

# GO further GO Higher

**A GUIDE TO POST-16  
EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE.**



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

Aimhigher...



Sheffield  
Hallam University

SHARPENS YOUR THINKING

THE SUPPORT  
YOU NEED  
TO REACH YOUR  
GOALS

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# 1. A MESSAGE FROM AIMHIGHER

There are important times ahead, when you will be faced with the choice of finding employment, or continuing education or training in Sixth Forms and Further Education Colleges, and possibly forming ideas about progressing to study in Higher Education.

We at Aimhigher firmly believe that, when young people in Care are motivated and supported they will achieve academically. To make the right decisions at the right time, we know that it is important to receive clear support, advice and guidance, from someone who understands the education system and also appreciates personal circumstances and requirements.

The Aimhigher South Yorkshire Looked After Children Project hopes that you will find the information in this brochure useful in helping you move forward in choosing between vocational and academic routes and possible progression to university.

It will also guide you through some of the things you need to consider and the processes you may have to go through when applying.

We hope this information, along with the support available from initiatives such as the joint Sheffield Hallam University/University of Sheffield Looked After Children Project, will help you reach your full potential. Further support is available from organisations such as the Buttle Trust and the dedicated professionals and carers who work with you.

\*Please note that the information that follows is correct and accurate at the time of printing.



**REACH YOUR  
FULL POTENTIAL**

## 2. PLANNING YOUR FUTURE

### YOUR PATHWAY PLAN

Your Local Authority is committed to supporting any child over the age of 16 who is, or has been, a Looked After Child, until they are 21 (or 24 if they are pursuing a programme of education or training).

Just before you turn 16, your social worker will contact you to talk about what your plans are for the next few years and what support you will need from Social Services. This can cover many aspects of your life such as where you will live, money, jobs, health and hobbies. This is known as your Pathway Plan; the purpose of this is to ensure that you are supported both financially and in reaching your goals.

Your Pathway Plan will also include your plans for education, training and work. You need to make sure your Pathway Plan includes costs for your future education and training:

- tuition Fees
- exam and registration fees
- accommodation costs (including holiday periods)
- living expenses
- transport to and from your training/course
- books and equipment
- childcare costs (if applicable)
- educational trips or work experience
- the cost of applying to university (including UCAS fee, Open Day visits and interviews etc)





**WHY IS A PATHWAY PLAN SO IMPORTANT? MANY YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVE CARE WITHOUT THE SUPPORT TO WHICH THEY ARE ENTITLED AND FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ACCESS SUITABLE HOUSING, EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT. IF PATHWAY PLANS ARE CONSIDERED FULLY, THEN YOU WILL BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE STEPS YOU NEED TO TAKE IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS. TRY TO ENSURE THAT YOU SPEAK TO YOUR PERSONAL SUPPORT WORKER ABOUT YOUR PATHWAY PLAN.**

### **TOP TIP SOCIAL LIFE**

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Students typically experience a varied, full and interesting social life. They are exposed to many different cultures and experiences, and the opportunity to participate in HE is something that can provide many benefits in their lives, not just academically.



## 3. FURTHER EDUCATION

### WHAT IS FURTHER EDUCATION?

Further Education, or FE for short, is the name given to the next level of study you can take after you finish your GCSEs at school.

FE study boosts your career prospects and future earning potential, but also prepares you for further study or Higher Education, such as university. This level of study can be quite flexible so once you've thought about what you're going to study, it's also worth considering which learning environment would suit you best. You could choose from a:

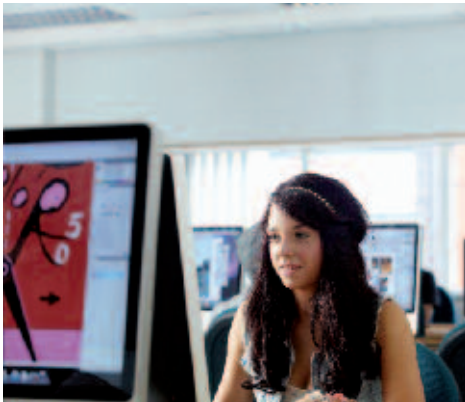
- school sixth form,
- sixth form college,
- further education college or
- a specialist college.

Each of these learning environments has its own structure and atmosphere, and will offer a different range of subjects and courses.

### DIFFERENT FE QUALIFICATIONS

In Further Education there are many different qualifications that you can study towards. The highest qualification is Level 3 or equivalent. If you are considering progression to Higher Education, find out which Level 3 qualifications (and often Level 2 qualifications) are required at your preferred universities before you start your FE studies.

What you decide to study post-16 can have an impact on what you are able to study at university or degree level; many courses require that you have a grade C in both your GCSE Maths and English. Being informed now will give you more options when the time comes to make up your mind.





**Philip's story**

I have been studying a legal secretary course at Doncaster College since September 2010 and my work at Level 2 is currently of a Distinction standard. Having tried apprenticeships and various jobs that I didn't particularly enjoy or want to do, I knew that further education was the right choice for me. I enjoy being at college and making myself useful! Most days you can find me at college whether I have lessons or not - I just like to remain active and college gives me that opportunity. The support I get from staff at college has been fantastic, and I don't think I could have managed without it. It feels good to know that there are support workers here for me when I need them. After I have finished my course I would love to go to university and that is my main aim. I may need to get a few more qualifications but I would love to study a theology degree. After that I don't know what I'll do, but for the minute I will just continue to enjoy my time in education.





