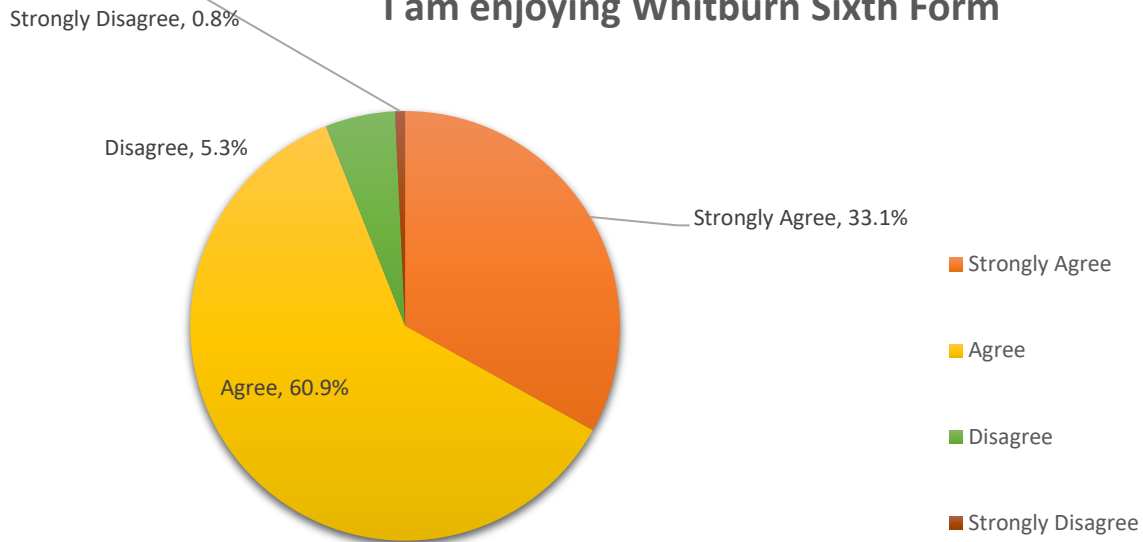


	2024	2024	2025	2025	2026	2026	TOTAL	AVERAGE
University	77	74.8%	77	65.8%	64	72.7%	753	75.6%
Gap Year	12	11.7%	5	4.3%	4	4.5%	71	7.1%
Degree Apprenticeships	3	2.9%	6	5.1%	4	4.5%	20	1.9%
Apprenticeship	10	9.7%	24	20.5%	12	13.6%	107	10.6%
Employment	1	1.0%	3	2.6%	1	1.1%	26	2.8%
Conservatoires							7	0.7%
Access Courses/Fndn course			2	1.7%			5	0.5%
Military					3	3.4%	6	0.6%
NEET							1	0.1%
	103		117		88		996	

	2024	2024	2025	2025	2026	2026	TOTAL	AVERAGE
University	77	74.8%	77	65.8%	64	78.0%	753	76.2%
Other Route	26	25.2%	40	34.2%	24	20.5%	243	23.7%
							0	0.0%
Russell Group Universities	24	31.2%	36	46.8%	32	41.6%	276	35.2%
Other HEIs	53	68.8%	41	53.2%	32	41.6%	421	52.9%
							0	0.0%
Firm Choice	58	75.3%	61	79.2%	58	75.3%	546	66.0%
Insurance Choice	10	13.0%	8	10.4%	6	7.8%	73	8.9%
Offered alt course			4	5.2%	2	2.6%	9	1.2%
Clearing Place	9	11.7%	8	10.4%	7	9.1%	84	10.3%
	103		117		82		990	

I am enjoying Whitburn Sixth Form



2026 – 94.0% (Y12 94% / Y13 93%)

2025 – 91.4%

2024 – 90.7% (Y12 93% / Y13 85%)

2023 – 71.3% (Y12 87% / Y13 57%)

2022 – 80% (Y12 83% / Y13 74%)

2021 – 89%

2020 – 86%

2019 – 84%

2026 – 97.8 (Y12 98% / Y13 100%)

2025 – 99.2%

2024 – 98.5% (Y12 99% / Y13 98%)

2023 – 91.3% (Y12 95% / Y13 88%)

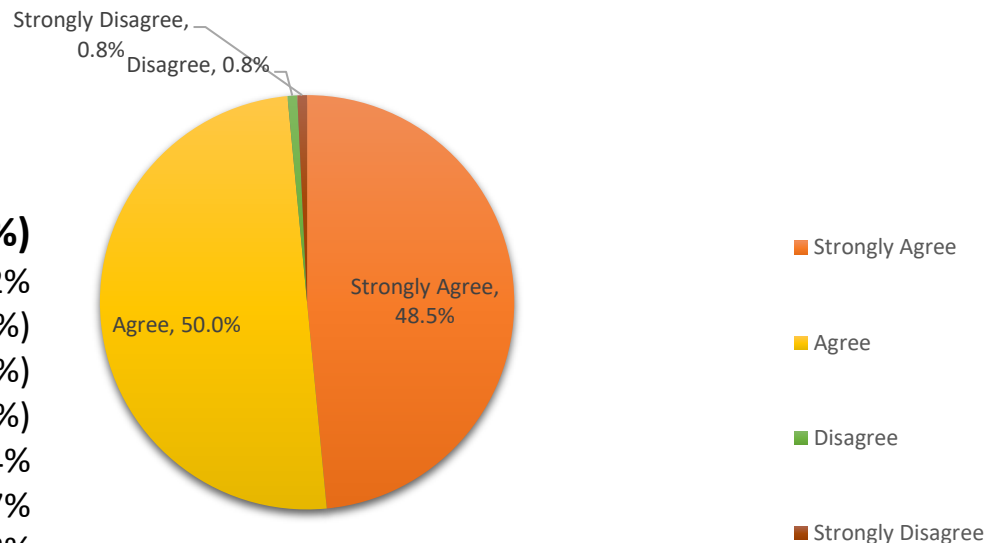
2022 – 90% (Y12 93% / Y13 84%)

