

STUDENT PACK

INTRODUCTION

We're looking forward to welcoming you to our upcoming UK University and Apprenticeship Search Fair. You will have the chance to meet with universities and apprenticeship providers to find out more about the courses and programmes they have on offer. Seminars will run throughout the day led by university, apprenticeship, and industry professionals.

Please ensure that you have registered for the event online at www.ukuniversitysearch.com. Go to the website and **click on the fair you're attending** and fill out your details to receive the E-Ticket you will need on the day. Please either screenshot or print out your ticket to make the entry process as smooth as possible.

Universities and apprenticeship providers will be giving out brochures and leaflets on the day, but there's also the option to receive further information about the course/apprenticeship such as details of the application process and application tips. If you would like to receive this information exhibitors will scan your ticket and it will be emailed to you.

In this document you will find out information about the event, universities, apprenticeship providers, and an opportunity to boost your UCAS/apprenticeship application through blogging.

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SEMINARS

Seminars and interactive exhibits will run throughout the day. Please see below for the seminar timetable. You will be provided with the timetable on the back of your event brochure. There is no need to book the seminars, you can attend whichever you're interested in.

Seminar Timetable:

- 10:15 – 10:40 **Student Finance** – Includes loan, scholarship & bursary info
- 10:45 - 11:10 **Russell Group University Seminar**
- 11:15 – 11:40 **Higher & Degree Apprenticeships**
- 11:45 – 12:10 **Oxford & Cambridge Explained**
- 12:15 – 12:40 **UCAS Personal Statement & Application Advice**
- 12:45 – 13:10 **Why take an Apprenticeship?**
- 13:15 – 13:40 **Life at University** – Inspirational talk about the benefits of university education

CATERING

There is a student catering area at the venue where you can either buy lunch or eat your packed lunch.



BLOGGING

We have blogging opportunities available for students with a passion for writing on our website. This is a brilliant opportunity for students to develop their writing skills and creates an online portfolio that can help with UCAS personal statements and apprenticeship applications. Previous topics include studying, gap year, travelling on a budget, a-levels, btects, apprenticeships. If you're interested in writing please email us at info@ukuniversitysearch.com to find out more.

UNIVERSITIES

Deciding where to go to university and what course to study is a big decision. Make the most of all of the information and resources available to you.

There will be a mixture of Russell Group, red brick, and modern universities at the event. Each university will have their own stand and representatives who you can talk to to find out more about courses and life at that specific university. The exhibitors will be handing out leaflets and brochures about the university in general, but you can talk to them about specific courses you're interested in.

Before you go to the event it's a good idea to think about what courses you're interested in and what you would like to find out about them to make sure you get the most out of the experience.

OPEN DAYS

Open Days are a great way to figure out if the university/course is for you. They help you get a taste of university life that you can't get from a prospectus. Most universities run open days in the summer term. If after speaking to a university today you decide you would like to attend their open day you can browse through and find the open day on our website - www.ukuniversitysearch.com/open-days

Lots of universities offer travel bursaries for prospective applicants travelling to their open days. Some universities even offer free/reduced stays overnight at university accommodation. Make sure to check with each university you're visiting if you're eligible for any bursary.

You can find a list of universities offering travel bursaries on the webpage below. Be sure to check with each university you're interested in if not listed as they regularly change and implement new bursaries.

www.ukuniversitysearch.com/blog/post/open-day-travel-bursaries

FIND THE RIGHT COURSE FOR YOU

If you're struggling to narrow down your university choices head on over to University Finder - www.universityfinder.org.uk.

The easy to use tool finds you the best course matches based on location, grades and subject. You can then compare the courses and universities using a number of statistics, with information presented in easy to read graphs and charts.

Available on the App Store / Google Play Store.



WHAT TO ASK UNIVERSITIES

Before the event consider the type of university you see yourself at and think about what courses you're interested in. Try to think of some questions to ask exhibitors to get all the answers you need, see below for some examples.