You may be wondering ‘which subjects to choose?’

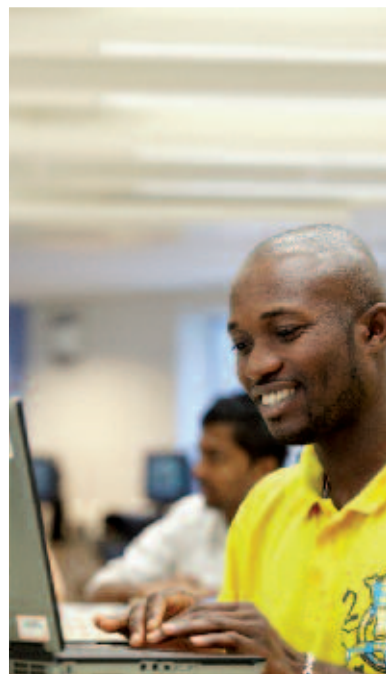
Different people will have different driving forces behind their subject choices; you need to choose what is right for you and your future -

- You may be good at certain subjects at school and would like to continue with them.
- You may have a particular career in mind, and know that you need to study certain subjects to progress in this career.
- You may have personal interests that you wish to pursue in a more formal educational environment.

- Or it may be that you have looked into totally new subject areas and have identified something that will suit your strengths, and is of interest to you.

You just have to pick what’s right for you!

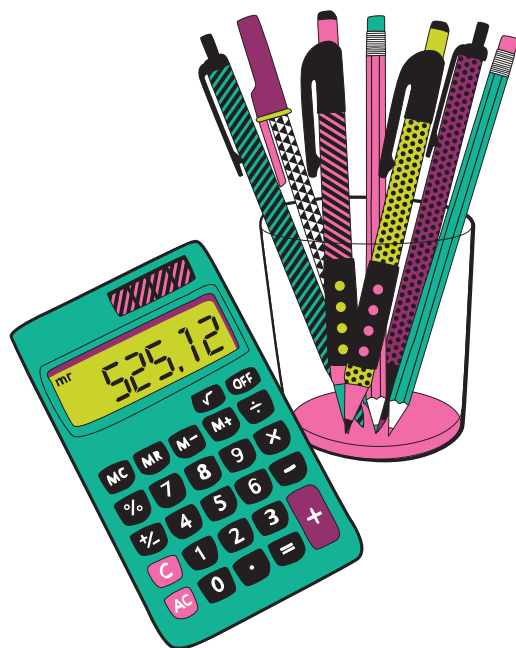
Some students choose to focus their attention on the academic Level 3 qualifications, such as A levels and the International Baccalaureate Diploma. Other students may find more vocational qualifications are more suitable, eg. Applied A levels, BTECs or OCR Nationals. There are also options which combine vocational and academic learning, such as the Advanced Diplomas or studying a mix of academic and Applied A Levels.



The qualification flowchart on pages 16 and 17 gives an indication of some of the different qualifications students can study in Colleges and Sixth Forms, for further information on FE qualifications you can also visit -

[www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/QualificationsExplained](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/QualificationsExplained)

To discover which FE institutions and public services are in your area please visit - <http://yp.direct.gov.uk/14-19prospectus/>



## 4. APPRENTICESHIPS

### WHAT IS AN APPRENTICESHIP?

Apprenticeships are nationally designed training programmes for 16-24 year-olds who have left full-time education or are already in employment. They offer young people the opportunity to learn on the job with an employer, building up knowledge and skills, gaining qualifications and earning money at the same time.

There are two levels of Apprenticeship: Apprenticeships and Advanced Apprenticeships.

### DO I NEED QUALIFICATIONS?

If you want to become an Apprentice you will need to show that you have the ability to complete the programme. Normal entry to the Advanced Apprenticeship level is via 5 GCSEs with grades A\* to C with, ideally, English and Maths being two of those subjects. Entry to the Apprenticeship level can be gained with lower grades. You will also be assessed for general ability in your chosen area of study by your training provider.

### HOW DO THEY WORK?

Apprentices will learn from a combination of attendance at college, their training provider and their employer. Much of the learning will be by doing things rather than having to remember facts. So if you don't enjoy school then this may be a better option.

You will not only gain recognised and marketable qualifications, but you will be trained to do a job, meaning that future employers will know that they don't have to spend a lot of time training you and that you will have the ability to 'hit the ground running'.

If you want to go on to gain a higher qualification and you have a supportive employer, you may be able to study on a part-time basis while continuing to receive a wage. In this way you can avoid the debts that full-time undergraduates face.

*The*  
**OPPORTUNITY**  
**TO LEARN**  
**AND EARN**



#### ADVANTAGES

You get paid. The level of pay depends on your employer and the skill area in which you are training.

You gain recognised qualifications - NVQs, Key Skills and a Technical Certificate.

You will be trained to do a job.

#### DISADVANTAGES

Although Apprenticeships can lead to study at HE level, it is important to realise that not all universities accept Apprenticeships on their own. You should therefore be aware that choosing an Apprenticeship route may limit your options for HE study.

You may be more suited to classroom study and full time education.

Not all occupations offer Apprenticeships.

