

# Year 12 Next Steps Evening



18<sup>th</sup> March 2026

# This Evening

**Welcome** – John Alexander, Head of Sixth Form

**Careers Support at Northgate** – Victoria Calder, Careers Leader

**Why go to University?** – Mia Nicholson, University of Essex

**UCAS, Budgeting & Student Finance** – Billie Sutterby, UEA

**Apprenticeships** – Anna Bird, Eastern Education Group

**Speaker stands in foyer** – please visit after presentations to ask any questions

# Careers at Northgate Sixth Form

Victoria Calder

# Careers Support at Northgate

**Careers Leader** – Mrs Calder

**Head of Sixth Form** – Mr Alexander

**Sixth Form team**

**Tutors and Subject Teachers**

**External Partners** – local universities, colleges, training providers, employers, Careers & Enterprise Company, Careers Hub.

# Careers in Year 12

- Careers Lesson – Autumn Term & Spring Term
- Personal Careers Action Plan
- One-to-one careers appointments
- Monday morning Careers Drop-In sessions
- University trips
- Support securing work experience
- Opportunities advertised on displays – Careers-related learning; work experience; university taster sessions; employer talks

**Careers Action Plan**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Form: \_\_\_\_\_

Where are you now? Where would you like to be?



How will you get there?

How to get there.....

| What will I do? | By who? | By when? | Done |
|-----------------|---------|----------|------|
|                 |         |          |      |
|                 |         |          |      |
|                 |         |          |      |
|                 |         |          |      |
|                 |         |          |      |

Progress check date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed (student): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Researching Options

- University
- Further Education courses
- Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs)
- Apprenticeship
- Employment
- Gap Year – volunteering, employment, travel, further learning

# 2025 Year 13 Destinations

- University – 54.5%
- University – deferred entry – 5.4%
- Further Education courses – 2.5%
- Apprenticeship – 6.4%
- Employment – 11.9%
- Gap Year – 12.9%
- NEET – 1.0%
- Unknown – 5.4%

# Why Higher Education?

- Transferable skills
- Improved career prospects
- Essential for some careers
- Experience of university life – academic and social
- Over one third of 18/19 year-olds progress directly into university
- Current Year 13 cohort – 70% have applied for university

# University Headlines

- 619,360 university applications by main 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 UCAS deadline.
- UK 18-year-old applicants reached 338,940 (+4.8% on 2025)
- 40.7% of all UK 18 year-olds applied to HE.
- Growth in the number of 18-year-old applicants from disadvantaged backgrounds across all UK nations.
- Applications from mature students (aged 21+) dropped to 57,570
- The total number of international applicants to UCAS has increased by 5.1%.
- Higher tariff universities received nearly 50% of all applications.

# Graduate Employment

- 88% of working-age graduates in England were in employment in 2024.
- In 2025, average starting salary for graduates in the UK was £36,335.
- Average graduate starting salary varies by location, industry and subject.
- For graduates, opportunities aren't spread evenly across all sectors or locations.
- The UK graduate job market is highly competitive and slowing, with vacancies roughly 10% below pre-pandemic levels.

# Priority Sectors & Graduate Opportunities

- Skills England expects jobs in government priority sectors to grow by 15% by 2030 - faster than average.
- Around two-thirds will need a degree or higher - works out to about 600,000 graduate-level opportunities over the next four years - roughly 150,000 a year.
- The areas expecting the most new jobs include:
  - Care workers - 90,000
  - Civil engineers - 12,000
  - IT and coders - 87,000

# Most Popular Courses v Most Employable Degrees

## 2024/25 Top 10 most popular degree courses:

- Law
- Psychology
- Computer Science
- Sports Science
- Design Studies
- Medicine
- Sociology
- Economics
- Adult Nursing
- Business Studies

## 2024/25 Top 10 most employable degrees:

- Healthcare
- Engineering
- Law
- Business and Management
- Computers and Technology
- Education
- Architecture
- Physical Sciences
- Marketing
- Biological Sciences

# Important Dates – University Applications

## Northgate Internal Deadlines

Oxbridge & Medical/Veterinary/Dentistry UCAS applications –  
21<sup>st</sup> September 2026

All other UCAS undergraduate applications –  
9<sup>th</sup> November 2026

## UCAS Application Deadlines

Oxbridge & Medical/Veterinary/Dentistry – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2026

Main UCAS deadline – 13<sup>th</sup> January 2027

# Why an Apprenticeship?

- Real job
- Paid employment
- Employer pays for training costs
- Experience in the workplace
- Transferable skills
- 4 different levels – to degree level and beyond

# Changing World of Work

- The world of work is undergoing rapid, structural shifts driven by artificial intelligence, automation and the post-pandemic normalisation of hybrid/remote work.
- Key trends include the rise of the gig economy, a focus on human-centric skills (critical thinking, emotional intelligence) and a growing demand for better work-life balance.
- Skills are being prioritised over job titles, with upskilling crucial for adapting to new technology-enabled roles.
- Preparing for jobs that didn't exist 20 years ago
- Increase in number and type of Apprenticeships

