



Our Goals

To support young people who might not consider higher education as an option

To build aspirations, awareness and access to higher education

To ensure every young person can make the choice that's right for their future

Our Partners



Intro to HE



**Next Steps
South West**



Aims



We want to help you...

- Understand what higher education, HE, means and the benefits of attending higher education.
- Understand the different types of HE qualifications and the different routes.
- Understand the HE jargon.

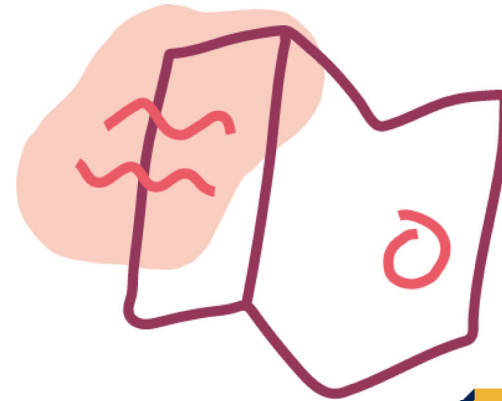
Post-18 Pathway

Many jobs will require you to have an HE qualification.

For some careers you will need a university degree, but for a large number of others there are many different routes into them.

You have the opportunity to specialise in what you really enjoy or a particular career path.

Your choices are an investment in your future.



QUALIFICATION CHART

Higher Education

Level 8

Doctorate/PhD

Level 7

Masters Degree &
Postgraduate
Certificates & Diplomas

Level 6

Integrated Masters Degree

Honours Degree
(2-year degrees also available)

Top-up
Honours
Degree

Level 5

Dip
HE

Masters Degree &
Postgraduate Certificates &
Diplomas

Top-up
Honours Degree

Dip
HE

Foundation
Degree

HND

Level 4

Cert
HE

Cert
HE

HNC

Higher
Apprentice-
ship

Degree
Apprentice-
ship

NVQ
Level 5

Higher
Apprentice-
ship

Higher
Apprentice-
ship

Higher
Apprentice-
ship

Higher
Apprentice-
ship

Degree
Apprenticeship

National Vocational
Qualification (NVQ) Level 4

Secondary/Further Education

Level 3

A and AS-levels

Level 2

GCSE (grades 4-9)

Level 1

GCSE (grades 1-3)

Level 1-3 qualifications such
as:

T-levels, BTEC, Certificate or
Diploma, OCR and City &
Guilds

(Some of these
qualifications can lead all the
way to Level 7/8)

Advanced
Apprenticeship

NVQ
Level 3

Intermediate
Apprenticeship

NVQ
Level 2

NVQ
Level 1

Academic

Vocational

Work-based



Next Steps
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OfS Uni Connect
Programme

General Academic

Bachelor's Degree

- Could be single, joint or combined honours
- Usually 3 years, but can be 4
- Studied at a university or college
- Exams, coursework and sometimes a practical assessment
- Some jobs require you to have a Bachelor's Degree



General Academic/
Vocational

Foundation Degrees

- Usually one subject
- A one or two year course
- On some courses you then have the option to do an extra top up year to get a full Bachelor's Degree
- Studied at a university or college and assessed by exams, coursework and practicals

Vocational

Higher Technical Qualification

- Launched in 2022 L4 and L5 qualifications.
- HNCs, HNDs and Foundation Degrees are assessed against employer developed standards and if approved they have the right to be identified as an HTQ
- Focus on the skills employers are looking for in key job roles – digital, construction, health, education and early years, legal finance and accounting
- Eligible for student funding



Vocational

Higher National Certificate and Diploma

- One or two year course
- Tailored towards specific job roles or career paths
- Practical based courses
- Assessed through assignments, projects and practical tasks
- Studied at HE colleges



Work-based

Higher and Degree Apprenticeships

- 80% on the job training; 20% in the classroom
 - You earn a wage whilst gaining skills and qualifications
 - One to six year qualification
 - You must have a job/employer in order to undertake an apprenticeship.
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- Example degree apprenticeships include: project management; digital & technology solutions; nuclear engineering, construction; surveying, and many more.

What's the difference?

Undergraduate Degree	Higher / Degree Apprenticeship
Access to £9,2535 per year tuition fee loan	government and the company
Gain a level 6 qualification	Gain a level 4-7 qualification
Usually full-time study with variable contact time (some part-time options)	A minimum of 20% protected study time during contracted work hours
Apply through UCAS	Apply through employer
scholarships and loans for living	Paid
Get the 'university experience'	Go straight into the world of work
seminars and independent study, but can include laboratory work	Learn mainly on the job, but also through studies