For details of how you can become an apprentice and to find out more please see the following web link - [www.apprentice-forward.org.uk](http://www.apprentice-forward.org.uk) or [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)

## 5. HIGHER EDUCATION

### WHAT IS HIGHER EDUCATION?

Higher Education, or HE for short, refers to courses that are higher than a Level 3 qualification. The most traditional way of studying HE is at a university, but there are many colleges that also offer HE qualifications.

Not everyone goes to university at 18; some people work for a few years and return to education when they feel ready to. Young people in care are just as capable of studying at this higher level, but you may decide to start your university education when you are slightly older. You will still be able to access some financial support if you decide to return to HE at a later stage in your life.



With 350 Higher Education Institutions offering up to 55,000 courses in the UK, there is plenty of choice around. You may not know where to start, so a good first step is to think about what you are interested in. There are lots of websites to help you find out which institutions offer the courses you are interested in studying. The following websites are just a couple of those available -

[www.ucas.ac.uk](http://www.ucas.ac.uk)

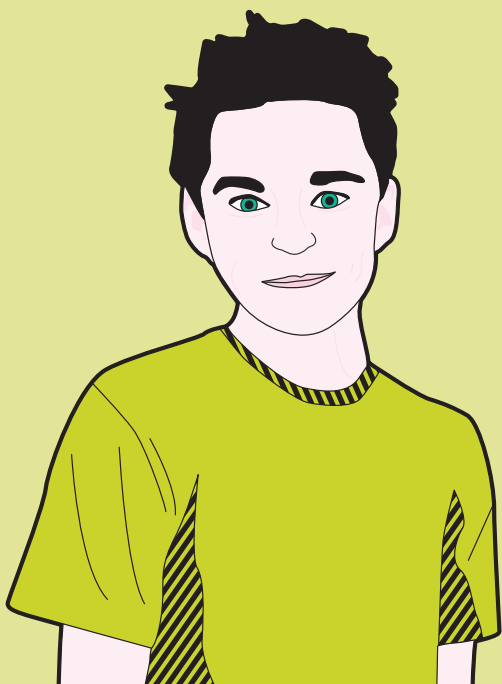
[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)

### DIFFERENT HE QUALIFICATIONS

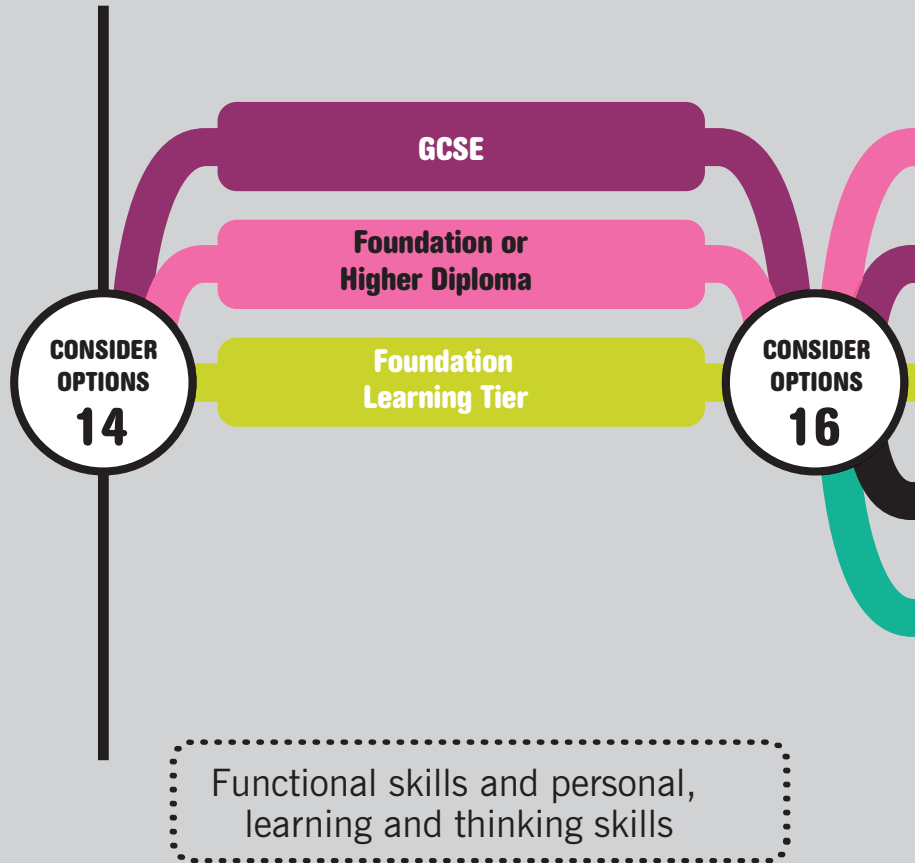
There are a wide range of HE qualifications both academic and vocational that can be studied at University. Academic qualifications are subject - and theory-based, such as English and History, whereas vocational qualifications offer more practical learning programmes that relate directly to specific job roles or sectors, such as Engineering and Medicine. There are also courses that comprise a mixture of academic and vocational learning – many including a year in ‘industry’ where you complete a work placement as part of the course.

**Gaz's Story**

Once I decided I wanted to go to university, I got my head down and improved my grades enough to apply to some good universities. The hardest decision was whether to move away to study or stay local and in the end I decided to stay local. Throughout my time at university the support network has been excellent, with someone always available to offer support and guidance. This was particularly helpful when I was assessing whether to switch courses or not. Ultimately I decided to stay on the same course and am now half way through my second year of a business management degree. The university has been fantastic and I am enjoying every minute. If I do well enough at the end of my degree I'm even considering doing postgraduate study and staying on to do a Masters qualification.



