

Future Pathways – Parents' Evening

Welcome!

Richard Challoner School

“Doing ordinary things extraordinarily well”



Future Pathways – what are the options?

- University?
- Apprenticeship?
- Degree Apprenticeship?
- School leavers programme?
- Employment?
- Gap year?

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



Interested in Sports but not as a professional player? Here's just a snapshot!

At university:

Athletic Trainer

Coach – many different sports

Assistant Coach

Lifeguard

Associate Athletic Director

Athletic Director

Physical Education Instructor

Marketing and Promotions Coordinator

Athletic Program Development Director

Sports Information Director

Sports and Exercise Scientist



Here's just a snapshot!

In health and fitness:

Athletic Trainer

Physical Therapist

Medical Assistant

Sports Medicine Aide

Assistant Athletic Trainer

Physical Therapy Assistant

Sports Massage Therapist

Sports and Fitness Nutritionist

Strength and Conditioning Coach

Exercise Physiologist

Sports Physician

Sports Psychologist

Fitness Class Instructor



Here's just a snapshot!

Within professional sports teams:

Coach

Strength and Conditioning Coach

Scout

Player

Referee

General Manager

Business Manager

Marketing Director

Promotion Director

Paralegal

Medical staff

Sport and Exercise Psychologist

Executive Director

Director of Community Relations

Ticket Operations Manager

Stadium Manager

Sports Events Coordinator

Equipment Manager

Scoreboard Operator

Public Address Announcer



Here's just a snapshot!

Sporting retail:

Manufacturer's Representative

Sporting Goods Store Manager

Sporting Goods Salesperson

Sports Store Business Owner



Here's just a snapshot!

Recreation:

Sports Development Manager

Recreational Manager

Youth Sports Administrator

Recreation Manager

Director

Recreation Specialist

Recreation Therapist

Outdoor Recreation Planner

Health and Fitness Director

Instructor

Facility Manager

Aquatic Director



Here's just a snapshot!

Broadcasting:

Sportscaster

Sports News Reporter

Television Sports Producer

Radio Sports Producer

Internet Sports Producer

Sports Writer

Sports Photographer

Sports Talk Show Host

Sports Columnist

Sports Television Talent Director

Editor

Publisher



Keeping an open mind

- People called Lawrence often become lawyers!
- Associations of the word 'engineer'



Engineering

Aerospace and
aeronautical

Biomedical

Chemical

Civil and
structural

Electrical and
electronic

Energy

Environmental

Marine

Materials

Mechanical

Production and
manufacturing

Software
engineering and
computing

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Future Pathways – apprenticeships

[UCAS: Apprenticeships](#)

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What are Apprenticeships?



Employed



Off the job



Different levels



1-6 years



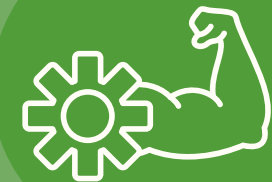
Contract



Salary



800+ standards



Not easy

Levels of Apprenticeships



Level 2
Intermediate Apprenticeship

Equivalent to
5 GCSEs
(Grade A*-C or 9-4)

Level 3
Advanced Apprenticeship

Equivalent to
2 A Levels

Level 4
Higher Apprenticeship

Equivalent to an
HNC/HND

Level 5
Higher Apprenticeship

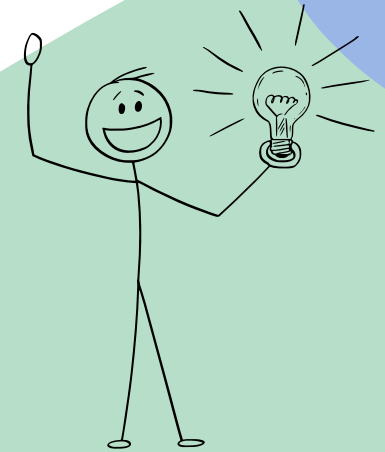
Equivalent to
Foundation degree
level

Level 6
Degree Apprenticeship

Equivalent to
Bachelor's degree
level

Level 7
Degree Apprenticeship

Equivalent to
Master's degree
level



Levels of Apprenticeships



Intermediate (L2)