# Things to do...

- Apprenticeship/university shortlisting table.
- University Open Days (Mar-Dec) – [www.opendays.com](http://www.opendays.com).
- Employer Open Events.
- University taster sessions.
- Work experience/volunteering/part-time employment.
- Super-curricular activities – research and reading around the subject.
- Start drafting UCAS personal statement – 3 questions; 4,000 characters.
- UCAS 2027 course search opens 28<sup>th</sup> April 2026.
- UCAS 2027 undergraduate applications open for 2027 entry 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026
- Research any additional tests – e.g. UCAT, LNAT, STEP, Oxbridge

# Careers Events Coming Up

- Oxbridge Webinar Series – Ongoing between March-July 2026
- Oxbridge Conference – 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026
- Medics Conference – TBC – May/June 2026
- UCAS Discovery Event at UOS – 9<sup>th</sup> June 2026
- Careers Day – 9<sup>th</sup> July 2026
- Careers Talks – HE/Apprenticeship focus – Autumn Term 2026
- University mock interviews – November 2026
- Apprenticeships Workshop/mock interviews – November 2026

# **Why consider University as an option?**

**Northgate High School – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Mia Nicholson

Student Recruitment Officer

## Session overview

- Why go to university?
- Choosing your course/university



## Options after College

- Higher Education - University
- Work
- Gap Year
- Apprenticeship

## University Pathway

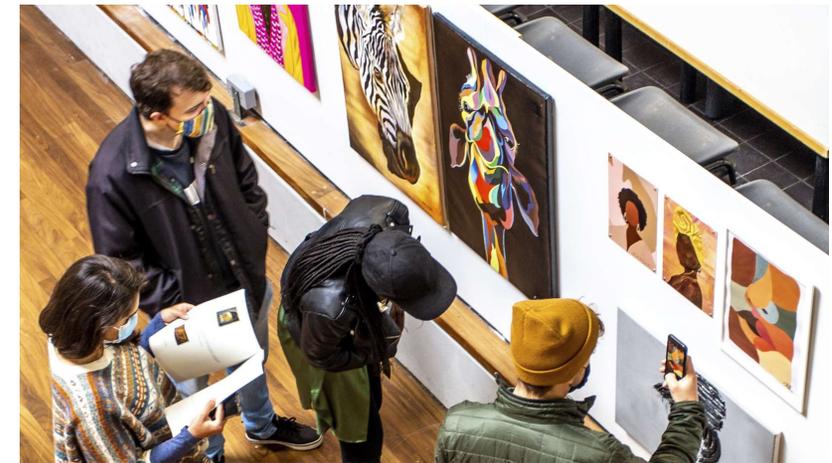
- Foundation course
- Undergraduate degree
- 3-5 years
- Postgraduate study, Graduate role, Self-employed, Gap year.

## Who is University for?

- Everyone

# Why go to University?

- Job prospects and opportunities
  - A degree is often a requirement of many roles
  - Graduate roles are popular in companies
- To meet new people from around the world
- Study something you enjoy
- Gain independence
- Develop and learn new skills & try new things
- New life experiences
- Social life – societies





## Employability

- Work placements
  - 1-year placements or summer placements
- Field trips and conferences
- Study abroad
- The Big Essex Award
- Life skills
- Career services and student development team



## Study Abroad



**Year 1**

@ Essex



**Year 2**

@ Essex



**Year 3**

**Studying Abroad**



**Year 4**

@ Essex

- Core for some degrees
- Optional for most
- No set list of locations at Essex

## Placement Years



**Year 1**

@ Essex



**Year 2**

@ Essex



**Year 3**

**Working**



**Year 4**

@ Essex

- Optional for most degrees
- Supported by University
- Summer Placement Option
- No set list of locations at Essex



## Graduation Statistics:

- 78% of UK graduates credit going to university with enabling them to find the job they wanted
- 79% of graduates say going to university enabled them to build skills that have proved professionally valuable
- 71% of first in their family UK graduates said that going to university opened doors to companies for them

University UK 2023

# Choosing your course

- Choose your course **FIRST**
- Over 50,000 to choose from
- Familiar or new subject?
- Interesting enough for 3 years?
- Career plans?
- Different types of courses
- **YOUR** decision





## Choosing your University

- Choose your university **SECOND**
- Reputation
- Stay at home or move away
- Accommodation
- Scholarships/bursaries
- Employability
- Academic and social facilities
- City or campus



# Do your research

 Course title

 Academic content

 Teaching methods

 Entry requirements

 Location



## Academic support

- Learning and study skills support
- Peer mentors and personal tutors
- Skills for Success' team - help students to develop:
  - Writing skills
  - Maths, statistics and digital skills
  - Research and referencing
  - English language skills



## Student Life

- Students Union
  - Welcome week/ part-time jobs
    - Societies – 100+
    - Sports Clubs – 42 +
      - Volunteering
  - Representation/community
    - Independence
      - Exploration



# OPEN DAYS

## WHY GO TO ONE?

- **Campus** – Experience the environment and facilities firsthand
- **Courses** – Understand content, structure, and specialisations
  - **People** – Meet staff and current students
  - **Accommodation** – Explore housing options and locations
- **Support** – Learn about finance, careers, and student services
  - **Fit** – Get a feel for whether the university suits you

