in an individual which universities and employers would see as beneficial and useful.

Many students choose to volunteer abroad for an organisation which demonstrates characteristics such as maturity and commitment which many employers would seek in an employee. It would, for example, be useful for an individual who is considering a teaching career to perhaps volunteer as a teacher or teaching assistant during a gap year in order to gain experience and be better informed. Many gap year jobs abroad are paid.



There are many companies who offer more information and often help with organising a gap year abroad. See some examples below.

www.gapyear.com

www.realgap.co.uk

UNIVERSITY

University is the most popular choice for students who have completed their A Levels. It is a great preparation for employment as it can offer a vocational pathway to a career within a specific field, such as teaching, medicine, veterinary sciences or law. It can also offer a more general foundation for employment as it teaches individuals a full set of transferable skills such as managing projects, undertaking research, and meeting deadlines, all of which are highly valued by employers. Many job opportunities are only open to graduates as employers use university degrees as a sifting and sorting mechanism.



There are many types of degrees and it is important that candidates are fully informed.

- **Bachelor's degree** – a three or four year course which can be taken in undergraduate higher education after A Levels – also known as an 'undergraduate degree'. Most courses are either a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science.
- **Honours degree** – most undergraduate degrees in higher education can come with 'honours'. It's not a grade as such – it just means it's possible to get a degree 'with honours', which would be an extra indication of quality. Check what is needed to get honours – it might be getting a certain grade, studying extra modules or submitting a good dissertation.
- **MA** – the abbreviation for Master of Arts, which can mean two different things. Often it stands for a Master's degree in a Master of Arts, a postgraduate level qualification. But it can also be an undergraduate degree studied at one of the UK's ancient universities such as the universities of St. Andrews, Oxford and Cambridge.
- **Postgraduate degree** - a degree for graduates who have already completed an undergraduate course.
- **Sandwich degrees/course** – a degree which includes a year of work placement in industry/ in a profession being studied for.

How are students assessed at University?

Most courses assess students using a range of tools such as coursework, exams, presentations and projects. The first year's assessments do not contribute towards the final grade but students have to pass this year in order to progress to the second year, which does contribute towards the final grade.

How does the degree classification work at university?

Most UK universities and colleges use a degree classification system.

- **First class honours** - is the highest level, the highest grade a student can get awarded based on total amount of marks accumulated across the course. Often this is 70% and above. Sometimes universities stipulate that the dissertation (the final year project) has to be a certain grade for the student to be able to reach a First class honour.
- **Second class honours** – The second highest level of marks. Second class honours is broken down into two further classifications – upper division (or 2:1) and lower division (2:2). A 2:1 or

upper second class honours classification is often required for entry into many postgraduate courses in the UK.

- **Third class honours** – Most UK universities and colleges use a degree classification system. Third class honours is typically the lowest degree classification awarded by UK universities and colleges.

For more information on key terms and types of degrees, please visit:

<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/international-and-eu-students/ucas-terms-explained>

Paying for university

Many students are worried about getting into debt at a young age. While it is wise to worry about debt, student finance can be a solution.

The main types of student finance are **tuition fee and maintenance loans** (which have to be paid back), and **grants and bursaries** which do not have to be paid back.

Students can apply for a Tuition Fee Loan of up to £9,250 to cover tuition fees while Maintenance Loans and bursaries help towards living costs such as rent and bills. The amount of Maintenance Loan that students will be eligible for depends on their household income, the type of course they are studying and where they live. The costs of living varies across universities depending on their geographical location, with London based universities often costing slightly more.

Repayment

Repayment of student loans is based on paying 9% of the income above a set minimum level of earnings. In 2016, the minimum level of earnings were £21,000 for those who studied in the UK. This means that individuals who earn less than this amount after graduation do not have to repay their student loan until their earnings meet this threshold.

For example, if an individual was earning £30,000 per year:

1. $£30,000 - £21,000 = £9,000$
2. $9\% \text{ of } 9,000 = £810$
3. $£810 / 12 \text{ months} = £67.5$
4. Round down

The monthly student loan repayment would be **£67 per month on that level of salary until the loan is paid off**. Currently in England and Wales, the student loan is cancelled 30 years after individuals become eligible to repay.

For more information about student finance, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>

STUDYING OVERSEAS

Ever thought about studying abroad?

Studying a year or a full degree abroad can have great benefits. It can show employers that an individual is flexible, confident, as well as socially and culturally mobile. Studying abroad would also make an individual stand out from others and show employers that they possess characteristics such as maturity and independence - traits valued by employers.

Studying abroad will suit individuals who wish to immerse themselves in the practical experience of applying what they study in a book to a real life scenario. Examples could be to study fashion in Paris, art in Barcelona, or a business degree in New York.