## 6. QUALIFICATIONS EXPLAINED



### Foundation, Higher or Advanced Diploma

The Diploma combines theoretical study with practical experience based around a work-related curriculum. It is available at Foundation, Higher and Advanced level (Level 1 - Level 3).

### GCSE / A Level

GCSE and A level qualifications are regularly updated to ensure that they remain high quality, relevant and interesting. They can be combined with Diplomas.

### Apprenticeship

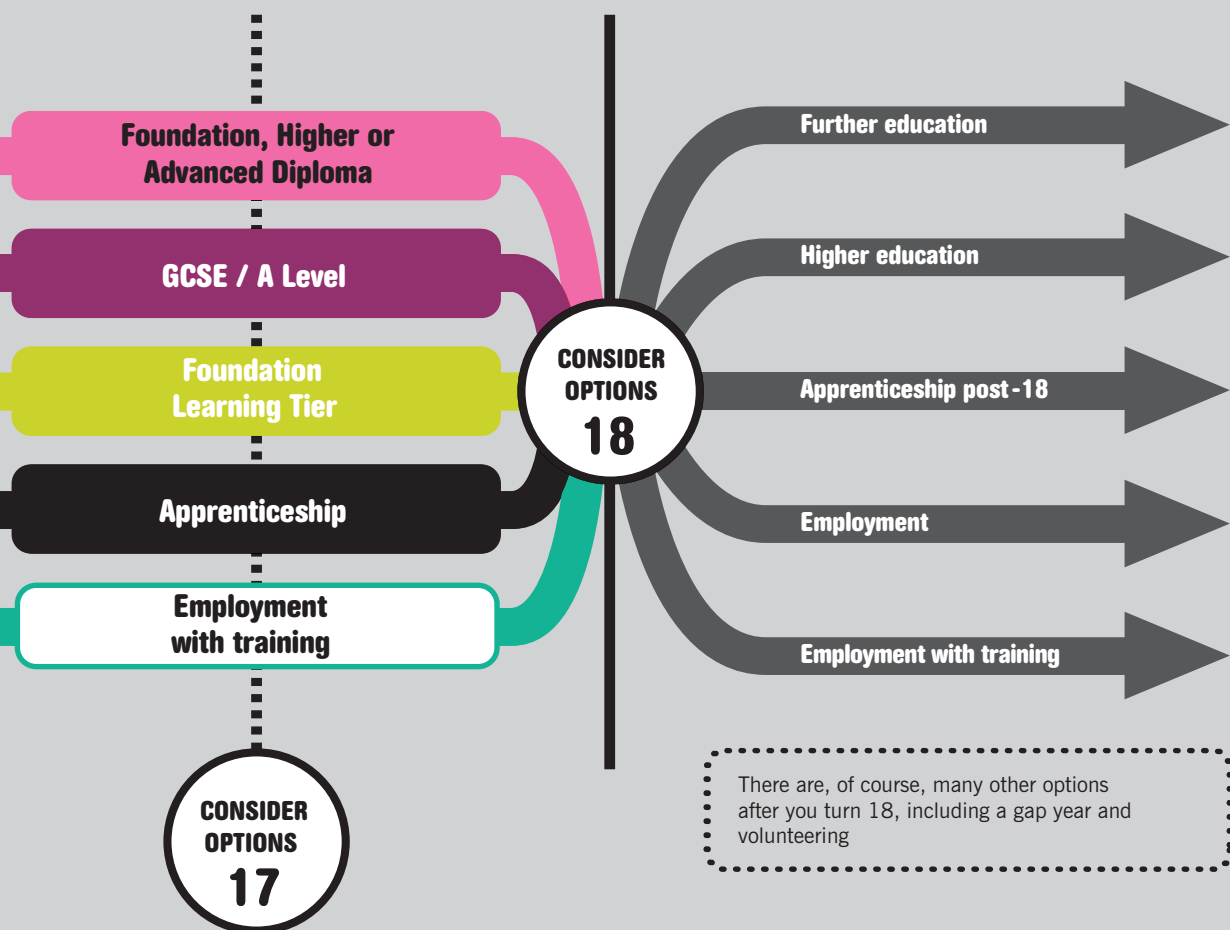
Apprenticeships allow students to learn at work and gain qualifications. The number and range of Apprenticeships is increasing hugely so 1 in 5 will take this route by 2020.

### Foundation Learning Tier

This is for learners not ready for a full level 2 qualification and include a mix of learning to suit the individual.



There are several different qualifications, and qualification levels to consider, which can be confusing. The qualification flowchart should help explain these to you. Higher Education qualifications are level 4 and above and are studied at College or University. Qualifications from levels 1 to 3 can be obtained at School, 6th Form or College. For a full list of accredited qualification at all levels please visit [www.directgov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/QualificationsExplained/index.htm](http://www.directgov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/QualificationsExplained/index.htm)



**CONSIDER OPTIONS**

Well before the decision points information and advice will be critical to guide young people to make the best choice for them in relation to their prior learning.

Some students may change paths at 17 because there are more one year courses available after 16.

\*These ages are a guideline only and reflect typical transition points.