- Furniture maker
- Security operative
- Barber
- Aviation ground handler
- Dog groomer
- Florist
- Accounts assistant
- Pharmacy assistant
- Marina operative
- Junior estate agent

140+ standards

Advanced (L3)

- Engineering technician
- Pastry chef
- Multi-channel marketer
- Fundraiser
- Scenic artist
- Electrician
- Community wellbeing worker
- Data technician

230+ standards

Higher

- Visual effects artist
- Town planning assistant
- Sports coach
- Space engineering technician

110+ standards (L4)

- Vet technician
- Nursing associate
- Rail engineer
- Marine pilot
- Nuclear technician

40+ standards (L5)

Degree

- Geoscientist
- Accounting manager
- Midwife
- Social worker
- Civil engineer

110+ standards (L6)

- Doctor
- Game programmer
- Play therapist
- Solicitor
- Economist

60+ standards (L7)

Higher & degree apprenticeships



- 1 University fees paid by employer/Government
- 2 No debt
- 3 Integrated degree or degree level
- 4 Experience
- 5 4-6 years
- 6 100+ universities (+ colleges, training providers)
- 7 Employer selects University/provider

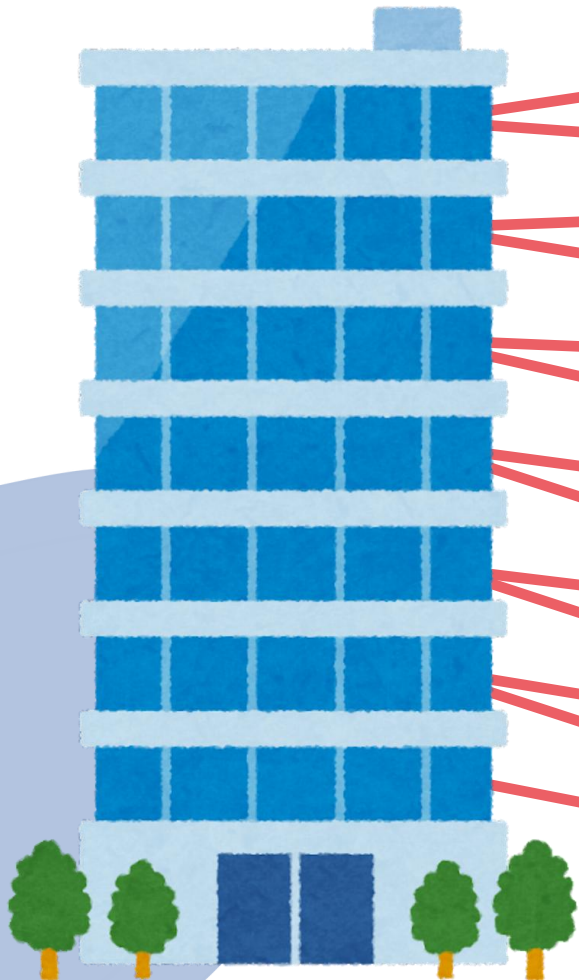


Range of Employers



& Many More

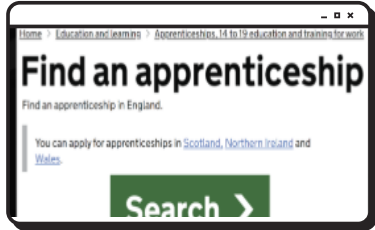
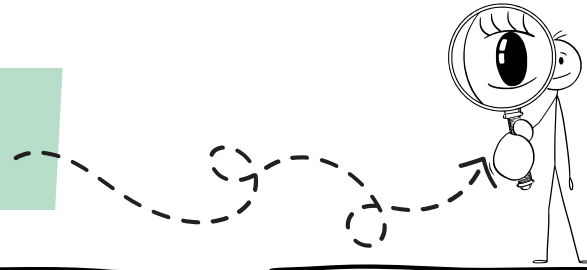
Look inside the company



