



BHASVIC



**Careers Guide –
Researching Your
Options at 16+**

**For Students and
Parents/Carers**

Choosing your options after school:

There are a variety of different options available to you after you finish school. This guide gives you some information and resources to help you to start researching and planning your next steps.

What is Raising the Participation Age (RPA)? (source: www.parentalguidance.org)

The government has increased the age that all young people in England are required to continue in education or training. Young people are still allowed to leave school at 16, but must continue in some form of learning until the age of 18.

What counts as learning?

- stay in full-time education, for example at a college
- start an apprenticeship or traineeship
- spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering, while in part-time education or training

What is an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship involves working whilst gaining training. They provide you with the skills you need for your chosen career that will also lead to nationally recognised qualifications. As an apprentice, you earn while you learn. There are a variety of levels available from level 2 up to degree level.

What is a traineeship?

Designed to help young people who don't yet have the appropriate skills or experience, traineeships provide the essential preparation to secure an apprenticeship or employment. They are unpaid but expenses such as travel/food are often covered by the employer. They are aimed at students who are working at below level 3 and designed to help students become work ready.

College course choices - what you'll need to consider (source: **Career Pilot; Which? University**):

If you are thinking about studying at college, you need to choose subjects:

- you will enjoy
- you believe that you will do well in
- that will help you get to where you want to go in the future.

You need to make sure that your choice of qualifications and subjects allows you to keep your options open if you haven't got a specific career in mind or will help you get the career or job you would like to do.

Do your research using some of the resources in this document so you can make an informed decision, based on accurate up-to-date information - but remember, the final choice is yours as you are the one that will have to put the hard work in!

Things to consider:

- College courses can be a big step up from GCSEs so choose your subjects wisely. Your career or degree ideas may change so make sure you choose subjects which you like and can do well in.
- If you have no idea about your choice of career or choice of degree subject at this stage, (many students are in this position!), then make sure you choose a combination of subjects that will keep your current preferred options open. Some subjects are accepted by a majority of universities. These are sometimes known as 'facilitating' subjects. Try using the tool on the Russell Groups Informed Choices website to get an idea of where your subject choices could take you. Some universities will be stricter than others on entry requirements so this is just a guide [Pick a route | Informed Choices](#).
- If you have a talent for Art, Design or Music and think it could be an avenue you'll pursue, taking the relevant qualifications will help that to happen.
- If you have a specific career in mind, check to see if you will need specific qualifications. Look at the job profiles on [The National Careers Service](#) site to find out more.
- If you have a specific degree course in mind, you need to check the entry requirements. Some university courses are very specific about the subjects/qualifications required – other degree subjects are very flexible. Check entry requirements on the [UCAS](#) website or on individual university's websites including GCSE requirements and A level/BTEC requirements. Don't be afraid to email the universities during Year 11 to ask for their advice about the subjects required for a course you are interested in– either email the Admissions Tutor or the Course Tutor.
- If you are taking a science qualification, you should consider whether you need to look at taking another science or maths, particularly if you are interested in scientific careers or courses as some universities require two sciences/maths for particular courses.
- If you are unsure of your career choice or degree choice, then think carefully about your combination of subjects. It is hard to pick up 3 or 4 new subjects that you have never studied before.

Top tips when choosing college courses:

- 1. Research each subject thoroughly** – talk to your teachers to find out what is involved in the course. Use open evenings to talk to students who are already taking that subject. Find out how the course will be assessed and whether this will suit you and your strengths/learning style.
- 2. Make sure you have thought carefully about your combination of choices** and if they meet the requirements of any possible careers/universities/apprenticeships that you are interested in (your ideas may change and that is fine too!). Please note: there are other options available if you need different subjects to progress after BHASVIC through university Foundation Year courses or Access to Higher Education courses.

3. Take subjects if you are good at them and really interested in studying them further. You will be studying these subjects in depth for up to two years so it is important to have an enthusiasm and motivation to explore it.

Researching careers/options with different subjects



[Success at School: Careers advice for schools and students](#)

Success at School is the place for young people to explore careers, get the lowdown on top employers, and search for the latest jobs, courses and advice.