2021 – 94%

2020 – 97%

2019 – 98%

I feel settled at Whitburn Sixth Form



There is a positive ethos within Whitburn Sixth Form which encourages personal responsibility, maturity, good manners and self-discipline.



2026 – 84.4% (Y12 88% / 80%)

2025 – 87.4%

2024 – 95.4% (Y12 98% / Y13 90%)

2023 – 76.3% (Y12 82% / Y13 71%)

2022 – 73% (Y12 81% / Y13 71%)

2021 – 89%

2020 – 89%

2019 – 85%

134 responded (out of 194)

88 x Y12 & 45 x Y13

Average is 111.4

Options After 18

After age 18, there is no requirement to remain in education or training, and young people have a wider range of pathways available to them.

Broadly, their options include continuing in education, combining work with further training, or moving into work while developing skills in other ways.

When thinking about next steps, it's helpful to consider whether they want to continue studying, how they will fund living and course costs, whether they're happy to move away or stay local, and the subjects or environments they enjoy and feel motivated by.

School Leaver Programme



School leaver programmes are structured entry routes into employment, often offered by large employers. They combine paid work with training and development, helping young people build skills and progress without going to university.

University



University allows students to gain an academic qualification, usually a degree, while developing critical thinking, research and transferable skills. It can lead to careers requiring advanced qualifications and may include placements or opportunities to study abroad.

Apprenticeships



Post-18 apprenticeships combine paid work with structured training through a college, university or training provider. They offer a practical route into skilled employment while gaining recognised qualifications at Level 4 and above.

Higher Tech Qualifications



Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs) are Level 4 and 5 courses focused on practical, job-ready technical skills. They can be studied full-time or alongside work and often lead directly to skilled employment or further study.

Employment



Employment involves moving directly into paid work, either full-time or part-time. It is often combined with further training, qualifications or skill development to support progression over time.

Gap Year



A gap year is a planned break from education or training, often used to gain experience, work, travel or volunteer. When structured well, it can help young people build independence, skills and clarity about their next steps.



Find out more!

Everything you need to know about your teen's choices at 18 years old

Explore post-18 options

Educational Routes

Levels of Education

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland there are eight qualification levels (1–8), plus an entry level qualification for those just starting out. Generally, the higher the level, the more advanced the qualification. Levels 1–3 are typically taught in schools and colleges, while Levels 4–8 are linked to higher education and professional study.

With so many different qualifications available, it can be hard to know what they mean and where they might lead. To help, we've created a simple summary comparing the main routes and how they connect to further study and careers.

Understanding qualification levels makes it easier to compare options and plan ahead. Academic, vocational and work routes all offer valuable opportunities.

The next pages explain the key choices available at 16 and 18.

Level	Qualification				
8	Doctorate (PhD)		NVQ 8		
7	Masters degree (MA)		Degree apprenticeship / NVQ 5, 6, 7		
6	Bachelors degree BA or BSc				
5	Foundation degree FdA or FdSc	Higher National Diploma (HND)			
4		Higher National Certificate (HNC)	Higher apprenticeship / NVQ 4		
3 Typically years 12-13	A levels Grades A-E	International Baccalaureate	T Levels	BTEC (extended) diploma BTEC certificate	Advanced apprenticeship / NVQ 3
2 Typically years 10-11	GCSE Grades 4- 9 (C, B, A or A*)			BTEC first diploma	Intermediate apprenticeship / NVQ 2
1	GCSE Grades 1- 3 (D, E, F or G)			Foundation diploma / entry level qualifications	Traineeship / NVQ 1
	Academic route		Vocational route		Applied / work route

Which route is right for you/your young person?

Uni Route

**UK University &
Apprenticeships Search
Event, Newcastle**

25th Sept

Deadlines are fixed - Oct & Jan.

NGTU

**UK University &
Apprenticeships Search Event,
25th Sept**

Apprenticeships Fayre 10th Feb

Deadlines vary by provider –
most open in the new year.

Some students were still juggling both a week after results!

Carl Jung famously spoke about the "unlived life" or unfulfilled dreams of parents, noting that *“the greatest burden a child must bear is the unlived life of the parents”*.



Carl Jung. Swiss psychiatrist 1875-1961



VS



Set by other people e.g. parents want you to get a certain grade, go to a certain uni, get a certain career...

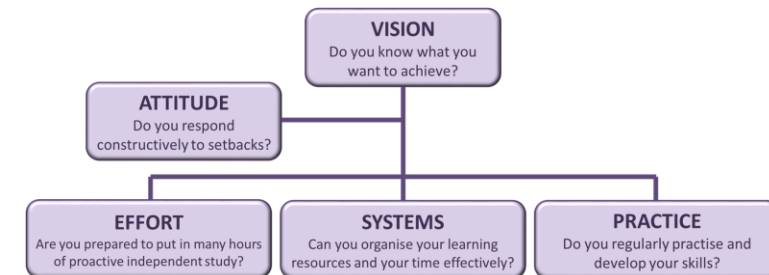
Goal not owned by the student!