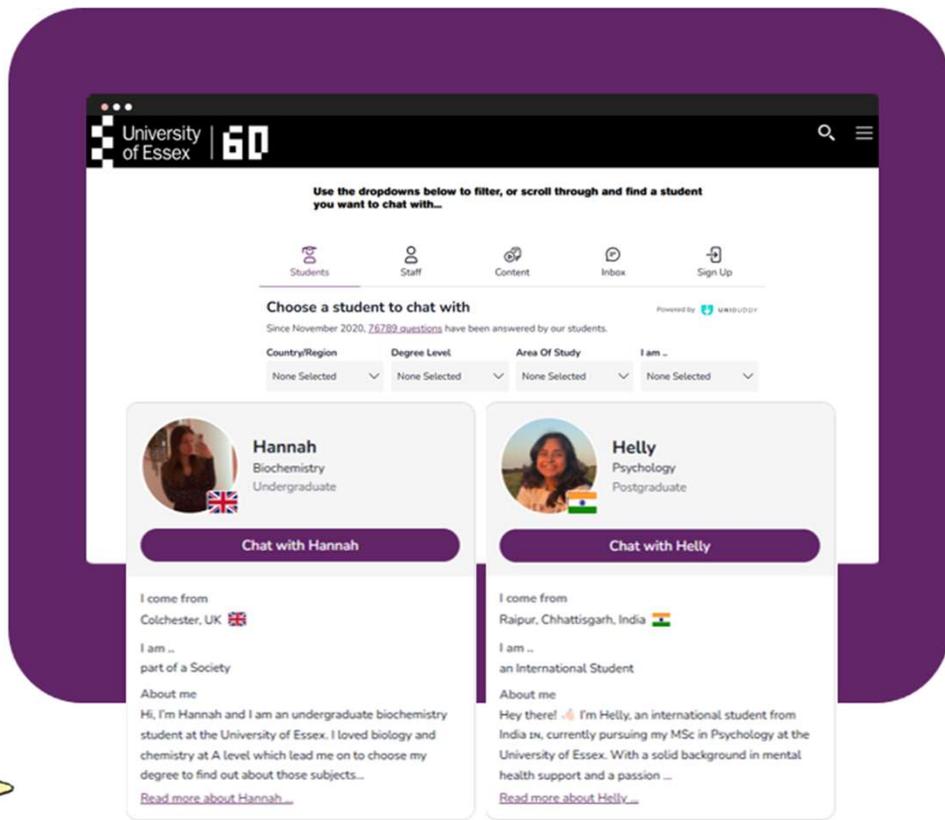
## • KEY DATES

Saturday 11 April 2026

Saturday 20 June 2026

Saturday 17 October 2026

Saturday 7 November 2026



## ✦ Eager to ask questions?

Chat to a current student or staff member on Unibuddy about:

- Student Life
- Accommodation
- Courses
- Applying to University



<https://www.essex.ac.uk/life/chat>

Or download the **Unibuddy App**.

**Any  
questions?**



[admit@essex.ac.uk](mailto:admit@essex.ac.uk)

**[essex.ac.uk](http://essex.ac.uk)**

# **UCAS, Student Finance and Budgeting**

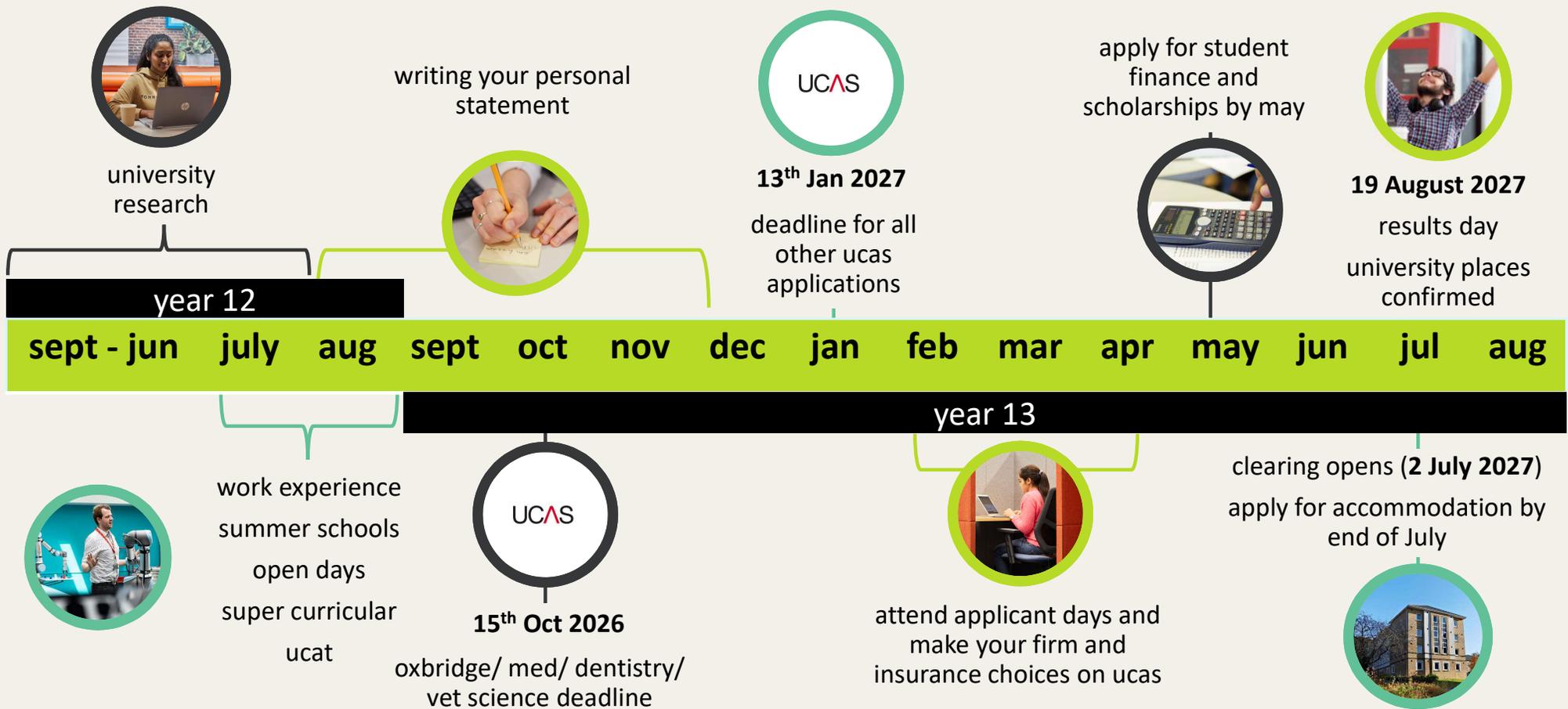
Billie Sutterby, Higher Education Advisor

