

2026

July

P16

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Summer 2026

Careers Bulletin



What can I do during the Summer to make my application for apprenticeship, employment or university stronger?

The Summer is a good time to think about whether university or an apprenticeship is better for you, and how to make a strong application



Consider the main advantages of each route...

The benefits of university over apprenticeships

- choose from thousands of degrees
- a more open-ended career in terms of future opportunities
- gain independence by living away from home
- acquire a range of soft skills transferable to any job role
- high earning potential for many graduate roles
- develop specialist knowledge for careers in academia
- enjoy the full social experience of university
- have access to cutting-edge research facilities
- receive expert career guidance and support.

The benefits of apprenticeships over university

- enter the world of work and gain valuable on-the-job training
- earn a salary as you study for your qualification
- no tuition fees to pay or student debt
- make industry contacts from the first day
- a direct entry into a specific career
- fast-track your career with work-based learning.

**Explore which would be the best fit
for your lifestyle**



Consider the pros and cons for both...

University	Apprenticeship
studying a subject you love	getting a new apprenticeship in a field you're interested in
getting involved in university life: clubs & societies	making new friends at work
experiencing living independently	managing work and study
getting a part-time job alongside your studies	socialising with your co-workers

Write a list based upon your own research, speaking to friends & family, teachers and the Careers Team

What is an apprenticeship?



Find out how an apprenticeship works, the benefits, levels explained, how to find the right apprenticeship, how to use the Gov.uk website, your skills and strengths. All explained below. **Earn while you learn.**

Watch this 7-min video to understand the basics of apprenticeships

[CLICK HERE](#)



The Pros and Cons of University

We asked uni students what they thought

If you're not sure if uni's the right choice for you, why not listen to what some current students have to say about their experiences. They told us all about their favourite things about uni, and they were also really open about what they find harder, or what they don't enjoy quite as much, so you can get the full picture.



Take 4 mins 37 secs to watch what they say...

[CLICK HERE](#)



University Open Days are a great way to explore the campus and decide whether studying there is a good fit for you.

Explore dates for upcoming Open Days on the links below:

[OPEN DAYS](#)

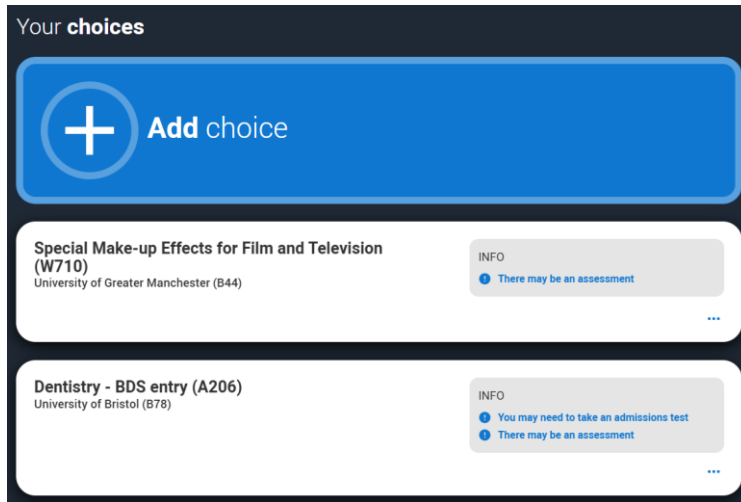
Some universities offer virtual tours and video open days so that you can explore their campuses and facilities:

[VIRTUAL TOURS](#)



Explore what current apprenticeship vacancies there are from Level 3 through to Level 6 (degree apprenticeship):

[SEARCH HERE](#)



When you make your choices on your UCAS application, it will tell you if there is likely to be an assessment and if you need to take an admissions test.

Courses such as: Medicine, Dentistry, Law, Mathematics, Computer Science, Engineering have require admissions tests.

Some courses such as: Fine Art & Graphic Design, Architecture, Photography, Film/Media, Fashion & Textile Design, Make-up for Film & TV, make require a portfolio.

HOW TO PREPARE:

- Research your choices early
- Register for any tests within the timeline
- Build a targeted portfolio.

ADMISSIONS TESTS

If you are considering staying in Bristol to study, you may be eligible for the two universities' widening participation schemes



Discover Bristol 2026-2027:

Y13 students from lower socio-economic groups. Includes academic taster sessions, personal statement guidance, study skills etc.

[express interest here](#)

Next Step Bristol 2026-2027:

For Y13 Asian, Black and racialised minoritised background students. 4 x virtual sessions 1 x campus day.

[apply here](#)

Access to Bristol 2026-2027:

Open for Y13 local students from 02/09/2026 to 27/09/2026

[more info here](#)



UWE Bristol is ranked 9th in the UK for the number of students enrolled from under-represented groups.

Eligibility for the Access to UWE is based directly upon the **information from your UCAS application**. The scheme involves online webinars, Summer school and support entering higher education.

A contextual offer is 16 points lower for undergraduate degrees and 8 points for foundation degrees.