Student needs hustling towards this ‘false’ goal.

Need replacing with ‘pull goals’....

Pull goals are magnetised. They will get you out of bed in the morning.

Those with a pull goal with usually have better attendance and motivation.



Why Higher Education

- Chance to study a subject they are passionate about.
- Achieve a qualification that will lead to their chosen career.
- Gain confidence, independence, and important life skills that will widen their prospects.
- Making lifelong friends.
- Opportunities whilst studying.
- Better job prospects?
- Some employers target graduates.
- Higher earning potential.

Education

Richard Adams Education editor
Tue 23 Jan 2024 23:32 GMT
[Share](#)

● This article is more than 8 months old

Every year spent in school or university improves life expectancy, study says

Analysis also says not attending school is as deadly as smoking or heavy drinking



News Opinion Sport Culture Lifestyle

Education Schools Teachers Universities Students

University Guide 2026
University guide

We ask the experts: does it still pay to go to university? 'It's complex'

Find out more

We ask the experts: does it still pay to go to university? 'It's complex' | University guide | The Guardian

The Telegraph

Home Video News World Sport Business Money Comment Culture Travel Life W



HOME > FINANCE > JOBS

Graduates earn £500,000 more than non-graduates

Degrees still matter: graduates still enjoy more money and more career opportunities, says a report

f 59 t 36 95 Email

THE WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

PROFESSIONAL JOBS SUMMITS RANKINGS

Graduate employment hits record high as gender pay gap grows

DLHE survey also reveals that more university leavers are going into professional jobs

June 30, 2016

By Chris Havergal Twitter: @CHavergalTHE

FINANCIAL TIMES

HOME WORLD US COMPANIES TECH MARKETS CLIMATE OPINION LIFE WORK & CAREERS LIFESTYLE ARTS

The great graduate job drought

Economic uncertainty and the arrival of AI have brought a reduction in entry-level roles, with potentially disastrous consequences for young people

NEWS

Home > InDepth > Israel-Gaza war > War in Ukraine > Climate > UK > World > Business > Politics > Culture

My student loan doesn't cover my bills, so I wear my work uniform to lectures

Family & Education | Young Reporter

NEWS

Home > UK > World > Business > Culture > Politics > Health > Tech > InDepth > BBC Verify > Climate

Everything you need to know about university costs

Family & Education | Young Reporter

NEWS

Home > UK > World > Business > Culture > Politics > Health > Tech > InDepth > BBC Verify > Climate

Average student in England leaves university with £47,700 debt - is a degree worth it?

Family & Education | Young Reporter

NEWS

Home > InDepth > Israel-Gaza war > War in Ukraine > Climate > UK > World > Business > Politics > Culture

Graduate jobs under threat from AI, PwC boss says

Business > Economy | Technology of Business > AI Business

ENTERTAINMENT

Home > UK > World > Business > Culture > Lifestyle > Tech > Sport > US election > Daily Edition

Thousands of graduates working in jobs that don't require any qualifications

Record numbers of new graduates surveyed said they were in work or further study, but figures suggest the gender pay gap for first jobs is rising

Richard Webb | Friday 1 July 2016 | C2

Business & Economy

Home > UK > World > Companies > Markets > Global Economy > Lex > Comment

18 August 2022 Updated 18 June 2024

Two-thirds of UK students 'will never pay off debt'

Gemma Tellow, Economics Correspondent

Advice & Comment

Home > UK > World > Companies > Markets > Global Economy > Lex > Comment

Property & Mortgages Investments > Pensions Tax Banking & Savings > FTBuild Meet the team

July 6, 2016 5:57 am

Student debt: some will still be repaying in their fifties

Gemma Tellow, Economics Correspondent

Share | Author alerts | Print | Cite | Comments

Graduate careers

● This article is more than 1 month old

'Like throwing myself at a wall': UK graduates struggle in 'insane' job market

'Hostile and impersonal' process to find first job after university leads many to work for minimum wage

HEI	2026 Entl	TOTAL
Northumbria	9	143
Newcastle University	16	134
University of Sunderland	13	118
Leeds Beckett		37
University of York	5	33
University of Leeds	1	32
York St John University	2	24
Manchester Metropolitan	1	20
Durham University	3	20
University of Manchester	1	17
University of Nottingham		11
Heriot-Watt, Edinburgh		10
University of Liverpool	1	9
University of Sheffield	1	9
Sheffield Hallam		8
Teesside University		8
Lancaster University		7
Nottingham Trent		6
University of Glasgow		6
University of Cambridge	1	6
University of Hull	1	5
Liverpool John Moores	1	5

HEI	2026 Entl	TOTAL
Newcastle College University Centre		4
Leeds Trinity		4
Cumbria		4
Loughborough		3
Edge Hill		3
UCFB		3
University of Birmingham		3
University of Exeter		3
University of Stirling		3
University of Leicester		3
Lancashire (was UCLAN)	1	3
Cardiff University	1	3
University of Lincoln		2
Edinburgh Napier		2
Hull-York Medical School		2
Liverpool Hope		2
University of Bristol		2
University of Oxford		2
University of St Andrews		2
Queen Mary, UoL		2
University College London (UCL)		2
University of East Anglia		2
University of Edinburgh		2
Imperial College London		2
Kings College London	1	2
Keele University	1	2
Reading	1	2