# UCAS

## What is UCAS?

- Universities and Colleges Admissions Services
- The platform students use to apply to universities and colleges.
- Allows you to apply to multiple universities and courses through a single, online application.

# Your UCAS journey



# What is student finance?



- SFE (Student Finance England) is a service provided by the SLC (Student Loans Company).
- SFE deal with the allocation of loans and your application.
- SLC deal with the repayments when you graduate.

# What is student finance?



- The most common way for students to cover university costs is by taking out a student finance loan, which can cover tuition fees and some living costs.
- You'll need to apply for these loans every year that you study, and you can use these loans for the duration of your course.
- These loans are paid in instalments, and so you will need to make sure you make it last!

# Who is eligible for student finance?



Whether you qualify for student finance depends on:

- your university or college
- your course
- if you've studied a higher education course before
- your age
- your nationality or residency status

[www.gov.uk/student-finance/who-qualifies](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance/who-qualifies)

# Tuition fee loan

£9,790 per year



- Tuition fee loans are the loans to pay for the tuition of the course.
- The maximum amount a university can charge per year for a UK UG course for 2026 entry is £9790 - a criteria needs to be met to charge this amount.
- Anyone who eligible for student finance is eligible for the full tuition fee loan.
- The money is transferred from the government to university – students will not receive this in their bank accounts.

# Maintenance loan



- Maintenance loans are to cover student living costs.
- This money is transferred to the student's account 3 times a year at the beginning of the new term.
- Maintenance is calculated by looking at where the student is living whilst studying and then household income.
- This will be different for each student.

**95% of UK students, who are eligible, take out tuition and maintenance loans (SLC, 2024)**

# How much could you receive?

## Maintenance loans – 2026 entry

| full time students                                   | maximum loan | everyone entitled to this |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| living at home                                       | £9,118       | £4,013                    |
| living away from home,<br>studying outside of London | £10,830      | £5,048                    |
| living away from home,<br>studying in London         | £14,135      | £7,039                    |

[www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator](https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator)

# Repayments

# Repayments

- Repayments are currently set at 9% on earnings over £25k a year.
- So, you will only repay when your income is over £480 a week, £2,083 a month or £25,000 a year.



# Repayments based on salary

|                                               |         |         |         |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| <b>salary (pa)</b>                            | £30,000 | £35,000 | £40,000 |
| <b>approx. take home per month after tax</b>  | £2,064  | £2,355  | £2,647  |
| <b>approx. student loan payment per month</b> | £38     | £75     | £112    |

# Repayments on £30,000 salary

| Payment Method: BACS |          | Tax Code: 1257L<br>NI Number: UL134343445 |                 |
|----------------------|----------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <u>Payments</u>      |          |                                           |                 |
| Basic Salary         | £2500.00 | Tax                                       | £266.74         |
|                      |          | N.I.                                      | £116.20         |
|                      |          | Pension 6%                                | £118.80         |
|                      |          | Student Loan                              | £37.50          |
| Total Payments       | £2500.00 | Total Deductions                          | £539.24         |
|                      |          | <b>NET PAYMENT</b>                        | <b>£1960.76</b> |

## Interest Rate %

## Retail Price Index (RPI) only



- Your loan interest is set at the RPI; this means your balance only grows in line with inflation, so you effectively only pay back the "real-world value" of what you borrowed.
- Although interest can rise, it has no impact on your monthly repayments – these will always remain at 9% over £25k, regardless of the interest rate.