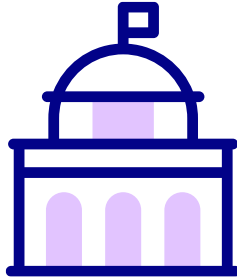
- Logistics
- IT and Cyber Security
- Data Analytics
- Sales
- Business Development
- Marketing
- Human Resources (HR)
- Finance
- Legal
- Facilities Management
- Security
- Customer Service
- Training and Development



Searching for Apprenticeships



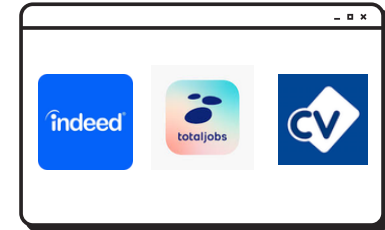
Find an apprenticeship



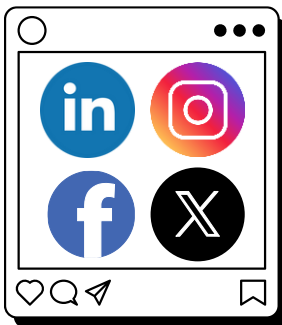
Local Authorities



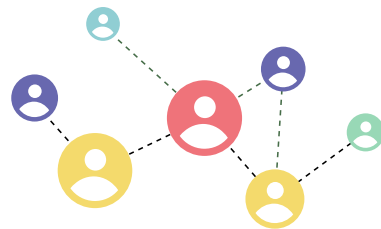
Company websites



Job websites



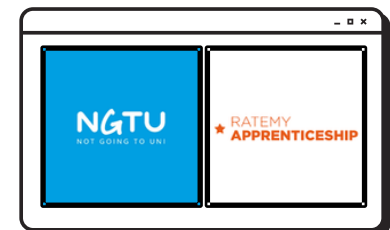
Social Media



Networking



UCAS



other platforms

Amazing Apprenticeships



Application guides



Factsheets



Using Faa guide



Webinars



Employer profiles



Apprentice advice

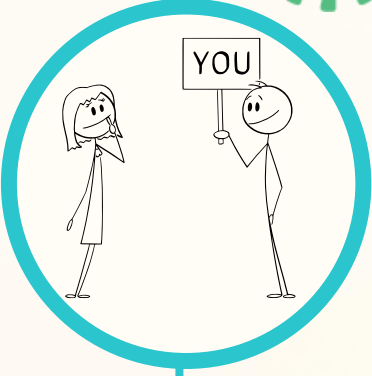
Amazing
Apprenticeships
www.amazingapprenticeships.com

Application Process



Apply

Submit your application with the required details.



Assessments

Complete online or in- person tests or tasks to show your skills.



Offer & Start

Receive an offer and begin your apprenticeship journey.



Step 01



Step 02



Step 03



Step 04



Step 05



Step 06

Search & Register

Create an account and explore apprenticeship opportunities



Short Listing

Employers review applications and select candidates.



Interviews

Meet with employers to discuss your suitability



Future Pathways – gap year

- Can be useful if still uncertain about university/ the future
- A break from full-time education
- An opportunity to develop particular skills/ attributes

Key questions:

- Am I clear on my reasons for taking a gap year?
- What do I want to achieve?
- What ‘value’ will it add to me?

[UCAS: Gap Year](#)



Future Pathways – university

- Study what you love, what you're interested in, with experts in that field
- Gain a qualification needed for a career aspiration
- Potentially increase your future earnings and employability

Key questions:

- Do I love learning/ academic study?
- Do I have a genuine interest in the subject I'm applying for?