HEI	2026 Entl	TOTAL
Aston University, Birmingham		1
City, University of London		1
Coventry University		1
Essex		1
Kingston University		1
New College, Durham		1
Leeds Arts University		1
Norwich University of the Arts		1
Oxford Brookes		1
SOAS		1
Swansea		1
The Northern School of Art		1
Sunderland College	1	1
University of Bath		1
University of Derby		1
University of Gloucester		1
University of Kent		1
University of Warwick		1
University of Winchester		1
University of Westminster		1
Askham Bryan		1
UWE, Bristol		1
Strathclyde		1
Wolverhampton		1
University of Bradford		1
University for the Creative Arts		1
University of Surrey		1
Queen's University, Belfast		1
Harper Adams University	1	1
University of Southampton	1	1
University of Dundee		0
University of Chester		0
St George's, University of London		0
London School of Economics & Politics		0

RUSSELL

University of Birmingham >
University of Bristol >
University of Cambridge >
Cardiff University >
Durham University >
University of Edinburgh >
University of Exeter >
University of Glasgow >
Imperial College London >
King's College London >
University of Leeds >
University of Liverpool >
London School of
Economics and Political
Science >
University of Manchester >
Newcastle University >
University of Nottingham >
University of Oxford >
Queen Mary University of
London >
Queen's University
Belfast >
University of Sheffield >
University of
Southampton >
University College
London >
University of Warwick >
University of York >

GROUP

*“..but I want to go to a
Russell Group University”*

The Russell Group describes a group of 24 ‘research-intensive’
universities that receive greater funding.

We often hear from parents that they want their young person to go to a
Russell Group university.

The Russell Group universities are coloured purple on the previous slide.

[University Rankings and League Tables
\(thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk\)](https://thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk)

Do we over-focus on the Russell Group?

The Russell Group describes a group of 24 ‘research-intensive’ universities that receive greater funding. We often hear from parents that they want their young person to go to a Russell Group university.

TEF 2023

Gold

TEF 2023

Silver

TEF 2023

Bronze

TEF 2023

Requires improvement

51

22%

125

55%

48

21%

3

1%

[TEF 2023 ratings dashboard - Office for Students](#)

[Complete University Guide - University Rankings, Guides and Courses](#)

	 Durham University	 UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE	 University of St Andrews	 Newcastle University	 THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE	 Aston University BIRMINGHAM UK	 Lancaster University	 Loughborough University	 York St John University	 Manchester Metropolitan University	 ual: university of the arts london
	Durham	Cambridge	St Andrews	Newcastle	LSE	Aston	Lancaster	Lough-borough	YSJ	Man. Met	Uni Arts London
Russell Group?	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
TEF Rating	Silver	Gold	n/a	Silver	Silver	Gold	Gold	Gold	Silver	Gold	Bronze
Completeuniversityguide.co.uk ranking 2026	6	1	4	35	3	52	10	8	108	53	27
Student Satisfaction	80%	79%	83%	76%	80%	78%	80%	79%	79%	80%	78%
Graduate Prospects	83%	89%	88%	78%	89%	76%	78%	85%	65%	69%	57%
UCAS Points 3xA = 144	172	208	206	140	185	120	139	148	112	121	136
Top Ten for...	31 incl. [whole range]	43 incl. [whole range]	24 incl. [whole range]	8 incl. [whole range]	13 incl. [whole range]	2	10 incl. [whole range]	15 incl. [whole range]	[none, but...] 5 x Top 30	3	[none, but...] 5 x Top 30

Top 24 but NOT Russell Group:

4 St Andrews

8 Loughborough

9 Bath

10 Lancaster

21 Surrey

Russell Group but NOT top 24 :

26 Nottingham

=27 Cardiff

35 Newcastle

29 Glasgow

40 QMUL

Top for student satisfaction:

- 1 Lincoln Bishop
- 2 University of Wales Trinity St David
- 3 St Andrews
- 4 Liverpool Hope
- 5 University of East London
- 6 Arts University Plymouth
- =7 University of Sunderland;
Plymouth Marjon Uni; Birmingham
Newman Uni; Uni of West London

Top for Graduate Prospects:

- 1 ICL
- 2 Cambridge
- 3 London School of Economics & Politics
- 4 Oxford
- 5 St Andrews
- 6 Bath
- 7 Warwick
- 8 King's College London
- 9 Loughborough
- 10 University of Buckingham



Year	Applied	Accepted	%
2017	1	1	100.0%
2018	6	2	33.3%
2019	3	1	33.3%
2020	3	0	0.0%
2021	5	1	20.0%
2022	8	3	37.5%
2023	2	0	0.0%
2024	3	0	0.0%
2025	4	0	0.0%
2026	3	1	33.3%
	38	9	23.7%

For the 2025 entry, the approximate undergraduate acceptance rates for the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge are:

- University of Oxford: **14–17%**. 83%+ Rejected
- University of Cambridge: **21–25%**. 75%+ Rejected

These overall figures can be misleading, as acceptance rates vary significantly based on the specific course, college, and applicant's background.

Useful facts about UCAS

- The 2027 applicant fee is £34.50 for (up to) five choices.
- ‘Invisibility’ – universities cannot see where else students have applied.
- Apply for max. five courses.
- Some choice restrictions:
 - Medicine, veterinary, dentistry – max. four
 - Oxford **or** Cambridge



2027 Cycle Key Dates

Mid- May 2026	Applicants can register and start to complete their application.
September 2026	Schools can start to submit completed applications to UCAS.
15 th October 2026	Medicine, dentistry, veterinary sci/med and Oxford <u>or</u> Cambridge.
13 th January 2027	Application deadline for most courses.
30 th June	Applications after this date held for Clearing.
24 th September	Final date for 2027 Applications.