“Ignore newspaper headlines about students leaving university with £60,000 of debt. That's mostly a meaningless figure. What counts is how much you'll repay.” – Martin Lewis (2024)

# **Non-repayable financial support**

## Additional Support



- Travel Grant
- Disabled Students Allowance (DSA)
- Dependants
- Childcare
- NHS Learning Support Fund: Including the £5,000 NHS Training Grant

[NHS Learning Support Fund \(LSF\) | NHSBSA](#)

# University financial support

## UEA bursaries

| <b>eligibility<br/>(2025/26 – 28/29)</b> | <b>value of UEA bursary</b> |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>£0-£20,000<br/>household income</b>   | £1,600                      |
| <b>care leaver</b>                       | £3,000                      |
| <b>estranged</b>                         | £3,000                      |



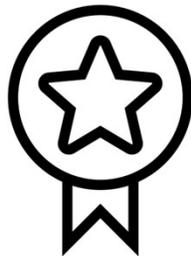
## Sports scholarships

Up to £1500 cash and specialist support for student athletes; team and individual scholarships available. Apply by May 2026.



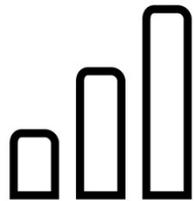
## Music scholarships

Up to £1000 per year for 3 years for students to nurture their musical ability whilst studying. Apply by May 2026.



## 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary scholarships

30 x £1000 scholarships for students submitting a video or written work. Apply by May 2026.



## T level scholarships

£1000 per year, for 3 years for students who achieve a distinction or distinction\* overall in their T levels. Apply by June 2026.



## Music scholarships

£5000 per year, for 3 years for first generation students with a household income below £30,000. Apply by 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026.



## The David & Jo Spinks scholarship

£5000 per year, for 3 years for one student who enrolls on UEA BA Drama course. Apply by 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026.

# Scholarships

The screenshot displays a scholarship finder interface with a navigation bar at the top containing tabs for 'Advanced filters', 'All types', 'University', 'Corporate', 'Scholarships' (selected), 'Hardship & support', and 'Other'. Below the navigation bar, there is a grid of nine scholarship listings, each with a title, status, amount, and provider logo.

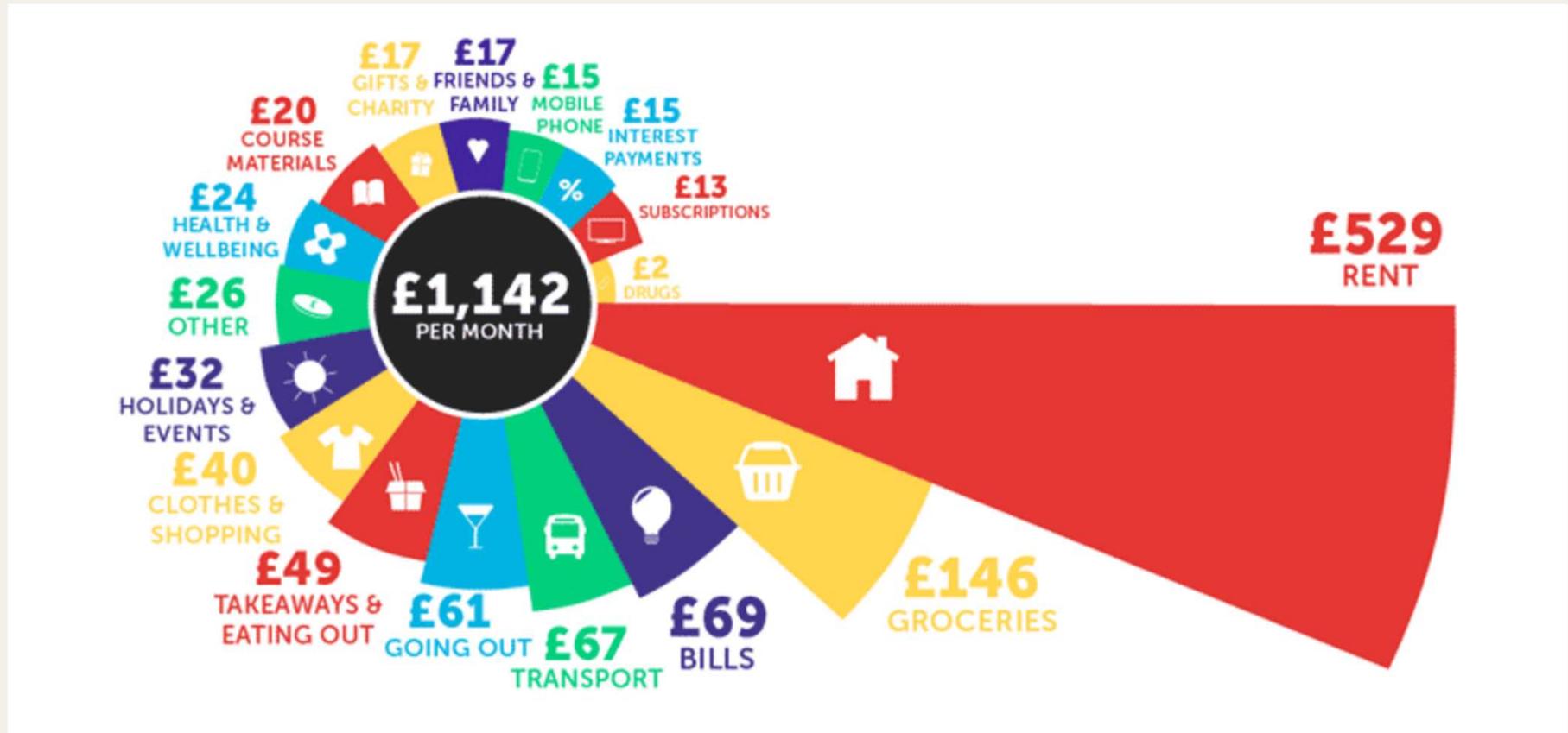
| Scholarship Name                                      | Status                 | Amount          | Provider                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------|
| Townsend Scholarships                                 | Accepting Applications | £9,000          | Walcot Foundation                        |
| Vets Now BAME Scholarship                             | Accepting Applications |                 | Vets Now                                 |
| UK Study Online scholarship                           | Accepting Applications |                 | UK Study Online                          |
| The Snowdon Trust Scholarship                         | Accepting Applications |                 | The Snowdon Trust                        |
| President's Award Scheme – Accommodation Scholarships | Accepting Applications |                 | The Royal British Legion Women's Section |
| Rothschild Scholarship Fund                           | Accepting Applications | up to £5,000    | B'nai Brith                              |
| BeArt Presets Scholarship                             | Accepting Applications | \$2,500         |                                          |
| The Geospatial Scholarship                            | Accepting Applications |                 |                                          |
| Big Give Bursary Fund                                 | Accepting Applications | £1000 per award |                                          |