Future Pathways – choosing a subject to study at university

[UCAS: How to choose the right course](#)



Future Pathways – shortlisting university courses

- Entry requirements
- Location
- Campus/ city university
- Course content
- Range of modules
- Amount of choice in module selection
- League tables (The Complete University Guide; The Guardian; Times Higher Education)
- TEF rating
- Contact time
- Student/ staff ratio
- Lecture/ tutorial ratio
- Who is teaching and their specialisms
- Competitiveness of course (how many places per applicant)
- Form of assessment (exam only/ some coursework)
- Social life/ activities
- Scholarships/ bursaries
- Graduate earning potential
- Type of degree (accelerated, foundation, integrated practical year/ year abroad, distance learning, full time, part time)
- Accommodation
- Cost of living
- Open Days



Future Pathways – Finance

Mark Alger

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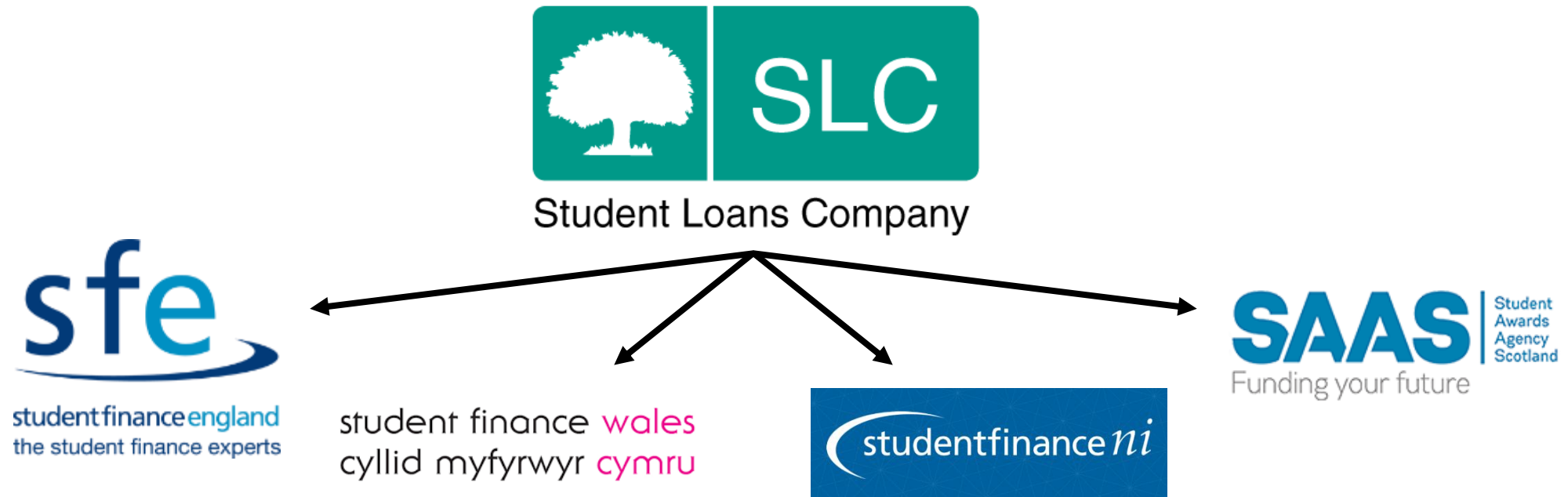


STUDENT FINANCE EXPLAINED

PLAN 5 (2023+) - ENGLISH STUDENTS

A quick note

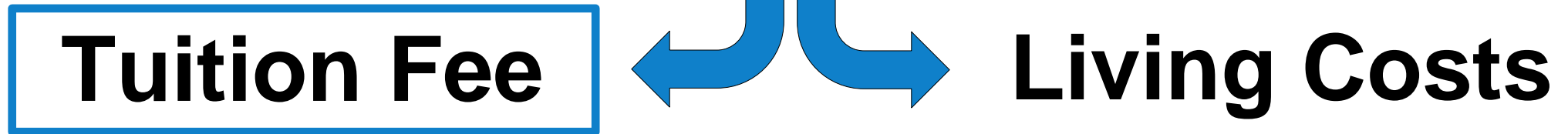
- For most, student finance is relatively straightforward.
- For others, things can get very complicated, very quickly!
- There is variation across the four nations of the UK.