Since May we have been researching our options...

- ✓ Comparing courses - their content & delivery.
- ✓ Looking at fees and other costs. Checking out bursaries and scholarships.
- ✓ Reading the prospectus information.
- ✓ Discussing choices – teachers, parents & friends.
- ✓ Attending Open Days.

Useful Resources:

- Mr Moore, SF Staff, subject staff
- HE Fayre 24th Sept
- [Unifrog](#)
- [UCAS](#) 'Course search'
- prospects.ac.uk
- [Discover Uni Home](#)
- [The Uni Guide](#)
- completeuniversityguide.co.uk

UCAS



History Rank		Distance	Size	T&F	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
4	DURHAM	12mi	Large	Silver	A* A4
8	YORK	72mi	Large	Gold	AAA (AAB & A in FPO)
* 19	LANCASTER	80mi	Medium	Gold	BBB AAB
38	STIRLING	123mi	Medium	n/a	BBB
x 18	EDINBURGH	92mi	Large	n/a	A* A* A to AAB
25	UEA	197mi	Large	Silver	AAB
8	YORK				
10	BRISTOL	244mi	Large	Silver	AAA
* 7	WARWICK	177mi	Large	Gold	AAA
14	LOUGHBOROUGH	151mi	Large	Gold	ABB
x 35	NEWCASTLE	3mi	Large	Silver	AAB
36	LINCOLN	125mi	Large	? Gold	BCC to DBC
21	NOTTINGHAM	139mi	Large	Silver	AAB
3	ST ANDREWS	108mi	Medium	n/a	AAA

Hannah's Long-list.

Started with small(ish), 'nice', 'pretty' towns that suit her as a person.

Included campus universities, again to suit her.

She ruled some out based on course content having scrutinised modules available.

A nod to rankings and grades required but not the driving factor (3-38!).

Some places she 'knew' – Newcastle, Stirling, York, Durham. Some we visited informally – Warwick, Lancaster.

Lancaster vs Warwick....!

Job options

Jobs directly related to your degree include:

- Chartered accountant
- Chartered certified accountant
- Chartered public finance accountant
- Economist
- Financial risk analyst
- Investment analyst
- Statistician

Jobs where your degree would be useful include:

- Actuary
- Civil Service fast streamer
- Diplomatic Services operational officer
- Local government officer
- Management consultant
- Quantity surveyor

Remember that many employers accept applications from graduates with any degree subject, so don't restrict your thinking to the jobs listed here.

Work experience

In order to find out more about work in economics, you could consider applying for a place on the [Government Economic Service \(GES\)](#) summer vacation placement scheme, which offers work experience opportunities for 6-12 weeks. Individual government departments may also be able to offer work experience and you should contact the department directly to find out more.

You could also consider work experience or work shadowing in areas such as accountancy and finance. Contact local employers to see if they can help you.

Related case studies



Will Brooks

Web/digital insight analyst

>

What do economics graduates do?

More than 65% of economics graduates are in employment six months after graduating, while around one-in-five go on to further study.

Nine of the top ten occupations held by economics graduates employed in the UK are business, finance or HR professions, with more than 500 graduates in the top occupation of finance and investment analyst/adviser.

Destination	Percentage
Employed	65.4
Further study	13.3
Working and studying	8
Unemployed	7.7
Other	5.6

Graduate destinations for economics

Type of work	Percentage
Business, HR and financial	54.2
Marketing, PR and sales	9.8
Secretarial and numerical clerks	8.4

2 course(s) selected

☆☆☆ BSc (Hons) Biology Newcastle University	X	☆☆☆ BSc (Hons) Biology University of Sheffield
---	---	--

Course details

Study mode	Full time	Full time
Length	3 years	3 years

▼ Show more

National Student Survey results

What you need to consider when comparing courses

- **Number of people the data is based on** - more people mean it is more likely giving a clearer picture of student experience. Also consider the percentage of students who responded to the survey.
- **Some data may be for a course and some for a subject** - course data is more specific but subject data will still indicate of students' views. Use caution when comparing the two.

[Read more about the National Student Survey](#)

Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of the course	61%	63%
Data from (# of people)	30	25
% of those asked	57%	67%

2 course(s) selected

☆☆☆ BSc (Hons) Biology Newcastle University	X	☆☆☆ BSc (Hons) Biology University of Sheffield	X
---	---	--	---

National Student Survey results

Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of the course	61%	63%
Data from (# of people)	30	25
% of those asked	57%	67%

The data displayed is from students on	This course	This course
--	-------------	-------------

The teaching on my course

The data displayed is from students on	This course	This course
Staff are good at explaining things.	79%	88%
Staff have made the subject interesting.	59%	83%
The course is intellectually stimulating.	69%	88%
My course has challenged me to achieve my best work.	52%	63%



Visit if possible!...

UCAS

↑ / Undergraduate / What and where to study / Open days and events
VIRTUAL TOURS

<https://bit.ly/3qHc9fX>



UCAS

opendays.com

university and college open days

<https://www.Opendays.com>



UCAS Deadlines...