## 7. WHY SHOULD I CONSIDER HIGHER EDUCATION?

### BENEFITS OF HE

There are many potential advantages to study at HE level. Research shows that young people taking advantage of HE are more likely to benefit from a good career and a healthy lifestyle. A HE qualification gives you the chance to earn more money in your adult working life, you are more likely to make lasting friendships, adapt more quickly to a changing world and have greater confidence and self-esteem.

Achieving a Higher Education qualification can help you gain the skills you need to help you achieve your dream job. It can also offer a great social life with the chance to meet a large group of different people and become involved in new sports, societies and activities.

As a young person leaving care you have just as much potential as anyone else and it is important to know about the many opportunities available to you. It is important whatever your circumstances to carefully consider your future options and that should include HE.

It is equally important to remember that HE is not for everyone, but hopefully the information in this booklet will help you make a more informed choice about your options and your future prospects.



### TOP TIP LOVE YOUR WORK

.....

A HE qualification improves your chances of working in an area that you have a love, interest and a passion for.

**Katrina's Story**

**I am currently in the second year of a Foundation Degree Working with Children, Young People and Families. I found the process of applying quite simple as I had a lot of support from my personal tutor at college. I am currently in the process of applying for a top-up degree\* in Social Work and I am finding that the support I am receiving is extremely helpful and encouraging. When I initially decided that I wanted to come to university I was quite anxious at the prospect of meeting new people and settling into a new routine. I actually thought I wouldn't be able to cope with university life as the information I had received was mostly about freshers' week and this made me nervous as it meant a lot of interaction with new people. When I got to university I surprised myself, I have made lots of friends who I hope will be with me after university. I'm really pleased to have successfully completed the first year of my foundation degree.**

\* Foundation Degrees can lead to entry to the 3rd/final year of designated UG BA/BSc degree routes, this can be known as a top-up degree.



## 8. APPLYING FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

### RESEARCH YOUR OPTIONS

There are lots of websites to help you decide where to study, most universities and colleges publish a prospectus and hold open days - and some have stands at higher education events; the largest of these are known as UCAS fairs. If you want to order a prospectus or book a place on an open day, it's often possible to do this on the individual universities' websites. Open days are a great opportunity for you to get a feel for the university, its location, the facilities available, the accommodation and the course you are interested in. For more information on attending open days please see - [www.opendays.com](http://www.opendays.com)

### WHAT IS UCAS?

UCAS stands for the University and College Admissions Service. UCAS is responsible for managing all full-time applications to HE courses in the U.K. You will be able to find all the advice and information on how to apply for full-time HE courses at [wwwucas.com](http://wwwucas.com)

### THE UCAS APPLICATION PROCESS

Studying a HE qualification is becoming increasingly flexible, as the flowchart on pages 16 and 17 shows, there are a variety of qualifications you can study both full and part time.

- Currently, if you chose to study a full-time HE course, you would usually apply through UCAS
- If you want to study a part-time HE course, you would usually apply directly to the College or University.

When you are applying for a full-time HE course, you have to familiarise yourself with the entry requirements, which vary depending on the College or University. The best place to start is through the UCAS course search website -

[wwwucas.ac.uk/students/coursesearch/](http://wwwucas.ac.uk/students/coursesearch/)

Entry requirements are listed in each course's Entry Profile in the UCAS Course Search. Check these before you apply so that you know what they expect. When you search for courses, look for the **EP** symbol after the course title on the results page. If there's a symbol, the course has an Entry Profile.

You can begin applying through UCAS from the September a year before you want to start university. For further dates and deadlines related to your application, please visit [wwwucas.com](http://wwwucas.com).

The UCAS website will give you advice and information on the whole application process and how it works. Teachers and tutors at your college or school will know all about the UCAS application; they will be able to help you with your application along with careers staff and your social worker.

Below is some important information you need to know.

- You must fill in an online application form which can be saved at any point so you do not have to complete it all at once.
- You must write a personal statement as part of your application.
- You can choose a number of different Institutions to apply to and also apply for different courses at the same institution, but, please be aware that you can only write one personal statement to accompany your application.
- Apply as early you can during the year before you want to start; UCAS are open to receive online applications from September.
- There are strict deadlines, so please make sure you are aware of them ([www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)).
- Some courses require you to sit pre-entry tests, it's important that you check all the entry requirements for the courses you wish to study.
- UCAS cannot process your application without a reference.
- Your reference should be completed by an appropriate teacher or social worker who knows you well enough to comment on your abilities.
- UCAS charge a fee for the application but your Local Authority may be able to pay this for you.
- UCAS will send a copy of your application to each HE Institution that you apply to.
- You will get responses back directly from each institution you apply to. Once you have received all your responses you need to consider your options and accept two offers. You choose one institution to be your 'firm' choice (this should be your first choice) and one institution to be your 'insurance' choice (this option usually acts as a back-up if you don't meet the entry requirements for your firm choice).





### SHOULD YOU SAY YOU HAVE BEEN IN CARE?

When you complete your online UCAS application there is a question that asks if you have spent time in care – you will find this in the additional information section. It is up to you whether you answer this question, but, if you do, it could be of benefit to you. It is also a good idea to mention it in your personal statement and reference. Reasons for confirming you have been in care are:

- 1) Admissions staff reading your application will understand why there may be a gap or gaps in your education, why your work may have been affected and also the significance of what you have achieved.
- 2) The university or college may be able to offer you any extra support they have available including additional personal and financial support, such as a Care Leavers Bursary/Grant.