Studying in America

For students interested in studying in America, The **Fullbrook Commission**, which is part of the EducationUSA network, are the official source of information on applying to American universities for the United Kingdom.



Visit their website for a step-by-step guide to applying for US study or to attend one of their US study events, including their annual USA College Day fair.

Studying in Europe

For another popular option of studying in Europe, in particular the Netherlands, Amsterdam is an option amongst many others.

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam;

- is listed among the world's top universities in various rankings
- offers 98 English taught **programmes** at bachelor's, master's and doctoral level. Ten faculties share one campus and cover a wide spectrum of business, law, science, arts, and medicine studies
- is located in the vibrant city of Amsterdam, one of the most multicultural cities in the world, with the largest concentration of students in the Netherlands and where English is the second language
- is surrounded by one of the most dynamic and fast-growing business districts in the Netherlands, hosting over 700 companies

To find out more about Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam go to: www.vu.nl

For more information on studying abroad, please visit <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/alternatives-higher-education/studying-overseas> and <http://www.studyabroad.com/>

Gordon's Sixth Form Year 13 Destinations 2016

Forename	University / Destination	Subject/comment
Charlie	University of York	Biology with a year in industry
Peter	The University of Manchester	Economics and Finance
Rohan	The University of Kent	Biochemistry
Jacob	Royal Holloway, University of London	History
India	University of Southampton	English Language and Linguistics
Sudip	Aston University	Biomedical Engineering
Jessica	University of Bristol	Geography
Cameron	Cardiff Metropolitan University	International Tourism Management
Madeleine	University for the Creative Arts	Glass, Ceramics, Jewellery, Metalwork
Jack	Bristol, University of the West of England	Product Design Technology
Anneliese	The University of Warwick	Mathematics
Miles	Newcastle University	Geography and Planning
Amelia	King's College London	War Studies and History
Katherine	Work – Richard Ward, London	Apprenticeship
Charlotte	The University of Nottingham	Physiotherapy
Georgina	University of Bristol	Dentistry
Tabitha	The University of Birmingham	Law with Criminology
Charles	Work - Deloitte	'Brightstart' Higher Apprenticeship
Charlotte	Oxford Brookes University	Psychology
Megan	Gap Year	Applying 2017 cohort
Charlotte	Cardiff University	English Language
Philippa	University of Bristol	Medicine
Harry	University of York	Business and Management
James	Loughborough University	Banking Finance and Management
Harry	University of Leeds	Chemistry
Harry	Gap Year	Applying 2017 cohort
Georgina	Cardiff University	Human and Social Sciences
Francesca	The University of Birmingham	English Language and Literature
James	Cardiff University	Mechanical Engineering
Henry	Queen Mary University of London	Geography
Megan	University of Exeter	Law
Eleanor	The University of Manchester	Fashion Marketing
Harrison	University of Leicester	History
Oliver	University of Reading	Geography
Vivian	UCL (University College London)	Medicine
Anthony	University of Reading	Real Estate
Timothy	Coventry University	Computer Science
Rosie	Royal Holloway, University of London	Psychology
Camelia	University of Cambridge	Natural Sciences
Jodie	The University of Nottingham	Neuroscience
Cecile	University of Southampton	English
Emily	Durham University	Modern Languages and Cultures
Molly	University of Exeter	Law
Isabelle	Loughborough University	Economics and Management
Jack	Cardiff University	Mechanical Engineering

Forename	University / Destination	Subject/comment
Victoria	University of Southampton	Biology
Jenny	University of Newcastle	Zoology
Kevina	University of Bath	Biochemistry
Robert	Leiden University, Netherlands	Molecular Science and Technology
Francesca	University of Bristol	Spanish
Richard	University of Southampton	History
Alexander	University of Exeter	Business Management with International Study
Lauren	St Mary's University, London	English
Benjamin	Oxford University	Physics
Noah	University of Bath	Natural Sciences
Jessica	University of Exeter	Geography
William	Brunel University London	History
Abigail	University of Bath	Mathematics
Rebecca	Royal Holloway, University of London	Biology
Olivia	Cardiff University	Journalism, Media and English Literature
Lucy	The University of Nottingham	Medicine
Valli	University of Bristol	Chemistry with Industrial Experience
George	Gap Year	Applying 2017 cohort
Daniel	University of Reading	Real Estate
Joseph	Royal Holloway, University of London	History
Rebecca	University of Bath	Natural Sciences
Katie	University of Newcastle	Law
Chloe	University of St Andrews	Medicine
Clarissa	University of Newcastle	Media, Communication and Cultural Studies
Leah	University of Brighton	English Literature
Robert	Newcastle University	Rural Studies
Benjamin	University of Exeter	Civil Engineering with International Study
Emily	Loughborough University	Communication and Media Studies
Arabella	University of Exeter	Geography
Lawrence	University of Brighton	International Business
Alexander	University of Leicester	Mechanical Engineering
Ho Fei	University of East Anglia	Nursing (Mental Health)
Freya	The University of Edinburgh	Social Anthropology
Chris	Bournemouth University	Geography
Alice	Gap Year	Applying 2017 cohort
Jochem	University of Bristol	Engineering Mathematics
Madeleine	University of Southampton	Business Management with Placement
Rebecca	The University of Birmingham	History and Political Science
Julian	University of Exeter	Management and Marketing
Alexander	The University of Sheffield	Mechanical Engineering
Rebecca	The University of Liverpool	Geography
Sacha	University of Exeter	English
Clare	Bangor University	Childhood Studies/Psychology