- Applications open on 2nd September.
- The first UCAS deadline is **Wednesday 15th October 6pm**
Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine
- The second UCAS deadline is **Wednesday 13th January 6pm**

NB Some universities require additional tests e.g. the UCAT (Medicine), LNAT, TMUA, STEP etc...there are others

Whitburn Sixth Form Deadlines:

- The first sixth form deadline is **Wednesday 7th October 5.30pm**
- The second sixth form deadline is **Friday 18th December 5.30pm**

UCAS



UCAS Points

Grades-based Universities

- Typically 'Russell Group'
- Offer will be made up of three grades
- Other quals will be useful in Personal Statements but will not contribute to meeting the offer

Points-based Universities

- Typically newer universities
- Offer will be a points target, or range
- Other quals will contribute points towards this target
- WP schemes may offer points for participation
- More flexibility
- May be useful as a 'safe' or back-up option



University of Sheffield
Degree level: Undergraduate

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Entry requirements

Qualification requirements

► UCAS Tariff - Not accepted

▼ A level - AAA

including Biology* and a second science (second science subjects include Chemistry, Maths, Further Maths, Physics, Psychology, Environmental Science, Geology or Geography). *Human Biology accepted in lieu of Biology, but Biology and Human Biology cannot be accepted in combination as the two sciences.



Sheffield Hallam University
Degree level: Undergraduate

BIOLOGY

Entry requirements

Qualification requirements

▼ UCAS Tariff - 112 - 120 points

From A levels (including at least 32 points in Biology) or equivalent BTEC national qualifications in Applied Science to include suitable Biology modules. We do not accept General Studies. We will consider a combination of qualification types. For example: BBB-BBC at A Level including grade C in Biology. DDM in BTEC Extended Diploma in Applied Science will be considered (please include units on application). BTEC Diploma in Applied Science D*D with relevant biology modules (please include units on application) alongside other level 3 study. Merit overall from a T level qualification from T level Science: Laboratory Technician Pathway only. A combination of qualifications including relevant subject(s), which may include AS levels or EPQ.

The UCAS Tariff...

A Levels Grade:	A-Level UCAS Points	AS-Level UCAS Points	EPQ UCAS Points	L3 Core Maths UCAS Points
A*	56	n/a	28	n/a
A	48	20	24	20
B	40	16	20	16
C	32	12	16	12
D	24	10	12	10
E	16	6	8	6

BTEC Health & Social Care Grade:	UCAS Points
Dist.*	56
Dist.	48
Merit	32
Pass	16

Music Practical Exams Grade:	UCAS Points	Music Theory Exams Grade:	UCAS Points
8 Dist.	30		
8 Merit	24	8 Dist.	10
8 Pass	18	8 Merit	9
7 Dist.	16	8 Pass/7 Dist.	8
7 Merit	14	7 Merit	7
7 Pass/6 Dist.	12	7 Pass/6 Dist.	6
6 Merit	10	6 Merit	5
6 Pass	8	6 Pass	4

See full UCAS tariff here: [Calculate your UCAS Tariff points](#)

No points for DofE

UCAS



What happens next?

Mr Craggs will send the application to UCAS. There will be an anxious wait (end of March!) before applicants receive either...

- **Unconditional offer** - As long as you complete any stated examinations you have a place. These are quite rare again.
- **Conditional offer** - if you meet the set conditions, you have a place. This normally means that you have to meet certain grade/points requirements.
- **Unsuccessful** – your application for that course has been unsuccessful and you have not been offered a place.
- **Offer** of a place on a (usually *slightly*) different course

UCAS



Firm and Insurance Choices...

When you have received responses from all of your choices you then have to choose a **firm** and an **insurance** choice by the deadline! This is all done on UCAS Track.

- **Firm** - your first choice of course. If you meet the grade requirements, you will attend this course.
- **Insurance** - your second or back-up choice. If you fail to meet the grade requirements for your firm choice, but meet the requirements for this course, you can attend this course.
- **Other offers are declined**
- **Important** – you must choose an insurance choice with a lower entry requirement and that you would be happy to go to!



What if...

I get no offers?

I don't get the required grades?

I don't get grades for my insurance choice either?

I accepted a place that asked for 3xBs and I actually get 3xAs?

..UCAS Extra
(24th Feb-4th July)

Insurance Choice

Clearing Process
(From early July)

Clearing Process
(results day)

UCAS



The Personal Statement

Write '*a love letter to your subject*' (University College, Oxford)



[UCAS personal statements \(New 2026 entry format\): 5 things you need to do](#)
[M0146036 Personal statement eBook](#)
[2026 entry FINAL.pdf](#)
[Personal statement top tip: It's their time to shine](#)



The Personal Statement

- The only section your son or daughter has control over.
- Their only chance to market themselves individually.
- One personal statement for **all** choices.
- Max. 4,000 characters, 47 lines. **NEW!** Split across three questions:
 - *Why do you want to study this course or subject?*
 - *How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?*
 - *What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?*
- No spelling/grammar check on UCAS so prepare it in Word.



Three-part Structure

Personal statements are checked against a library of those already in the system, and from a variety of websites and paper publications.

Why do you want to study this course or subject?



How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?



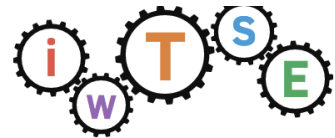
What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

- Start with the 'lightbulb moment'
- interest in their chosen subject
- their knowledge of the subject and enthusiasm to go beyond the syllabus
- what they enjoy about study
- have they chosen the right subject for the right reasons?
- does the personal statement confirm their depth of interest in the subject?