A quick note

- For most, student finance is relatively straightforward.
- For others, things can get very complicated, very quickly!
- There is variation across the four nations of the UK.
- Information concerns 2026 entry (confirmed on 26/11/2025).
- This presentation *is in no way* an endorsement of the current system.
- I simply want to make sure everyone who is thinking about university (plus their parent(s) or guardian(s)) has an **accurate** understanding of how student finance works.
- Check your eligibility (SFE): www.gov.uk/student-finance/who-qualifies

The cost of university

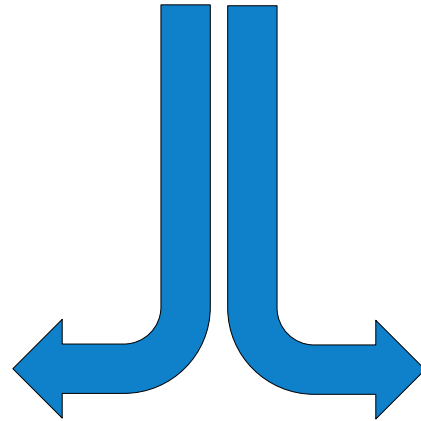


Tuition Fee

- For 2026/27, most universities can charge up to £9,790 (£11,750 for accelerated degrees) per academic year for undergraduate courses.
- £10,050 and £12,060 respectively for 2027/28.
- Foundation Year = up to £5,760 or £9,790 (depending on course)
- Eligible full and part-time students can cover this with a Tuition Fee Loan.
- This is paid by the student's funding body directly to their university.
- Foundation Diploma in Art and Design (if under 19 on 31st August...).

The cost of university

Tuition Fee



Living Costs

Maintenance Loan

- Eligible (F+PT) students can apply for a loan to **help cover** their living costs.
- 68% of students now undertake paid work during term time.
- September – January – after Easter.
- The amount a student receives depends on three factors:
 - Whether they'll be living at their parental home (“living with parents”)
 - Where in the UK they'll be studying
 - Assessed household income
- Students need to keep their funding body updated if circumstances change.

Maintenance Loan

Living with parents

£4,013 - £9,118

Not living with parents or holds Independent Student Status*

Studying outside London**

£5,048 - £10,830

Studying inside London**

£7,039 - £14,135

*Independent Student Status = care for someone under the age of 18; you are 25 or older; you are married or in a civil partnership (even if you are now divorced/separated); you have no living parents; you have financially supported yourself for at least three years; your parents cannot be traced or it is not practically possible to contact them; you are permanently estrangement from parents (not an exhaustive list).

[ucas.com](https://www.ucas.com) Finance for independent students (n.d.)

**London = the former Metropolitan Police District (which includes all 32 London boroughs and some areas of Surrey, Essex and Hertfordshire), courses at the University of London, and institutes in the City of London.

(assumed) Parental Contribution

- Historically ambiguous and/or mentioned only in passing.
- Providing the student does not hold ISS, the amount they receive through their Maintenance Loan is linked to *your* assessed household income.
- In other words, the higher the assessed household income, the less Maintenance Loan the student will receive (and vice versa).
- It is ***assumed*** parent(s)/guardian(s) will be able (and willing!) to make up (“top up”) the difference (but the Government does not set out any explicit level of parental contributions).