Examples of Degree subjects

1. Fashion, Knitwear Design & Knitted Textiles
2. Surf Science & Technology
3. Baking Science & Technology
4. Social Media Marketing
5. Adventure Leadership
6. Sportswear Design
7. Sound for Games & Apps
8. Horticulture
9. Contemporary Circus & Physical Theatre
10. Harry Potter Studies
11. Media Make-Up
12. Celtic Studies
13. Yacht Design & Production
14. Ceramics & Glass
15. International Spa Management
16. Watersports Management
17. Virtual Reality Design
18. Rural Health Management
19. Veterinary Physiotherapy
20. Comics & Graphic Novels

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Examples of Sectors & Industries Offering Apprenticeships

- Creative, media, arts, and digital technologies – advanced, higher, degree
- Information and communication technology – advanced, higher, degree
- TV production and broadcasting – advanced, higher, degree
- Business management, marketing, law, and financial services – advanced, higher, degree
- Construction, planning, and the built environment – advanced, higher, degree
- Engineering and manufacturing – advanced, higher, degree
- Health, care and science – advanced, higher, degree
- Creative and Design – higher, degree
- Retail and commercial enterprise – advanced, higher
- Agriculture, horticulture, and animal care – advanced, higher
- Public sector/public services – advanced, higher
- Education, teaching and childcare – advanced
- Leisure, travel, and tourism – advanced

The opportunity to study something you love...

- Over 50,000 courses across more than 395 institutions in the UK
- Taught by leading experts in your subject.

Choosing a Course

- Higher education is different from school and college
- You choose which subject specialism you want to study
- You also usually get to choose **how** you study
- Teaching methods vary
- Contact time differs

The opportunity to expand your career prospects...

- Gain access to certain professions
- Build relationships with future employers
- Give yourself an edge when applying for jobs
- Increase your earning potential



Accommodation

From halls to shared housing, or maybe commuting from your current address – there are options to suit everyone.





Financial Support

There is both repayable and non-repayable support available to you...

Repayable

Tuition Fee Loans

Maintenance Loans

Non-Repayable

Bursaries

Grants

Scholarships

Tuition Fee Loans

- You don't have to pay anything upfront
- Equivalent to your fee – up to £9,535
- This loan is available to everyone & doesn't depend on your income
- Paid directly to your university/college

Maintenance Loan

- The maintenance loan is available to all full-time UK students, regardless of household income.
- Everyone is entitled to at least 44% of the loan (slightly more if you're living away from home). The remaining amount is 'income assessed' on household income.
- It is paid in three instalments

Maintenance Loan

Full-time student	Non-income assessed loan (2025 - 2026)	Maximum loan available (2025 - 2026)
Living at home	£3,907	Up to £8,877
Away from home, outside London	£4,915	Up to £10,544
Away from home, in London	£6,853	Up to £13,762
Spending a year of a UK course studying abroad	£5,838	Up to £12,076

Repayment does not begin until you
earn over...

£25,000

You repay 9% of anything earned
over this threshold

Repayments

- If your earnings fall, your contributions fall
- You can repay early
- You still have to repay if you move abroad
- Debt is written off after 40 years from the April after you leave university.

Annual Salary	income before	Monthly Repayment
Up to £25,000	£2,083	£0
£28,000	£2,333	£22.50
£30,000	£2,500	£37.50
£35,000	£2,916	£75

Clubs & Societies

archery, ASSASSINS GUILD, BAKING, big band, CANOE, choir,
Christian Union, DEBATE, DISNEY SOCIETY,
FOOTBALL, futsal, GAME DEVELOPMENT, golf, HARRY POTTER, KNITTING, LGBT+,
literature, NERF SOC, NETBALL,
RIDING & POLO, SURF, SCUBA, SWIMMING & WATERPOLO,
SU:TV, radio,
ULTIMATE FRISBEE, UNDERWATER HOCKEY,
UPBEAT (DJ SOCIETY),
VIKING, ZOOLOGICAL

Opportunities

Go beyond your comfort zone and experience once-in-a-lifetime trips outside the UK or gain real-world work experience in an industry of your choice!

The step up to higher education opens so many doors.



Is HE Worth It?

- **Yes!** You're less likely to get stuck in a job you don't like.
- **Yes!** It will broaden your horizons and give you lots of new experiences.
- **Yes!** It could help you earn more and make your career path more interesting.
- **Yes!** You'll be expected to work for about 50 years, so why not spend 3 years making sure you get the best deal?

But make sure you do a bit of research and find out what is right for you.

Any Questions?

Check out the FAQs at

 nextstepssw.ac.uk



**Next Steps
South West**



Thank You



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**Next Steps
South West**



HE partner films

<https://nextstepssw.ac.uk/2021/12/20/university-centre-south-devon-campus-tour-he-taster/>

<https://nextstepssw.ac.uk/2021/12/21/university-of-falmouth-campus-tour-he-taster/>

<https://nextstepssw.ac.uk/2021/12/20/university-centre-somerset-media-make-up-he-taster/>

<https://nextstepssw.ac.uk/2021/12/21/university-centre-somerset-campus-tour-he-taster/>