How much additional support you choose to make use of will be up to you. You may find the additional financial support and knowing there is someone you can contact with any issues or concerns is sufficient, but you may wish and be able to have more regular contact with a member of the student support team should you choose to.

### YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT

This is the most individual part of the UCAS form; you have an opportunity to showcase your achievements both academic and non-academic to the admissions tutors. The personal statement is a key part of the application process and is taken into consideration alongside other information, such as academic achievements.

Making the right post-16 subject choices is an important step towards university but it won't guarantee you a place on your chosen degree course. Whilst your prior academic achievement is vitally important, it is one of several things that universities take into account when they consider your application. Admissions staff will also want to select students who show that they are well motivated and passionate about their chosen subject, having relevant work experience whether paid or voluntary can be a very beneficial addition to your academic achievements, so ensure that this is well documented in an appropriate and relevant way.

Make use of any examples of personal statements that your school or college give you to help identify what makes a good personal statement. Be sure to use the statements as a guide only, your statement should be an honest reflection of your own achievements and aspirations. Once you have written a draft copy of your personal statement it's a really good idea to get it checked by your tutor or social worker. It always helps to get a second opinion on your statement to ensure that it reflects all your skills and experience – you may have forgotten something important.



You should cover the following points in your personal statement;

- Explain to the HE Institution why you have chosen the course. What is it that interests you about it?
- Talk about any work experience, placements, volunteering or employment you have undertaken, especially if it is relevant to your course of interest. You should include why it is relevant to your application, what transferrable skills have you learned? Think about how it will help make your application to stand out from others.
- Have you applied for similar courses? If not explain why your choices are varied.
- Say why you picked the subjects you are studying at FE level and how they may help you on your chosen course.
- Talk about how the course will help your future career plans.
- Include information about extracurricular activities you have been involved in, and explain the skills and experience you have gained that relates to the course. Give examples and don't just list the skills!
- Be aware that there is also a word limit; be clear and concise so you can mention all that you think is relevant.

## SOME PERSONAL STATEMENT DO'S AND DON'TS

### Do...

- **Check your spelling and grammar**
- **Research your course**
- **Be personal, including skills you have gained from extra-curricular activities**
- **Show your enthusiasm for the subject area**
- **Get your statement checked by teachers or your social worker before submitting it to UCAS and ensure that you have stuck to the word limit.**

### Don't...

- **Try and be funny or make jokes in your statement**
- **Write a list of all your hobbies or skills without linking it to your course of interest**
- **Lie or exaggerate the truth**
- **Copy anyone else's personal statement; there are ways they can check!**

## YOUR REFERENCE

Your reference is a very important part of your application and it should be written by someone who knows you well. If you are still studying then a teacher or tutor could write it. If you are not currently studying then your reference can be written by your social worker.

When you have completed your application form and made the payment to UCAS, forward it onto your referee. Once your referee has completed your reference he/she will forward it onto UCAS who will then begin to process your application.

## 9. FINANCIAL SUPPORT IN FULL-TIME HIGHER EDUCATION

The following pages are intended to give you an idea of how you will be financially supported if you decide to go into full-time Higher Education. As the financial situation for students has recently changed significantly it is best to visit relevant websites for the most up-to-date information.

You will be eligible to receive financial support through three main sources of funding.

- Student Finance England
- Your University or College
- Your Local Authority





## FOR INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR LOCAL UNIVERSITIES PLEASE VISIT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES –

**SHEFFIELD HALLAM UNIVERSITY -  
WWW.SHU.AC.UK/FUNDING**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD -  
WWW.SHEFFIELD.AC.UK/UNDERGRADUATE/FINANCE**

### **STUDENT FINANCE ENGLAND**

Currently, if you are a full-time student studying towards a HE qualification - such as a degree or a Higher National Diploma (HND) you can apply for funding from Student Finance England, this may include a tuition fee loan (to pay your fees) and a maintenance loan (to help cover your living costs). Student Loans do have to be repaid, however you only start to repay your loan(s) once you have finished your course and are earning over a certain amount of money per year.

For full information on all the funding options available please visit the Student Finance England website - [www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)

Funding may be different for some NHS courses, for more information visit [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/Students](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/Students) or [www.stepintothenhs.nhs.uk](http://www.stepintothenhs.nhs.uk)

If you wish to study part-time for a degree, there is an expectation that you will cover some of your living expenses through work or benefits, therefore the funding arrangements take this into consideration and will differ to funding for full-time students. For more information visit [www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)

### **FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM YOUR UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE**

Most HE Institutions have a range of grants, bursaries, scholarships or tuition fee reductions/waivers available to their students; many of these will target students from non-traditional backgrounds. This support varies at each institution so it's

worth looking at the information available on their individual websites. Grants, bursaries and scholarships do not have to be repaid like loans; they are financial awards and yours to keep.

Universities will also offer additional support for care leavers, such as –

- Guidance and support in finding university accommodation – some universities will offer 365 day agreements. Check with your institution if this is something you are interested in.
- A dedicated care leaver contact to offer you continuous support and guidance.

To find out what support the universities you are interested in can offer care leavers, please visit the Institution's website.

### **FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITY**

In addition to the financial support you will receive from Student Finance England and your university or college, you may also receive a funding package from your Local Authority to help cover costs such as tuition fees and other course related and living costs. To find out what financial help you can expect to receive from your Local Authority during your time at university or college please contact your Personal Support Worker.