(assumed) Parental Contribution

- Some further information:

[moneysavingexpert.com](https://www.moneysavingexpert.com) *How much should you contribute to you child's student maintenance loan? calcs (n.d.)*

NHS Learning Support Fund and Bursary

- NHS Learning Support Fund provides additional funding for eligible healthcare students.
 - **Training Grant**
 - **Parental Support**
 - **Exceptional Support Fund**
 - **Travel and Dual Accommodation Expenses (Pharmacy)**
- These ***do not*** need to be paid back.

www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/learning-support-fund

- NHS Bursary = Medical and Dental students only (Year 5 onwards).

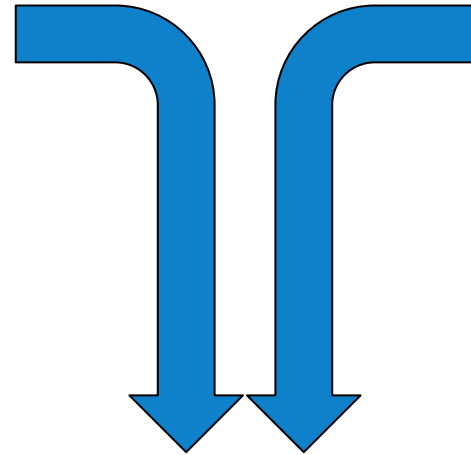
www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-bursary

Additional forms of financial support

- Forms of additional support include:
 - **Childcare Grant**
 - **Parents' Learning Allowance**
 - **Adult Dependants' Grant**
 - **Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)**
- These ***do not*** need to be paid back.
- For full details, please visit:
www.gov.uk/student-finance/extra-help

**Tuition Fee
Loan**

**Maintenance
Loan**



“Student Loan”

Repayment


- A student becomes liable for the repayment of their student loan:
 - The April after they leave university and...
 - When they are earning over £25,000 before tax (or equivalent).
- Repayments calculations are based on their income, not loan amount.
- Deducted automatically by their employer before their 'take home' pay.
- Having a student loan does not appear on a credit report.
- After 40 years, **any** outstanding balance will be written off!

Just over half (56%) of full-time higher education borrowers are expected to repay their Plan 5 loan in full within 40 years.

Repayment Examples

- Repayment rate is 9% on earnings above £25,000 before tax (or equivalent).

AMOUNT ABOVE THRESHOLD:	£0	£20,000 = £0 per month	
	£0	£25,000 = £0 per month	
	£2,500	£27,500 = £18 per month	
	£5,000	£30,000 = £37 per month	
	£15,000	£40,000 = £112 per month	
	£25,000	£50,000 = £187 per month	


£444 → **135 years!**

- Interest is charged at RPI rate of inflation (currently 3.2%) for Plan 5.

Applying

- There is no cost to apply.
- A student must apply and **reapply** every academic year.
- Opened = 23rd March 2026.
- Apply online - <https://www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance> (SFE)
- A confirmed place at university is not necessary to apply (preferred choice).
- Apply by **15th May 2026** to guarantee funding is ready for the start of their course in September 2026 (later deadline for continuing students).
- For specific university bursaries etc., you'll need to apply directly to the respective university and deadlines and eligibility will vary.

Summary

- Tuition Fees are (initially) paid on the student's behalf (subject to eligibility).
- Support is available to help with living costs (Maintenance Loan) and the level of support is dependent on individual circumstances.
- Repayments are linked to the student's future income; paid only when they are earning over £25,000 and written-off after 40 years.
- Price tag vs amount paid.
- I simply want to make sure everyone who is thinking about university (plus their parent(s) or guardian(s)) has an **accurate** understanding of how student finance works.

Future Pathways – the personal statement

- 47 lines (or 4000 characters)
- The only place a student gets to convince the admissions tutor that they have a passion for the subject they are applying for, and for learning in general
- Only ONE statement – dictates number and type of courses to apply to
- Personal statements need to stand out – admissions tutors receive about 200 per week!



