

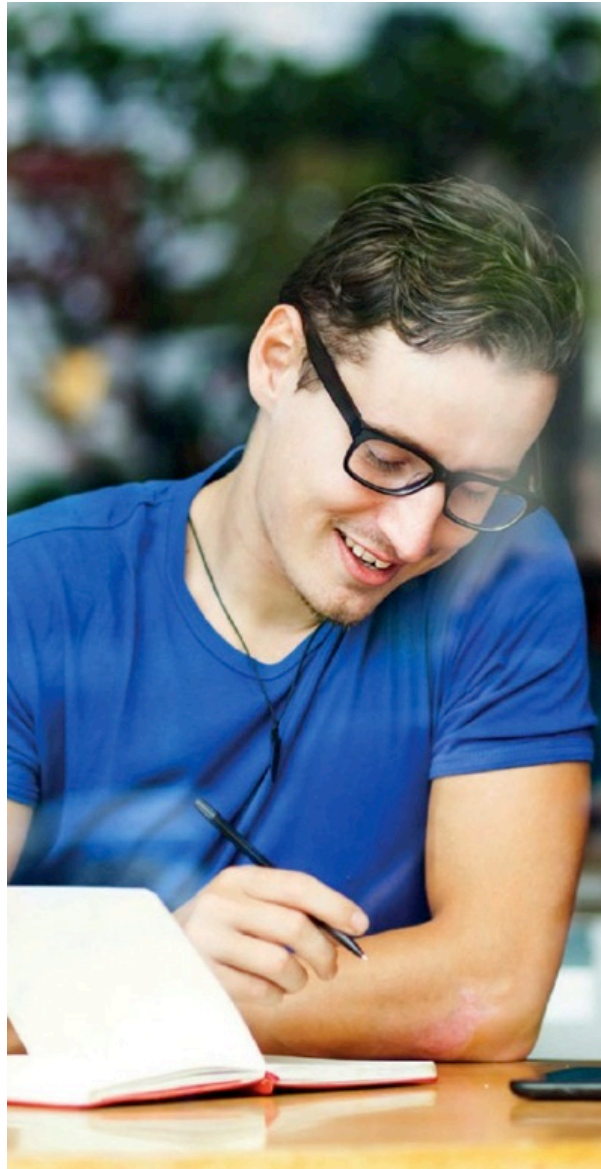


What next after sixth form?

It's not always easy to know what to do next...

The number of options might feel overwhelming...

- ▶ Full-time university degree
 - ▶ Sandwich placement
 - ▶ Year abroad
 - ▶ Stay at home / live away from home
- ▶ Part-time degree
- ▶ Distance / flexible learning
- ▶ HND - Higher National Diploma
- ▶ NVQs / SVQs - National / Scottish Vocational Quals