- Check university websites – e.g. UEA Scholarship Finder
- The Scholarship Hub - [www.thescholarshipshub.org.uk](http://www.thescholarshipshub.org.uk)

# **Making the most of your money at university**

# Student budgeting

Save the student – National Money Survey 2025



## Essentials

Rent

Food/ groceries

Bills and utilities

Course supplies

Toiletries and  
prescriptions

Transport

### Top Tips:

- Don't buy books brand new – there are plenty of second-hand, cheaper options
- Beware of extra essential costs, e.g. laundry can cost £5-10 a week
- Be savvy with your bills – TV License, Streaming services, Wi-Fi, Phone
- Upfront essential costs can save you money in the long term – bus passes, 16-25 rail card, whole year gym memberships

## Non - essentials

Going out

Takeaways

Online shopping

Subscriptions

‘Convenience tax’

Events/ holidays

### Top Tips:

- You don't need to cut out all non-essentials and fun, you need to budget for it.
- Try to cut out the ‘Ghost Spend’
- Audit your subscriptions regularly
- Plan ahead to avoid the ‘convenience tax’
- 24-hour rule on spends
- Suggest budget friendly alternatives to prevent social pressure leading to overspending

## Student banking tips – paying yourself a salary



- Your student loan is paid in here.
- Do not use the card for this account (don't add to Apple/ Google Pay)
- Transfer money every Monday morning for your 'weekly budget'
- Only use this account to spend on food and fun – live within your means!

# Further Information

## Ask Us

[uea.ac.uk/ask-us](http://uea.ac.uk/ask-us)

## Visit Us

[uea.ac.uk/visit](http://uea.ac.uk/visit)

## Tasters and Webinars

[uea.ac.uk/study/tasters](http://uea.ac.uk/study/tasters)



@uniofeastanglia  
[facebook.com/ueaofficial](https://facebook.com/ueaofficial)



## Book your Open Day



Saturday 4 July  
Saturday 26 September  
Saturday 24 October  
Saturday 28 November



*Hello Northgate!*

# Apprenticeships at West Suffolk College



- We are currently training over 2000 Apprentices
- We are currently supporting over 900 employers
- We offer over 65 Apprenticeship Programmes
- The average salary for Apprentices paid by the employers is above the minimum wage of £7.55



On average Apprentices earn  
**19%**  
more than those  
who leave school  
with just GCSEs