**My name is Tim I'm 23 years of age and I have recently left care. Despite the challenges, difficulties and dysfunction I had to deal with in my early life, I have managed to achieve many positive outcomes that I hope will enable me to live a successful future. It was from the age of 15, that I wanted to succeed and that I realised that I needed and had to grow up a lot faster than my peers, It was this moment in time where I then took hold of every opportunity that I could.**

**These included:**

- **Designated care worker in the school – this individual came into my school and supported me with my coursework and made sure that I was progressing well throughout years 10 and 11. It helped keep me focused and engaged in education.**
- **I took the opportunities I was given to visit universities and engage in aspiration-raising events – this was beneficial as it gave me an eye opener to what Uni life was about.**
- **Support from 16/18 plus worker – Pathway Plans were always the focal point of discussion. My options were always laid out in front of me and as university was an aspiration of mine, I was then told what support they could offer me if I chose to go. Although, this wasn't as informative and clarified as well as I would have liked, I eventually found out that I was entitled to high levels of support from various areas.**

**I received:**

- **A maintenance grant from the Government**
- **A bursary from the university**
- **Accommodation & Tuition Fee support from my Local Authority**
- **A book allowance**
- **Assistance with travel costs**

**Any issues that could have potentially caused me problems, such as feeling isolated, running out of money, missing home, and so on, fortunately did not occur in my time at university. It was such a wonderful and positive experience for me, in many different ways; living in a different city, coming into contact with lots of different people, completing my course and gaining a 2:1 when graduating, and most importantly becoming independent and confident and looking forward to my future.**

### Tim's Story





### **TOP TIP MONEY MATTERS**

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A HE qualification can lead to increased earning potential, a wider range of opportunities and a more rewarding career.

Many employers target graduates in their recruitment campaigns.

### **MANAGING YOUR MONEY**

As you have read there are lots of grants and bursaries available to supplement your funding but you may still be wondering how you will afford to go to university. Creating a budget will help you ensure that you get the most out of your time at university using the funds which are available to you. It is important before you start your course to consider how much money you will have and how much being a student will cost. The costs you will encounter will vary greatly depending on the choices you make. Possibly the most significant of these will be the geographical location of the university you wish to attend, as accommodation and living costs will be significantly higher in some areas of the UK.

The amount you spend will vary depending on your circumstances and lifestyle, the loans and grants available to you are based on reasonable costs, so as long as you are sensible and live within your means your finances should be manageable.

In your first year if you are living in university accommodation you may find that many of your bills and possibly internet connection will be included in your accommodation costs. This is why the weekly/monthly rental costs may appear to be high compared to renting a room in a house.

## BUDGET PLANNER

**Income** – use this table to list the financial support you are entitled to from Student Finance England [www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance), your Local Authority, your chosen university or college and any other financial income you will receive:

Maintenance Grant	£
Maintenance Loan	£
Tuition Fee Loan	£
University/College Bursary	£
Social Services Contribution: (which may include)	£
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuition Fees</li> <li>• Accommodation</li> <li>• Books &amp; Equipment</li> <li>• Travel</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>	
Additional Grants & Scholarships	£
Part-time work	£
Total	£

**Outgoings** – use this table to list the costs you will face as a student. As mentioned previously these will vary depending on where and what you choose to study, as not only do accommodation and living costs vary but some courses require you to purchase more books and materials than others. Everyone is different so use the table below for any additional costs you think you may have:

Fees	£
Course related costs	£
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Books</li> <li>• Printing &amp; photocopying</li> <li>• Stationery/Equipment</li> <li>• Field trips</li> </ul>	
Accommodation	£
Utilities – gas, electricity, water	£
Food and Drink	£
Toiletries	£
Socialising/Entertainment	£
Telephone	£
Transport/Travel	£
Laundry	£
Clothing	£
Societies/clubs	£
Contents Insurance	£
Total	£

You may have no idea about how much some of these things will cost; there are lots of online budget planners/calculators that you could use, some of which will include suggested costs – for example [www.sheffield.ac.uk/moneyplanner](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/moneyplanner). Remember, if despite budgeting you do end up in a difficult situation financially, don't panic and seek advice as soon as possible, there is often help available for students in hardship.

Please note that all information is subject to change but is correct at the time of printing. Please visit all websites (as indicated) for the most up-to-date information.



# 10. USEFUL WEB LINKS

## LOCAL AUTHORITIES

**Barnsley Local Authority**  
[www.barnsley.gov.uk](http://www.barnsley.gov.uk)

**Doncaster Local Authority**  
[www.doncaster.gov.uk](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk)

**Rotherham Local Authority**  
[www.rotherham.gov.uk](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk)

**Sheffield Local Authority**  
[www.sheffield.gov.uk](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk)

## POST 16 CHOICES

**Apprenticeships**  
[www.apprenticeships.org.uk/Be-An-Apprentice.aspx](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/Be-An-Apprentice.aspx)

**National Apprenticeship Service**  
[www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)

**Yorkshire apprentice forward**  
[www.apprentice-forward.org.uk](http://www.apprentice-forward.org.uk)

**Connexions – post-16 choices**  
[www.connexions-direct.com/index.cfm?pid=7](http://www.connexions-direct.com/index.cfm?pid=7)