- academic achievements, past and present
- has the candidate studied independently – include super-curricular activities like MOOCs, lectures and EPQs
- does the student appear motivated and committed?
- Any relevant work experience?

- can they survive in an intense and pressured atmosphere?
- How do they unwind and relax?
- What can they contribute to the wider life of the university.
- More about what you do rather than the standard to which you do it!

'Super-curriculars'



iWantToStudyEngineering
A website to help you compete for engineering places at top universities.



Podcasts



School of English @TUOS

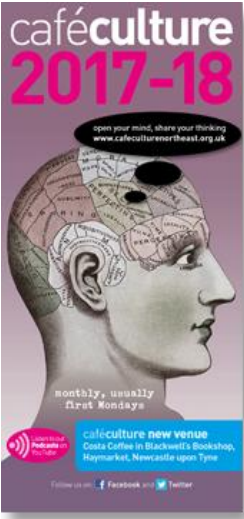
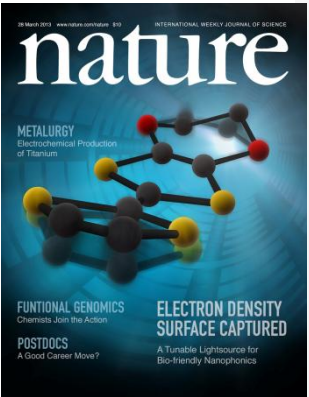
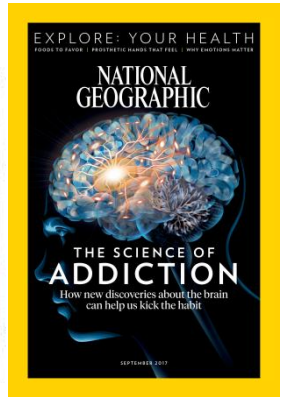
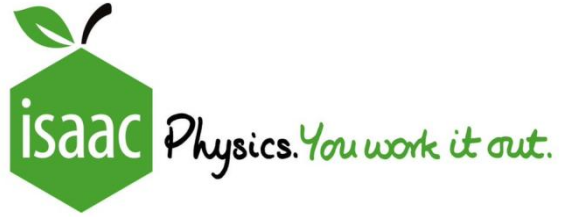
By School of English @TUOS

Get to know the School of English community! The School of English at The University of Sheffield explores the breadth and depth of the English language through the study of literature, language, linguistics and theatre.

See more

Listen on Spotify

Facebook Instagram Twitter



We advertise these online events and encourage attendance for several reasons:

1. *It will help develop interest in an area*
2. *It will help students master A-Level learning by giving an opportunity to make links between new info presented in these sessions and theory they are learning in class*
3. *It will help students decide if that subject is right for them at uni*
4. *It will help students decide if uni and lecture-style learning is right for them*
5. *It will enhance their Personal Statement when applying for a uni course*

Are you a subject rep? Book on to the lecture and host it in a spare classroom with other interested students joining you:

Events currently open for bookings are listed below. You might follow these in school with your headphones or Mrs Townsley would help you find a spare classroom if you want to do the session with some peers.

Upcoming Online Lectures/Subject Enrichment Events

- October 15 @ 10:10 - 10:55** Media/Sociology: Understanding Gender & Work On Social Media - Surrey (16+) [Find out more »](#)
- October 15 @ 14:15 - 15:00** Biochemistry: Form & Function - Understanding Protein Structure - UEA (16+) [Find out more »](#)
- October 15 @ 13:00 - 13:45** Being University-Ready: Preparing Mentally & Academically - Warwick & Southampton [Find out more »](#)
- October 20 @ 14:15 - 15:00** Mathematical Modelling - Tutorial - UEA (16+) [Find out more »](#)
- October 21 @ 15:35 - 16:20** MFL/Spanish: 20th Century Hispanic Dictatorships - Surrey (16+) [Find out more »](#)
- October 22 @ 11:10 - 12:00** Graphic Communication: Driving Positive & Progressive Change - WSA at Southampton [Find out more »](#)
- October 22 @ 14:00 - 14:45** Extended Project Qualification: Crafting a Research Question - Southampton (16+) [Find out more »](#)
- October 23 @ 10:10 - 10:55** English Literature: Virginia Woolf - Modernism, Feminism & Literary Form - UEA (16+) [Find out more »](#)
- October 23 @ 13:00 - 13:45** Social Sciences Study Skills: How To Read Tables - UEA (16+) [Find out more »](#)
- November 6 @ 12:45 - 13:30** Business Analytics: Making Smart Decisions from Millions of Data Points - St George's [Find out more »](#)
- November 6 @ 16:30 - 17:15** HE Guidance: Writing A Standout Personal Statement - UEA [Find out more »](#)
- November 10 @ 14:15 - 15:00** Criminology: Exploring The Harms of Hate Crime - Surrey (16+) [Find out more »](#)
- November 11 @ 09:10 - 09:55** History: Challenging The Authority of Henry VIII - Portsmouth (16+) [Find out more »](#)
- November 11 @ 13:45 - 14:30** MFL/French: The Impact of Music on French Popular Culture - Surrey (16+) [Find out more »](#)
- November 12 @ 16:15 - 17:15** The Future of UK Farming - NFU & UEA [Find out more »](#)

Links in
Year 12
Team

FT Access Schools Digest is part of the free FT schools programme for students aged 16-19, teachers and schools around the world. Students of Economics, Geography, Politics and many other subjects would find this particularly useful and they can [create individual accounts](#) and [sign up for the newsletter](#) via these links.