Making a strong application



Whether you are considering university or an apprenticeship, there are things you can do to make a strong application

Part-time Employment

	Part-time roles:	SiXT Sales Exec Line chef bartender security agent
	Part-time roles:	various
	Part-time roles:	various
	Kingswood:	Sales Assistant

Jobs also available through employment agencies such as Indeed, Reed Recruitment, Corr Recruitment and Blue Arrow etc.

Make sure you have a clear CV to share.

Voluntary Work

	Can Do Bristol
	Bristol City Council
	Citizens Advice South Glos
	Somerset Wildlife Trust
	Royal Voluntary Service
	Young Bristol
	Creative Youth Network



Level 1 Introductory

Level 2 Intermediate

Level 3 Advanced

	Money & Business
	Health, Sports & Psychology
	History & The Arts
	Nature & Environment
	Science, Maths & Technology
	Society, Politics & Law
	Digital & Computing
	<i>Coding, cyber security, team leading, equity & diversity, mental health awareness... and many more!</i> all courses here

Extra Curriculars

Examples of extra-curricular activities:

- Sports clubs
- Performing Arts and Visual Arts – drama, choir, band, painting, pottery, public speaking etc.
- School clubs – debate teams, chess clubs, student councils
- Work experience, part-time work
- Voluntary work and fund raising
- Tutoring or training
- Learning a foreign language

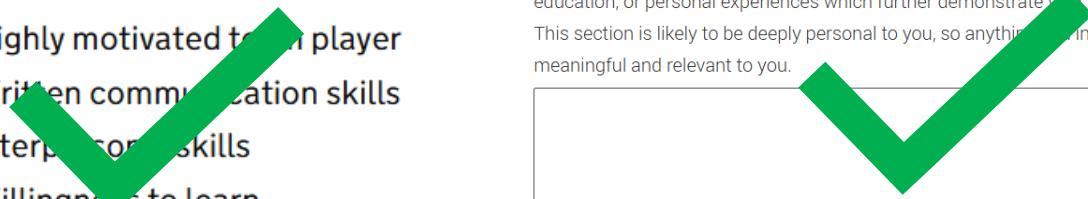
Super-curricular activities are completed outside the classroom to deepen your subject knowledge eg. Online courses, independent research (EPQ), wider reading & listening (Podcasts, Blogs), subject-specific challenges (eg. Mathematics Challenges, practical projects).

Skills

- Communication skills
- Attention to detail
- Highly motivated team player
- Written communication skills
- Interpersonal skills
- Willingness to learn
- Adaptable and flexible

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

This is your chance to reflect on any other activities you have undertaken outside of your education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be deeply personal to you, so anything you include should be meaningful and relevant to you.



Please use a minimum of 350 characters in this section (350 needed)



Bristol Summer Events & Activities

(some of which may be useful in your applications!)

Bristol Harbour Festival 17-19 July

<https://www.bristolharbourfestival.co.uk/>

Bristol International Balloon Fiesta 7-9 August

<https://www.bristolballoonfiesta.co.uk/>

Forwards Festival Bristol 29-30 August

<https://www.forwardsbristol.co.uk/>

Sparks Bristol (located in the former Broadmead Marks & Spencer building) this eco-hub hosts community markets and events, eg. Repair Café:

<https://sparksbristol.co.uk/events/repair-cafe/>

Blackbeard to Banksy – Bristol Walking Tour, discover Bristol's radical history and street art:

<https://blackbeard2banksy.com/>

Wake the Riger Amazement Park – Immersive Adventures Bristol:

<https://www.wakethetiger.com/>

If you are considering a career in health care:



IntoHealthcare Insight Day 2026

IntoUniversity is inviting you to apply for the **IntoHealthcare Insight Day!** If you are interested, please complete this application form before **Sunday 19th July 2026, 6pm.**

Successful applicants will have the opportunity to:

- Learn about the entry requirements for degree programmes relating to healthcare and medicine across the UK, as well as application timelines and take-away actions to maximise your chances of getting a place.
- Listen to short talks from a variety of speakers on what an average day in different professions might look like. You will be given the opportunity to ask them questions and take part in a speed networking exercise.
- Work in small groups on a challenge and discuss a range of topics relating to diversity and inclusion in the healthcare sector.

When: Thursday 13th August 2025, 10:00am - 4:00pm.

Where: Kings College London Strand Campus, The Strand, London, WC2R 2LS

Who: This opportunity is open to **IntoUniversity** students who are 16 years old or over and are interested in learning more about different careers in healthcare. You do not need to be interested in studying medicine at university to apply for this opportunity.

Applications are open to students living in or outside of London, and travel will be organised for successful students who live outside of London.

The deadline to apply is **Sunday 19th July 2026, 6pm.**

If you have any questions, please contact enrichment@intouniversity.org.

[APPLY HERE](#)

I have questions, or need
support...email
careers@p16.clf.uk

TEAMS or in-person meetings available