Future Pathways – the personal statement

Sample extract 1

“I especially enjoy reading War poetry as it offers subjective and emotive responses that are rarely found in historical accounts. To pursue this interest I studied the pastoral idyll outside of the curriculum and explored the impact which the First World War had on ideas of rural land, particularly in Hardy’s poem ‘In time of the “Breaking of Nations”’ (1915) and Edward Thomas’s ‘As the Team’s Head Brass’ (1916). ... I feel that the interlinking of the war and the land makes the war seem “nearer” in Thomas’ poem, whereas in Hardy’s work the presence of war is distanced through the use of everyday imagery such as the “maid and her wight”.

*Admissions Tutor Comment: “Good evidence of **wider reading** and critical ability.”*



Future Pathways – the personal statement Not ...

“I am particularly interested in Victorian literature because the social constraints and etiquette of the time are vividly portrayed, yet the novels of this period remain timeless.”

Admissions Tutor Comment: “This is bland: there is a much stronger way to put this tension.”



Future Pathways – the personal statement

Sample extract 3

“I was introduced to immigration law and the R (Quila) v SSHD case. I was drawn to the conflict between paragraph 277 of the Immigration Rules, which increased the age of foreign spouses able to obtain a UK visa, and Article 8 of the ECHR, which guarantees respect for private and family life. My interest in this legal dilemma stems from whether the law’s aim, to deter forced marriages and therefore protect these human rights, is more important than the human rights of the majority that are consequently affected.”

Admissions Tutor Comment: “This is excellent. Unlike some of the other statements, this applicant does a very good job explaining the law clearly, and ALSO evaluating it.”



Future Pathways – the personal statement

Not ...

“I want to pursue higher education not only to enhance my self-learning and independent study skills and be qualified but also to develop who I am. Independence is an important part of my identity as it determines who I become.”

Admissions Tutor Comment: “This reads a little like the applicant is just trying to fill space and leaves the selector slightly underwhelmed at the end of the personal statement.”



Future Pathways – the personal statement

So how do students get there?

Section 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

Section 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

Section 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?



Future Pathways – the personal statement

So how do students get there?

- Super-curricular study/ log/ notes
- OSCAR
- Questions to work through
- Mentors
- Friday support sessions



Future Pathways – planning a personal statement

From natural land forms and disasters all the way to diplomatic relations between countries, many world issues and problems have a geographical link, **as seen with** the recent tensions between China and Japan over the Japanese named Senkaku islands. Over the course of my studies and additional reading **I have realised** that Geography is not just about natural factors and individual cities but that it has a much wider geopolitical relevance that helps explain countries' relations with one another, **such as** the relationship of the oil rich OPEC countries with the oil dependent West. It is the link that **I have discovered** between Geography and my other subjects of History and Politics which has inspired my determination for a career in Geopolitics. **In particular** I have found the exploration of the importance of Capitalism and Globalisation in shaping the future of our world in an “Introduction to Human Geography” and “The Global City” by Saskia Sassen especially interesting. **However, as seen in chapter 20.7** of an “Introduction to Human Geography”, Capitalism is not the only ideology to shape our future **as seen by ..**



Future Pathways – what next?

- **May-July:** research, open days, taster courses, personal statements (**Monday 18th May – deadline for first draft**), check admissions tests
- **10th-19th June:** End of Year 12 Exams
- **22nd June:** UCAS and Ambassadors' Day (Students will start their online applications)
- **24th-27th June:** Opportunity for university open day visits (no lessons)
- **July-September:** references, predicted grades, and re-drafting of personal statements with feedback from mentors
- **September-October:** student **completion** of applications: **deadline for submission to UCAS is 2nd November** (18th September for Early Applicants)
- **November-December:** checking of applications by mentors and Head of Sixth Form, and sending to UCAS
- **January-April:** university offers and apply for student finance
- **April-May:** Firm and Insurance choices
- **12th August 2027 – A Level Results Day!** Please make sure you are at home!



Future Pathways – what next?

- [Useful Links](#) – Richard Challoner School website, Sixth Form tab