**FIRE  
IT UP**  
Apprenticeships

**W  
S  
C** WEST  
SUFFOLK  
COLLEGE



We have **65** different  
Apprenticeships courses

**FIRE  
IT UP**  
Apprenticeships

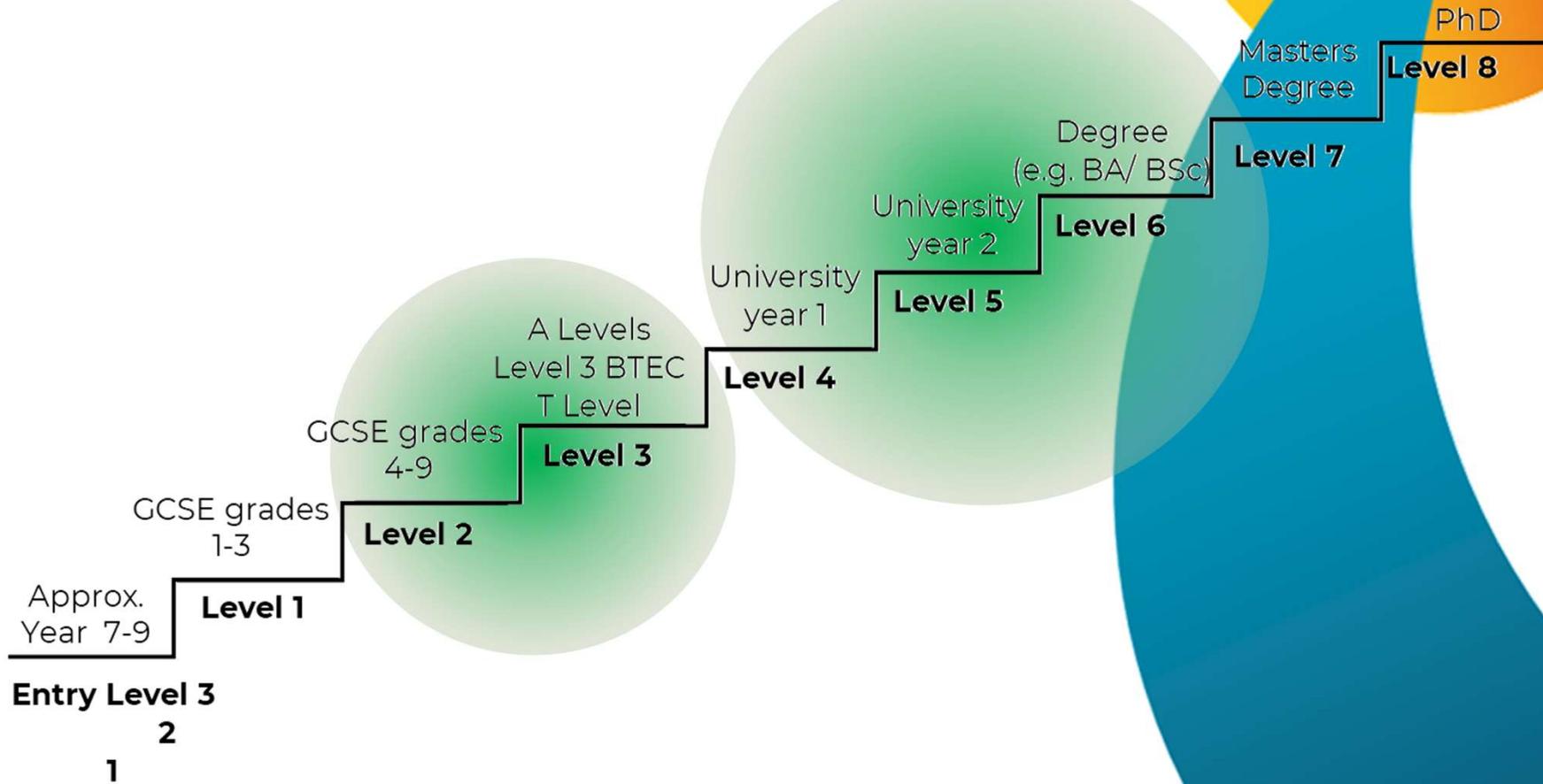
**W  
S  
C** WEST  
SUFFOLK  
COLLEGE



**90%**  
of Apprentices go  
onto further training  
in permanent roles

**FIRE  
IT UP**  
Apprenticeships

**W  
S  
C** WEST  
SUFFOLK  
COLLEGE



# Apprenticeship



For anyone aged 16+  
Work-based training programme

Earn whilst you learn!  
£7.55/hour min.  
1-6 years to complete,  
depending on level.

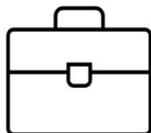


Focus on one industry area

Four days a week at work, one day a week in College  
Work 30 hours or more a week

Teaching and learning in the workplace, supported by a Programme Tutor

Find a live vacancy online  
Apply directly to the employer



# Why choose an Apprenticeship?

- ✓ Paid employment
- ✓ Treated as an employee
- ✓ Hands on learning
- ✓ 90% of apprentices retained by their employers
- ✓ Assessed by practical and written assessments, multi-choice exam, portfolio interview and portfolio evidence

