

My Future Plans – Session 3

Types of Degrees, Taster Days, Summer Schools, FE Options, Gap Years



Courses & Universities

- **There are thousands of different courses and combinations**
- **300+ different HE and FE providers**

Larger and smaller providers

There are 13 different providers in Sussex alone offering degree level courses. Can you name them?

- * University of Sussex, University of Brighton, University of Chichester
- * **They were obvious.....also...**
- * Brighton and Sussex Medical School (medicine)
- * BIMM (music/performing)
- * Greater Brighton Met – Northbrook and Brighton Met (creative arts/games/engineering)
- * Brighton Film School (film/media)
- * Sussex Downs (journalism/media/healthcare/sports)
- * Plumpton College (animals/agriculture)
- * Chichester College (business/catering/computing/management)
- * BRICCTT (dance/performing)
- * Sussex Coast College Hastings (creative arts/teaching)
- * Waterbear (music production/management)

Types of Degrees

- * Single subject degree
- * Joint/combined/multidisciplinary (our biggest rise in applications in the past two years)
- * Sandwich – work placement/year abroad
- * Degree with Sponsorship/Degree Apprenticeships
- * Foundation degrees

Single subject degree

1. Professional courses - where in effect you're applying for the profession as well as the degree. may lead on to professional accreditation, but may not.

Examples?

Nursing, Teaching, Accountancy

2. Non-vocational courses - which can still keep many options open provided you develop your employability skills alongside

Examples?

Psychology, History, Business

Joint, Combined or Multidisciplinary Degrees

- **Combine 2 subjects**

Examples?

History and Spanish or Physics and Music Performance

- **Combine 3 subjects**

Examples?

PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics)

- **Take a major/minor course**

Examples?

Maths with Management

- **Or a multidisciplinary course**

Examples?

Natural Sciences or Liberal Arts or Arts & Sciences

‘Sandwich’/ work placements/ year studying abroad

- * Placement year is usually paid (e.g. Sussex average = £16 - £25K)
- * Tuition fee for placement reduced to £1,800 (UK/EU)
- * Unis like **Aston, Bath, Brunel, Loughborough, Surrey** offer it across a wide range of subjects
- * **Sussex** offers it through **Sussex Choice**
- * Great options for study abroad – NOT ALL universities offer it!

Why take on a work placement?

- * Increasing emphasis is placed on **work skills**
- * An opportunity to work in a career related to your degree to gain experience – **organised for you**
- * “A degree certificate on its own is **no longer enough**. Employers want to know ‘what else?’” (Jeff Lovejoy, Graduate Recruiter)
- * **60% of placement students are offered full time employment** by their placement employer
- * In **Investment banking** up to **71% of vacancies** are filled by graduates who have **already worked** for the employer
- * Encourages **commercial awareness**



Why Study Abroad

- * **Enhanced CV and improved career path:** shows you are creative, open-minded, make most of opportunities
- * **Personal development:** increased confidence, independence; problem solving and decision making
- * **International perspective:** can work across cultures, language skills, increased tolerance; develop and broaden networks
- * **Widen academic horizons:** study your subjects with a different focus; consider Masters at universities abroad

Example options from University of Sussex



Degree apprenticeships

- * Great opportunities.....
- * Very competitive – often not applied through UCAS so you will need to do your own research
- * Average salary = £16K + all uni costs paid for
- * Employers: Accenture, BT, Capgemini, Ford, Fujitsu, GSK, HMRC, HP, IBM, John Lewis, Lloyds Banking Group, Network Rail, Tata
- * Universities: Aston, Exeter, Greenwich, Loughborough, Manchester Metropolitan, UCL, UWE Bristol, Winchester

Foundation Degrees

- * **These offer a terrific option if you are concerned that you might not reach the high grades for your chosen uni courses.**
- * **For example: University of Sussex offer a CCC grade Foundation Degree which is modular so you could study law alongside psychology or international relations.**
- * **If you pass the year you get automatic entry into the AAA grade degree courses.**
- * **Lots of other universities are gradually adding Foundation years onto their degrees (check out Northbrook for visual arts).**
- * **And data shows that more students go onto complete Masters degrees and Doctorates from Foundation degrees.....**

CHOOSING A COURSE

- * Choose what you enjoy
- * Think outside the box
- * Seek out hidden gems
- * Be aware of skills shortages
- * ... for which **STEM subjects** confer an advantage
- * But equally, be aware that **50-60% of graduate jobs are open to graduates of any discipline**

Taster days and Summer Schools

- * So many options it is hard to choose but it is important that you know what is out there so you can make **informed choices**.
- * A great way to decide is to take advantage of the number of **summer schools and taster days** on offer from universities and colleges.

Further Education Options

- * In addition don't forget you have another **free year of education after BHASVIC (free until 19 years old)**.
- * Explore these options if you need a **complete change of path**.
- * Local providers include FE Colleges such as Brighton Met and Worthing College and Plumpton College.
- * Or you need **additional qualifications** for a degree you want to apply for.
- * **Planning University in a few years time** – think about an Access to HE course – Varndean and Greater Brighton Met offer a variety.

Art Foundation

- * For **September 2018** we have had **71 BHASVIC students** applying for foundation courses
- * This is common if you are applying for **creative arts degrees** and is a one year course aimed at stretching you artistically and building a wider portfolio.
- * It is one year, equivalent to two A levels and you generally need to be studying a visual arts subject before applying.
- * There is an excellent **Visual Arts page on the VLE** which gives lots of useful info.



Gap Years

- * As a whole group can you feedback pros and cons of taking a gap year?

Gap Years

Pros

An opportunity to have a break from studying and return refreshed. You can volunteer, get valuable work experience, and travel the world.

A productive gap year can be valuable on your CV.

You could relate the experience and activities to the subject area you plan to study.

You can earn and save money towards your higher education costs or future plans.

You will develop maturity if you don't yet feel ready for higher education or work life. For some careers, it can be an advantage to be slightly older and have some life experience.

Cons

Some people find a year out becomes a distraction from their longer term plans.

An unstructured year out may not add much value to your future – careful thought and planning is essential.

It can be harder to return to study or work after a year-long break.

It can be expensive and you could find yourself in a worse financial position at the end.

If you don't get organised, you may end up spending your gap year just 'thinking about it'

Gap Years – what could you achieve?

- * **Volunteering** – You could take part in a wildlife conservation project, teach children in an orphanage, or help build a school in a third world country.
- * **Travel** - You could go backpacking across South East Asia, InterRail through Europe, or buy a round the world plane ticket!
- * **Paid employment** - You could work on an outback farm in Australia, as a ski lift operator in Canada, or at a backpacker hostel in New Zealand.
- * **Work experience** – if you want to gain relevant experience and skills for a particular career or subject you plan to study, you could consider a work placement or internship.

Workbook

- * **Continue to work through your My Future Plans workbook exploring degree options in session 3.**
- * **There is also plenty more information and links in the workbook for study abroad and work placements.**