

# Higher Education

Parents Information Evening:  
11th October 2022

**WIN** WESSEX  
INSPIRATION  
NETWORK



**UCW**

UNIVERSITY  
CENTRE  
WESTON



# What we'll be covering:

- What are the benefits of higher education (HE)?
- Choosing the right HE (Provider, course, type of degree, apprenticeship)
- Financing HE
- How to get into HE? How to apply? What are the next steps?



# What are the benefits of higher education?



Building a network



Career opportunities



Personal development & growth



Social life



Life skills



Training for a career



Knowledge & skills



Freedom to study your passion

## Variety of Experience!

# Choosing the right HE

Types of HE

The course

The location/HE provider



# Types of HE

Level 8	Doctorate PhD				
Level 7	Master Degree MA, MSc, MPhil, LLM				
Level 6	Bachelors Degree BA, BSc, LLB	Top-Up BA, BSc			Degree Apprenticeship
Level 5		Foundation Degree FdA, FdSc	HND	Higher Apprenticeship	
Level 4			HNC		
Level 3	A Levels	L3 Diploma BTEC/UAL Extended Diploma	Level 3 Certificate	Advanced Apprenticeship	
Level 2	GCSE Grades A*-C (9-4)	Level 2 Award/ Certificate Diploma (First)		Intermediate Apprenticeship	
Level 1	GCSE Grades D-G (1-3)	Level 1 Award/ Certificate Diploma (Foundation)			
Entry Level					

# The course

## Academic

E.g. English

## Semi-Vocational

E.g. Business,  
Psychology

## Vocational

E.g. Medicine, Veterinary  
Science



Wide range of transferable  
skills/knowledge

Specific set of skills/knowledge  
for chosen industry



# The HE provider/location

Location: Close or away from home? City, town or rural? Campus (all at one site) or spread through town/city?

Facilities: Student's union, societies & clubs, facilities for your course (e.g. labs, studios)

Living arrangements: Moving out or studying at home? What accommodation is on offer?





# The course – checklist

- Entry requirements: Check Level 3 grades/UCAS tariff points\*; GCSE requirements;
- Subject: Single, dual Honours, Combined, liberal arts?
- Course content: Are the modules what you want to study?
- Course structure and contact time: How are you taught?
- Assessment styles: Are you assessed by exams, practical assessments, coursework?
- Work placement: Does the course offer a sandwich year or work experience?
- Opportunities to study/work overseas?
- Graduate employment: What jobs do graduates go into after the course?

\*UCAS tariff points= qualifications & grades turned into a numerical value



# Higher & Degree Apprenticeships

- Available in a range of industries at Level 4+
  - E.g. Computing, finance, law, health....
- No tuition fees or maintenance loan, employer pays tuition & salary
- University “experience” is quite different;
- Apply direct to employers or via [gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)
- Applications open from August 2022 for summer 2023 start;
- Competition can be intense

# What is an apprenticeship?



An apprenticeship is a real job, where you will gain hands-on experience, a salary and an opportunity to train alongside experienced professionals while you start your professional career



*Where is the training done?* - Some Apprenticeships have day or block release to college or university, but some are mainly work based with a visiting trainer/ assessor coming to see you in the workplace



*What's the duration?* - Anything from 1 to 6 years depending on the level you are studying and your previous experience/qualifications



# Top tips for apprenticeship applications



Degree apprenticeships advertise all throughout the year, but generally open around Dec/Jan



Places can be very competitive – with plenty of assessments and interviews. But don't let this put you off!



Consider smaller companies for other opportunities



You can move to do a degree apprenticeship – some provide accommodation, others you can budget for

# University Centre Weston

- Smaller class sizes making UCW a personal learning environment
- Excellent results - 40% of students achieved a First Class Honours in 2021 (well above the national average)
- Outstanding student support (Heart team)
- Partnership working
- Links with reputable employers such as MOD, Dyson and Rolls Royce.
- Fantastic trip opportunities





# UCW Degree Areas

ART AND GRAPHIC DESIGN

BIOLOGICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ANIMAL SCIENCES

BUSINESS

COMPUTING AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

COUNSELLING AND HEALTHCARE

EDUCATION AND EARLY YEARS

ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION

FILM AND PHOTOGRAPHY

PERFORMANCE, PRODUCTION ARTS AND MUSIC

UNIFORMED AND PUBLIC SERVICES AND SPORT



UCW

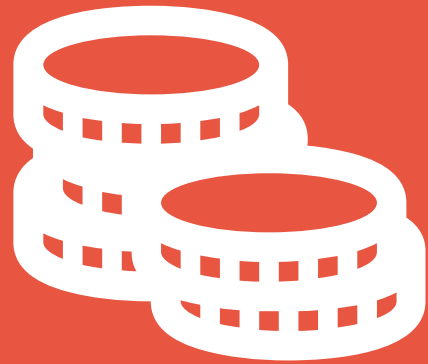
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# Funding HE



## The two main costs of HE are:

- Tuition Fees: (charged by uni every year, up to £9,250)
- Living costs: e.g. rent, bills, travel, food, course books/trips



## Funding available to help pay for these costs:

- Student Finance England (SFE) provide tuition fee & maintenance (living cost) loans. Repayment is based on what a graduate earns, not how much they owe.
- Universities, SFE & other organisations offer non-repayable funding (e.g. grants, scholarships & bursaries)
- Students may work part-time alongside their studies to supplement their income.



# How do I apply for HE?

Full time applications for HE are made through the UCAS online service.  
Degree & higher level apprenticeship applications are made through either:  
[gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](https://gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship), or through the employer/training provider.

The UCAS application will include:

- Personal details
- Full educational & employment history
- Activities you have done with a university
- Personal statement (a 4,000 character statement to show the universities why you want to study with them & why you'll be a good student)
- A single choice application (to 1 HE provider) costs £22.50 or up to 5 choices for £27 (For 23/24 entry)



# What should I do to prepare for my application?



## Research course/HE providers:

- Use UCAS hub, league tables & comparison websites, employers
- Visit virtually & in-person open days
- Sign up for any taster days or activities



## Preparing your application:

- Register on UCAS (step by step guide available on the careers advice team's sharepoint page)
- Start to draft your personal statement (plenty of advice on the sharepoint page as well)



# The Next Steps

September - November



Visiting universities, working on UCAS  
application  
completing personal statements, seeking  
support with your application

18<sup>th</sup> November 2022



Weston College & Sixth Form internal  
deadline for UCAS applications

## Key dates

**15th Oct 2022:** UCAS deadline for applications to  
Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Veterinary  
Medicine & Dentistry

**25th Jan 2023:** UCAS Equal Consideration Deadline

# Where can I get support/information with HE?

## Careers Advice Team

uni.help@weston.ac.uk

Book a 1:1 chat

Message on teams (@ Sally

Bebb or @Lisa Hall)

Sharepoint Website

## Useful Links/ organisations

UCAS

Student Finance England

The Student Room

The UniGuide

Discover Uni

## University Centre Weston Wessex Inspiration Network

UCW heart@ucw.ac.uk

WIN ([www.winncop.ac.uk](http://www.winncop.ac.uk))

alessandra.debiase@weston.ac.uk



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# Thank you for joining us!



*For queries on higher education, how to apply & careers advice, please email [careersadvice@weston.ac.uk](mailto:careersadvice@weston.ac.uk) or [uni.help@weston.ac.uk](mailto:uni.help@weston.ac.uk) or call 01934 411 415*