SIXTH FORM LEAVERS TOP DESTINATIONS OVER TIME

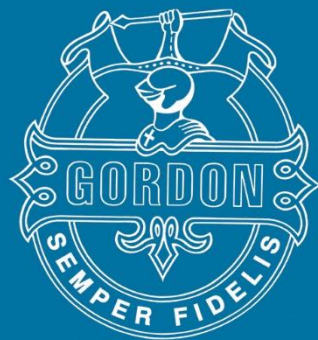
UNIVERSITY	2008-16	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
GAP YEAR	56	4	8	7	10	10		6	11	
SOUTHAMPTON	38	5	2	7	2	2	7	3	5	5
EXETER	33	8	5		3	4	3	3	3	4
BOURNEMOUTH	26	1	6	3	2	1	1	3	5	4
BATH	25	4	7	1	3	5	2	2		1
BRISTOL UWE	23		1	5	6	6	1	1	1	2
KENT	23	1	2	2		2	6	8	2	
LOUGHBOROUGH	21	2	3	2	3	4	1	3	1	2
NOTTINGHAM	21	3	7		2	2		3		4
NEWCASTLE	17	5	4	2	3					3
SWANSEA	17		4	4	3			2	2	2
WORK / INTERNSHIP	17		2	1	4	3		6	1	
LEEDS	14	1	1	3		4			3	2
PORTSMOUTH	14				4	1	2		4	3
WARWICK	14	1	1		2	1	3	2	3	1
BIRMINGHAM	13	2	4		3	2	2			
LEICESTER	13	2	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	1
ROYAL HOLLOWAY	13	4	2		3		1	1	2	
BRISTOL	11	6	2	3						
CARDIFF	11	4	1	5		1				
DURHAM	10	1	1	1	1	2		1	1	2
READING	10	3	2		1	1	2	1		
YORK	9	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
PLYMOUTH	8			3		2	2	1		
SURREY	8		1	2	3	1	1			
CAMBRIDGE	6	1		1		1		1	2	
OXFORD BROOKES	7	1	2	1	3					
SHEFFIELD	6	1		2	1	1	1			
KINGS COLLEGE	5	1	2			1			1	
QUEEN MARY'S	5	2	1	1			1			
MANCHESTER	5	2		1	1				1	
ST ANDREW'S	5	1				2		2		
BANGOR	4	1	1	2						
CHICHESTER	4								4	
EDINBURGH	4	1	1			1			1	
LIVERPOOL	4	1	1	2						
SUSSEX	4			1		1			1	1
OVERSEAS	4	1		1	1	1				
KINGSTON	3			2	1					
OXFORD	3	1		1	1					
UCL	3	1	1						1	
UEA	3	1				1		1		
WINCHESTER	3		1		2					
BATH SPA	2			2						
BRIGHTON	2	2								
BRUNEL	2	1	1							
COVENTRY	2	1	1							
IMPERIAL	2						1	1		
KEELE	2		1		1					
UNIVERSITY OF ARTS	2	1	1							
HIGHER APP'SHIP	2	1	1							
ABERYSTWYTH	1			1						
ASTON	1	1								
BUCKINGHAM	1				1					
CANTERBURY	1			1						
CARDIFF MET	1	1								
CHESTER	1				1					
ESSEX	1			1						
GLASGOW	1		1		1					
HERIOT WATT	1		1							
HERTFORDSHIRE	1			1						
LANCASTER	1		1							
MANCHESTER MET.	1			1						
NORTHAMPTON	1				1					
NOTTINGHAM TRENT	1				1					

Times Top 200 Universities in the World & 1994

1994 Group only

Times Top 200 Universities in the World & RG

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Gordon's School
West End, Woking, Surrey GU24 9PT