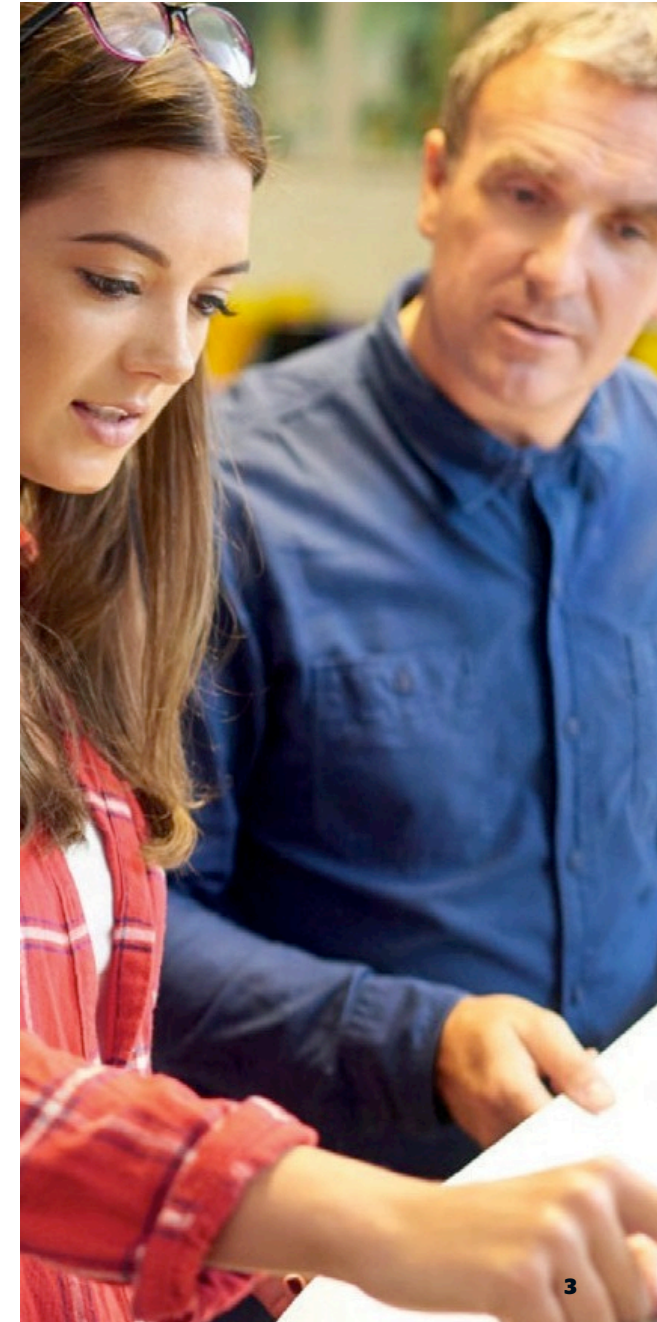


- ▶ Apprenticeships
 - ▶ Higher, degree
 - ▶ Intermediate, advanced
- ▶ Study abroad
- ▶ Gap year
- ▶ Foundation degree
- ▶ Sponsored degree
- ▶ World of work
 - ▶ School leaver schemes
 - ▶ Full employment

Study hard - be a full-time student

Benefits:

- ▶ **Interest:** deepen your knowledge of the subjects you love.
- ▶ **Qualifications:** recognised across the world, it's a great building block for your career.
- ▶ **Future prospects:** you need a degree for some professions (e.g.) medicine, or for further academic study.
- ▶ **The student experience:** live, work and socialise as a uni student - 'develop yourself' with work experience, societies and sports, as well as living independently.
- ▶ **People:** meet like-minded people from all walks of life and different cultures.





Study hard - be a full-time student

Considerations:

- ▶ **Motivation:** you'll need to motivate yourself to work independently and in your own time.
- ▶ **Tuition fees and cost of living:** you'll be eligible for student loans to go towards this.
- ▶ **Graduate debt:** you'll need to start repaying your loans once you're earning in your career.
- ▶ **Living away from home:** moving away might feel a bit daunting!
- ▶ **Environment:** you might feel a bit like you're stuck in a student 'bubble'.



Work & study - higher or degree apprenticeships

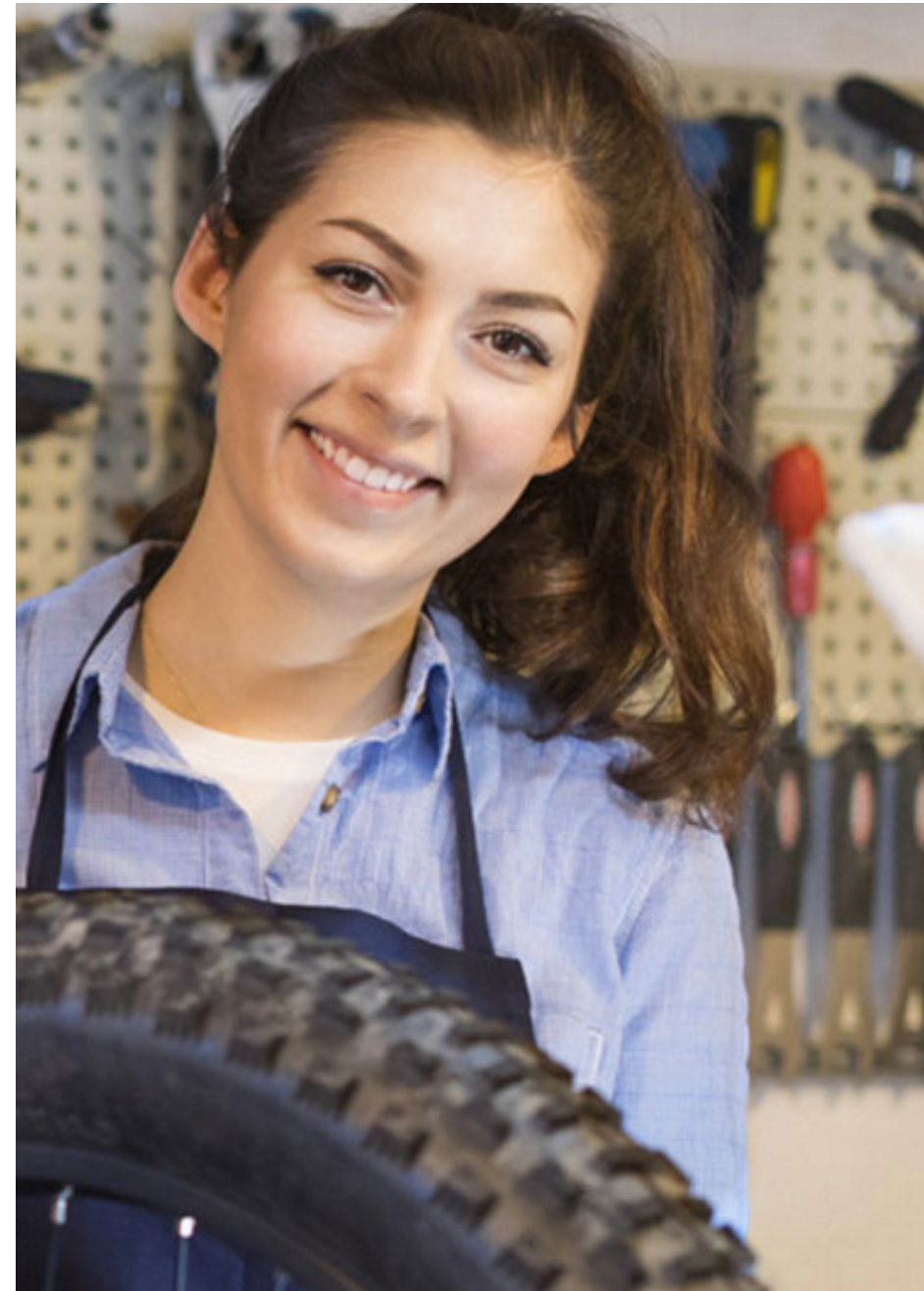
Benefits:

- ▶ **Choice:** 28,000 apprenticeship vacancies available in more than 1,500 roles at organisations including BMW, BBC and Deloitte.
- ▶ **Learn and earn:** apprenticeships allow you the chance to earn a wage between minimum wage and £300 per week.
- ▶ **Qualifications:** gain a qualification and hands-on experience.
- ▶ **Opportunities to progress:** a degree apprenticeship can also lead to a university degree - without the tuition fees.
- ▶ **Long-term career prospects:** 90% of apprentices stay employed after they finish.

Work & study - higher or degree apprenticeships

Considerations:

- ▶ **Choice:** fewer apprenticeships on offer than university courses available.
- ▶ **Competitive:** that means investing time on a convincing application and interview practise.
- ▶ **Motivation:** it'll be hard work from day one!
- ▶ **Responsibilities:** you will need to juggle work, study and exams.
- ▶ **Commitment:** apprenticeships can take several years to complete.





Go global – study, work or travel abroad

Benefits:

- ▶ **Career prospects:** skills gained from work experience or travelling independently will add to your CV.
- ▶ **Choice:** expanding your search to include courses and experiences on offer globally opens up new options.
- ▶ **Environment:** fully immerse yourself in a new place and different cultures – maybe even pick up a new language!
- ▶ **Tuition fees:** studying abroad can be cheaper and many courses are offered in English.
- ▶ **Flexible:** mix and match your experience by studying for a degree including a year abroad or Erasmus scheme.

Go global - study, work or travel abroad

Considerations:

- ▶ **Costs:** travelling abroad can be expensive. Volunteer, work and save up beforehand to make it cost-effective.
- ▶ **Motivation:** applying for a degree abroad is more complicated - there's no equivalent of Ucas! - so you'll need to research and complete individual applications.
- ▶ **Living abroad:** prepare yourself for a culture shock - longing for home comforts will be normal!
- ▶ **Getting home:** another cost to factor in - though it's easier than ever to stay in touch with family and friends.





Keep it flexible - part-time & distance learning

Benefits:

- ▶ **Flexibility:** study wherever and whenever it suits you, great if you need to fit study around other commitments.
- ▶ **Cost:** distance-learning courses often cost less - plus there's usually financial support options available.
- ▶ **Work and study:** carry on working while enhancing your future career prospects.
- ▶ **Qualifications:** distance-learning courses have the same status as campus courses.
- ▶ **Try it out:** Open University and FutureLearn provide taster materials and free online courses to see if it suits you.

Flexible learning - part-time study and distance learning

Considerations:

- ▶ **Environment:** your experience will be less immersive than a 'typical' student lifestyle.
- ▶ **Study style:** less face-to-face time with students and tutors; independent study is the norm.
- ▶ **Self-motivation:** it can be tough when you're juggling other commitments to keep going.
- ▶ **Timetable:** if you study alongside full-timers, you might find yourself needing to re-jig your priorities.
- ▶ **Commitment:** it will take longer to complete your course and gain your qualification.