# Apprenticeship Pathway

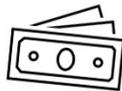
WSC Apprenticeship industry areas

Barbering and Hairdressing

Beauty Therapy



Bookkeeping and Accounting



Building and Construction



Business, Finance and Management

Education and Childcare



Engineering



Health and Social Care

Hospitality and Catering



Motor Vehicle

Nursing and Health Professions



Plumbing and Electrical

Science

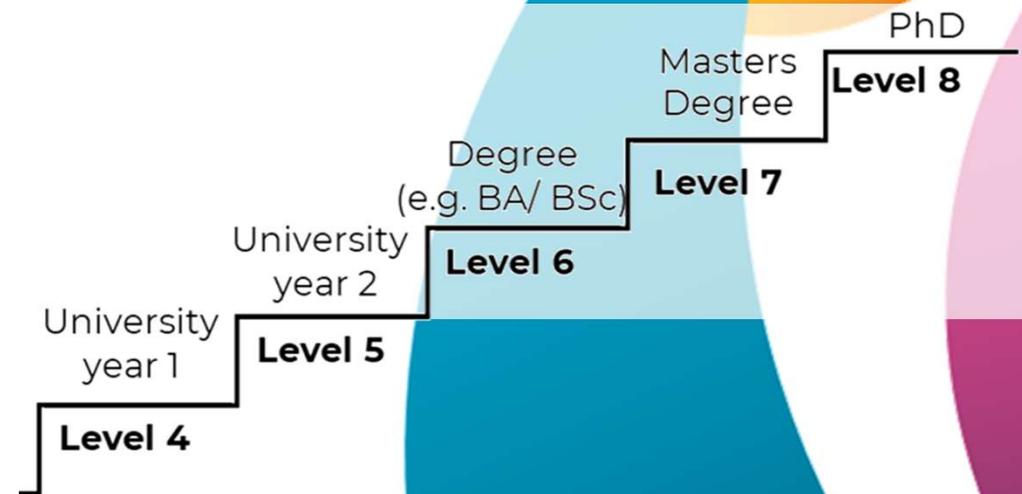


Sustainability

# Apprenticeship Pathway

*US Apprenticeship industry areas- levels 4, 5 or 6*

- **Chartered Manager**
- **Manufacturing Engineer**
- **Early Years & Teaching**
- **Operations Manager**



# How do I apply for an Apprenticeship?

**1**  
Ready to learn & take direction  
Think about transferable skills  
Research the company

**2**  
Find live vacancies on the West Suffolk College website/ recruitment pages  
Or Via UCAS

**3**  
Read through job description, check the entry grades and location

**4**  
Send on your CV or complete the online application process

**5**  
Attend a formal interview with the employer

**6**  
If successful, start your new apprenticeship!  
*A range of assessments, meetings and an induction*

# Where can I find an Apprenticeship?

How can the College help?

- ✓ Access careers, advice and guidance
- ✓ Visit WSC website – Apprenticeship Vacancies
- ✓ Research local employers and companies in the industry you want to work in
- ✓ Apply online
- ✓ Attend Open Events
- ✓ Help with writing your application
- ✓ CV Review
- ✓ Face to face interview available
- ✓ GCSE English and maths support

# Current Vacancies within 10 miles of Ipswich

https://www.wsc.ac.uk/find-a-course/apprenticeship-vacancies?\_gl=1\*1g05m06\*\_gcl\_au\*MTMyMDMxMDM1OC4xNzcyNzI0Mzk4

Staff Homepage - ... School Liaison - D... WSC Staff Intranet... Suffolk One Moodle School Liaison - Po... Favourites WSC Staff Home P... Google Docs Visitors to One Other favorites

Everything **Courses** Search ...

School Leavers Adult Learners University Employers About

| Title                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Employer                                   | Start Date | Location | Price |                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------|----------|-------|---------------------------|
| Apprentice CAD Draughtsperson                                                                                                                                                                                                                | GP Acoustics (UK) LTD                      | 20/04/2026 | IP6 0NL  | -     | <a href="#">MORE INFO</a> |
| <p>GP Acoustics is a designer and manufacturer of high-quality loudspeaker drive units, operating from our modern facility in Great Blakenham, near Ipswich. We are currently seeking an Apprentice CAD Draughtsperson to join our team.</p> |                                            |            |          |       |                           |
| Apprentice Mechanical Engineer                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Acutech Precision Engineering Ltd          | 03/08/2026 | NR17 1YE | -     | <a href="#">MORE INFO</a> |
| Apprentice parts and workshop assistant                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Agrimark Limited T/A Trek Trailers Suffolk | 22/06/2026 | IP30 0UL | -     | <a href="#">MORE INFO</a> |
| Apprentice Production Technician                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Merit Plastic Mouldings Ltd                | 03/08/2026 | IP22 4YE | -     | <a href="#">MORE INFO</a> |
| Apprentice Sheet Metal Worker & Fabricator                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Competition Fabrications Ltd               | 18/05/2026 | NR17 1QD | -     | <a href="#">MORE INFO</a> |
| Business Administration Apprentice                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Double Quick Heating Ltd                   | 06/04/2026 | IP24 1HG | -     | <a href="#">MORE INFO</a> |

https://wsc.enrola.co.uk/opportunity/69b3f7b4b6d50/1

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

EVENTS!

# Apprenticeships in East of England

Degree Apprenticeship - England

Hub For you Favourites What to do Where to go Search

Search jobs, employers, locations and industries

Search All | 32 results | Page 2 of 2

Sort by: Relevance

Grid List

All filters 3 Level 2 Industry Vacancy type Sector Region 1

Reset filters UCAS Media Service

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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# Degree Apprenticeships

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**Wed 1 July 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm**

[apprenticeships@easterneducationgroup.ac.uk](mailto:apprenticeships@easterneducationgroup.ac.uk)

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