[Gresham College](#). Gresham lectures provide stretch, challenge & support for the A Level curriculum. They can deepen your knowledge & develop new ideas, concepts & perspectives that can be used and referenced in exams, coursework (including EPQs), and at university interviews to help you stand out from the crowd.



[St Anne's College, Oxford](#) have curated an ever-growing set of resources to help prospective students enrich their learning and boost their applications.

Also check out [OU Podcasts](#). Search all 800+ podcast series in a range of subjects.



[www.theconversation.com](#). Informed commentary and debate on the issues affecting our world. All articles written by authors with expertise in the subject matter, so you will get your news directly from actual experts. Also on social media @ConversationUK



[myHE+](#). The HE+ website brings you exciting supercurricular resources created and written by Cambridge students and academics including challenging activities, engaging videos, reflective questions and much more.



[Oxplore](#) is an engaging digital resource from the University of Oxford. As the 'Home of Big Questions', it aims to challenge those from 11-18 years with debates and ideas that go beyond what is covered in the classroom. Big questions tackle complex ideas across a wide range of subjects and reflect the kind of critical thinking students undertake at university.



[The official website of the Nobel Prize](#). Find out about the recent Nobel Prize laureates in the subject you are interested in. What can you learn about their research?



****All Subjects****

These resources are suitable for all students whatever their main interests.

INSIGHTS Find a past lecture from [Newcastle University's INSIGHTS public lecture series](#) that looks interesting. Watch it. Note down a few interesting points to refer back to in your personal statement or at interview.



[Aeon](#). Launched in 2012, Aeon's mission is to explore and communicate knowledge that addresses the need we all share to make sense of ourselves & the world. We ask the big, existentially significant questions & find the freshest, most original answers, provided by leading thinkers on philosophy, science, psychology, society & culture.



[Wellcome Collection](#) a range of activities as enriching resources for post-16 students. Each resource includes activity sheets for & focuses students on a specific section of the recorded event (around 8 to 15 minutes long). The activities are designed to challenge A level Biology, Art, Sociology or Psychology, or BTEC Health and Social Care students.



[Google scholar](#). Google Scholar provides a simple way to broadly search for scholarly literature. From one place, you can search across many disciplines & sources: articles, theses, books, abstracts & court opinions, from academic publishers, professional societies, universities & other web sites.



[Broadcast Video Library - Speakers for Schools](#) Young people can hear from high-achieving professionals and world-famous names by joining live in-person and online events or watching recorded broadcasts to discover the secrets to career success.



[Home | The University of Sheffield Player](#) Internationally renowned researchers work for the University of Sheffield. They are leaders in their fields & their research is helping to tackle many of the problems that affect us all. From art to AI, climate change to cutting edge medicine, sustainable food to societal issues, there will be something on the Player to feed your curiosity



[Springpod subject spotlights](#) allow you to learn an interesting topic while researching your university options. They are a great, free way to get a representative impression of what pursuing a subject at university is actually like.



Are they even read?

The following information which is based on the findings from a survey

- over 70 Admissions Tutors
- from over 20 subject areas
- from a wide range of universities



Admissions Tutors were asked 'WHEN DO YOU USE THE PERSONAL STATEMENT?'

1. Selection for an offer / rejection UCAS
2. Selection for an interview (if required)
3. Asking questions at interview
4. *Occasional* consideration of borderline cases (e.g. course requires grades 'BBB', you are predicted grades 'BBC')
5. Miss the required grade in August – tutors might look at your statement, if they have spare places



What should applicants avoid?

Admissions tutors in the earlier survey were asked what students should avoid. Responses were...

- Waffle
- Swallowing a dictionary
- Statements with no examples or evidence
- Very ordinary interests e.g. going down the pub
- Lying (remember the interview!)
- Becoming somebody you are not
- Rushing - producing a poorly written statement
- Reducing all experiences to skills – stacking shelves in a supermarket provides an honest income – don't sell it for anything else

What should applicants avoid?

Clichéd opening lines!! **Top 10 opening lines:**

Of over 700,000 candidates who applied to university 1,779 began their personal statement: *"From a young age I have (always) been.."* and most of these continued "interested in" or "fascinated by".

"For as long as I can remember I have..." (1,451)

"I am applying for this course because..." (1,370)

"I have always been interested in..." (927)

"Throughout my life I have always enjoyed..." (310)

"Reflecting on my educational experiences..." (257)

"Nursing is a very challenging and demanding (career/ profession/ course)..." (211)

"Academically, I have always been..." (168)

"I have always wanted to pursue a career in..." (160)

"I have always been passionate about..." (160).

"Group assignments are completed with greater efficiency as a result of my compassion, which renders me an effective contender"

"I additionally possess good leadership and teamwork capabilities"



UCAS Deadlines...

- Applications open on 2nd September.
- The first UCAS deadline is **Wednesday 15th October 6pm**
Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine
- The second UCAS deadline is **Wednesday 13th January 6pm**

NB Some universities require additional tests e.g. the UCAT (Medicine), LNAT, TMUA, STEP etc...there are others

Whitburn Sixth Form Deadlines:

- The first sixth form deadline is **Wednesday 7th October 5.30pm**
- The second sixth form deadline is **Friday 18th December 5.30pm**

UCAS