## Directgov

**It's your choice: options after 16**  
[www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/14To19/OptionsAt16/index.htm](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/14To19/OptionsAt16/index.htm)

**14–19: your life, your options**  
[www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/14To19/index.htm](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/14To19/index.htm)

## Careers Advice

[www.direct.gov.uk/en/YoungPeople/Workandcareers/index.htm](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/YoungPeople/Workandcareers/index.htm)

## HE

**Sheffield Hallam University**  
[www.shu.ac.uk](http://www.shu.ac.uk)

**The University of Sheffield**  
[www.shef.ac.uk](http://www.shef.ac.uk)

## Choosing the right course -

**UCAS**  
[wwwucas.ac.uk](http://wwwucas.ac.uk)

**Complete University Guide**  
[www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/](http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/)

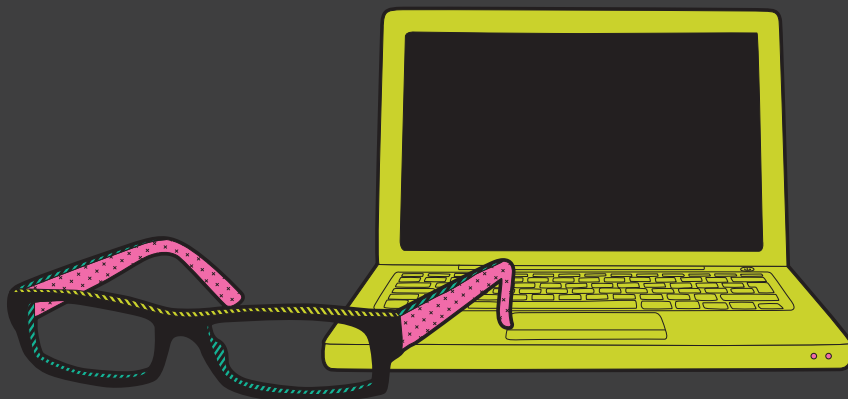
**Centigrade Online (finding the right course)**  
[www.coa2.co.uk/centigrade/?page\\_name=index](http://www.coa2.co.uk/centigrade/?page_name=index)

**Stamford Test (finding the right course)**  
[wwwucas.com/students/choosingcourses/choosingcourse/stamfordtest](http://wwwucas.com/students/choosingcourses/choosingcourse/stamfordtest)

**Unistats.com**  
<http://unistats.direct.gov.uk>

**Open days**  
[www.opendays.com](http://www.opendays.com)

[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)



### Other useful Higher Education sites -

**Yougo**  
<https://yougo.co.uk/login.aspx>

**Conservatoires Admissions Service (UK) (for music courses)**  
[www.cukas.ac.uk](http://www.cukas.ac.uk)

**NHS Courses**  
[www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/Students](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/Students)

or

[www.stepintothenhhs.nhs.uk](http://www.stepintothenhhs.nhs.uk)

**UCAS.tv (informative short films)**  
[www.ucas.tv](http://www.ucas.tv)

**Directgov - University and higher education**  
[www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/UniversityAndHigherEducation/index.htm](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/UniversityAndHigherEducation/index.htm)

**Informed Choices**  
<http://russellgroup.org/Informed%20Choices%20final.pdf>

### FINANCE

**Student Finance England**  
[www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/UniversityAndHigherEducation/StudentFinance/Gettingstarted/index.htm](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/UniversityAndHigherEducation/StudentFinance/Gettingstarted/index.htm)

**Brightside UNIAID**  
[www.studentcalculator.org.uk/](http://www.studentcalculator.org.uk/)

**Make Your Future Happen**  
<http://yourfuture.direct.gov.uk/costs>

### YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARE/CARE LEAVER ORGANISATIONS

**Sheffield Hallam University – information for Care Leavers**  
[www.shu.ac.uk/services/sls/support/careleavers/](http://www.shu.ac.uk/services/sls/support/careleavers/)

**The University of Sheffield - information for Care Leavers**  
[www.shef.ac.uk/schools/outreach-programmes/care-leavers-project](http://www.shef.ac.uk/schools/outreach-programmes/care-leavers-project)

**Buttle UK**  
[www.buttletrust.org](http://www.buttletrust.org)

**NCAS**  
[www.leavingcare.org](http://www.leavingcare.org)

### OTHER USEFUL WEBSITES

**LearnDirect**  
[www.learnirect.co.uk](http://www.learnirect.co.uk)

**Total Professions (careers information)**  
[www.totalprofessions.com](http://www.totalprofessions.com)

**Young People's Learning Agency**  
[www.ypla.gov.uk](http://www.ypla.gov.uk)

**icould**  
<http://icould.com/about>

**Not going to Uni**  
[www.notgoingtouni.co.uk](http://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk)

**The Student Room**  
[www.thestudentroom.co.uk](http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk)

For more information or to request additional copies of this booklet please contact the university care leaver teams using the details below –

**THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD**

[care@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:care@sheffield.ac.uk)

0114 222 9874

[www.shef.ac.uk/schools/outreach-programmes/care-leavers-project](http://www.shef.ac.uk/schools/outreach-programmes/care-leavers-project)

**SHEFFIELD HALLAM UNIVERSITY**

[care@shu.ac.uk](mailto:care@shu.ac.uk)

0114 225 4986

[www.shu.ac.uk/services/sls/support/careleavers/](http://www.shu.ac.uk/services/sls/support/careleavers/)

This document is available in other formats on request