[iCould](#)

From accountants to zookeepers, get a first-hand view of jobs and ideas for your future through videos and short summaries of different possibilities.



[What can I do next? UCAS](#)

Confused about your options after school, college, or sixth form? Here's all you need to know about the routes available to you, to help you decide what to do next. You could apply to university, go on a gap year, take on an apprenticeship, find an internship, or start your working career.

Considering options from A level subjects

[A-level Subject Course Choices & Advice](#) - The Uni Guide

[Choosing A Levels](#) (thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk)

[Choosing your A level Subjects](#) | Careers Writers Association (parentalguidance.org.uk)

[Pick a route | Informed Choices](#) - Russell Group

A level and BTEC options

[A-levels vs Btecs: which should you take?](#) - The Uni Guide

Local Youth Employment Services

If you do not have a place at college or want to explore your options. Depending on your local authority, there are different services that can support you with careers advice:



Brighton and Hove YES team and Youth Employability Hub

[Youth Employability Service - Brighton & Hove](#)

[Youth Employment Hub Brighton](#)



East Sussex Yes team

[CXX Services: Youth Employability Service](#)



West Sussex Find it Out Centres

[Find It Out centres](#)

Apprenticeships & Employment



[Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/find-an-apprenticeship)

Search and apply for an apprenticeship in England

[Find a traineeship- GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/find-a-traineeship)

Search and apply for a traineeship in England

[Skills Training UK](https://www.skills-training.co.uk/)

Skills Training UK is an innovative skills and employability provider offering Traineeships to young people aged 16-24 who do not have the qualifications or industry experience to start a full-time job. We also support individuals into Apprenticeships with local employers.

[Apprenticeships In Sussex](https://www.apprenticeshipsinsussex.co.uk/)

This site will help you search for apprenticeship, traineeship and pre-employment training in Sussex.

[Not Going To Uni: Apprenticeships & Work Experience](https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/apprenticeships) Find apprenticeships in Not Going to Uni, the online apprenticeships guide that offers you advice on how to become an apprentice, find traineeships and college employment schemes.

[School Leaver Jobs | AllAboutSchoolLeavers](https://www.allaboutschooleavers.co.uk/school-leaver-jobs)

At All About School Leavers, our mission is clear: to help school leavers get jobs and understand the career paths available to them.

[Barclays LifeSkills | Developing work and life skills](https://www.barclays.co.uk/life-skills) Interview skills and more to prepare young people for the 21st century workplace.

[Career Quiz helping you find the right career, degree or apprenticeship](https://www.sacu.ac.uk/career-quiz)

SACU offers a great independent & impartial source of careers information to students, parents and teachers.

[Rate My Apprenticeship](https://www.rate-my-apprenticeship.co.uk/)

Search & apply for apprenticeship schemes and school leaver jobs. Read reviews from previous apprentices and find excellent career advice for young people.



University



[UCAS | At the heart of connecting people to higher education](#)

UCAS connects people to University, post Uni studies including teacher training, apprenticeships & internships. Find all the information for your next step.



[Find and Compare the Best University & Degree Courses – The Uni Guide](#)

Find out which university degree courses and subjects your A-levels suit, using Which? University's interactive explorer tool.

See Which? University's full list of university degrees and relevant level 3 qualifications: [What A-level subjects do you need for the degree you want to study? - The Uni Guide](#)



[Match your A-levels to degree subjects - SACU - Career Cloud Quiz \(sacu-student.com\)](#)

Match your subjects to a personalised degree cloud. See actual A-level combinations by course, by subject and by university group.



[Compare the Best University Degrees Courses UK | Whatuni](#)

Compare the best University & degree courses for free - Degree course rankings, university reviews, degree course details, university profiles to help you decide.



[Discover Uni Home | Discover Uni](#)

The official website for comparing UK higher education course data.

Includes official data for undergraduate courses on each university and college's satisfaction scores in the National Student Survey, jobs and salaries after study and other key information for prospective students.



[Prospects.ac.uk](#)

Prospects are the experts in graduate careers. They help to guide students and graduates to a bright future with unrivalled information, advice and opportunities.