Applications

- What are the entry requirements?
- Do students need to have work experience?
- What types of things do you look for in a personal statement?
- When are your open days?
- I can't make your open day. Can I go to a campus tour or visit?

Course Specific Questions

- What's the split between lectures and independent studying?
- How many students are in each class?
- How will I be assessed?
- What careers do past students/graduates have now?
- Do you have interviews for the course?
- Is there an opportunity to study abroad or take a placement year?

Widening Participation

- Do you offer Access To University programmes?
- Do you offer Contextual Offers?

Finance Questions

- What bursaries and scholarships do you offer?
- Do you offer travel bursaries for open days?

Accommodation Questions

- Is first year accommodation guaranteed?
- How many people do you have to share a flat with?
- How is accommodation allocated?
- How do I decide between catered and non-catered accommodation?
- How expensive is the university town?
- Where can I live in second year?

Student Life

- What clubs can I join?
- What facilities do you have on campus? (banks, doctors, shops, etc.)
- Are part-time jobs in town are easy to get?
- What public transport is like and if there's any discounts for students?

APPRENTICESHIPS

Apprenticeship providers at the event will include a mixture of national and regional firms. They will offer apprenticeships from level 2 (GCSE level) to level 6 (degree level). A number of universities also offer degree apprenticeships along with colleges who offer different levels of apprenticeships, so make sure you speak to apprenticeship providers, colleges, and universities to find out all you can.

What is an apprenticeship?

Apprenticeships are work based training for people who want to gain qualifications and work in a specific industry. Apprentices work full time while studying towards a vocational qualification, ranging from GCSE level to Masters degree level. Apprenticeships are available in over 170 industries, from boat-building to advertising, from construction to animal care, whatever you're interested in you're sure to find an apprenticeship that suits you.

What Levels of Apprenticeship are there?

- Level 2 – An Intermediate Apprenticeship is the equivalent of 5 good GCSE passes A*-C (9-4).
- Level 3 – An Advanced Apprenticeship is the equivalent of two good A-Level passes. Apprentices will work towards a work-based learning qualification such as a Level 3 NVQ, and a relevant knowledge-based qualification such as a BTEC.
- Level 4 & 5– Level 4 & 5 apprenticeships are Higher Apprenticeships. These are the equivalent to a HNC, a foundation degree, or the first year of an undergraduate degree. Applicants must have a Level 3 qualification or equivalent A-Levels to do these apprenticeships
- Level 6 & 7 – Degree Level Apprenticeships qualify you with a Bachelors degree (Level 6 Apprenticeship) or a Masters degree (Level 7 Apprenticeship). These apprenticeships take at least 3 years, you work full time and study part time.

FIND APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Head on over to www.apprenticeshipfinder.org.uk to browse through thousands of apprenticeship vacancies around the country meeting your criteria. Find out more about the different levels of apprenticeships, application help, and read articles written by current apprentices to find all the information you need to find the right apprenticeship for you.

Available on the App Store / Google Play Store.



WHAT TO ASK APPRENTICESHIP PROVIDERS

This is your opportunity to find out if the apprenticeship is right for you. Think about what type of job/learning experience you would like from an apprenticeship.

Programmes

- What programmes do you offer?
- What are the entry requirements?
- How long is the apprenticeship?
- What job can I get after the apprenticeship finishes?
- Can I do a higher-level apprenticeship after I finish the programme?
- How many apprentices do you take each year?
- Where would I be working?
- What kinds of mentoring and support do you offer employees?
- Why should I choose your programme over another company?
- What would my day to day responsibilities be?
- What opportunities are there for progression?
- What is your favourite thing about the company?
- What can I expect to earn during the apprenticeship and after?

Applications

- How does your recruitment process work?
- What are the application timelines?
- Do you recruit on a rolling basis or wait until the closing deadline?
- What do you look for in a candidate?
- Do I need to have work experience?

Advantages

- What are the advantages of doing a degree apprenticeship over going to university?

Studying

- What qualification can I get?
- How many days a week do I spend studying?
- Where is the training provided?