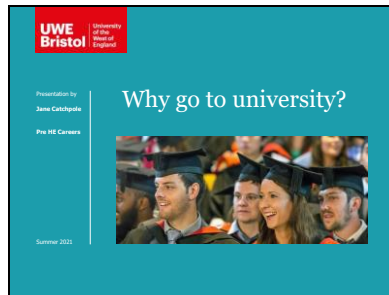


Slide 1



This session looks at the employability benefits of going to university, as well as considering the common reasons why people go to university.

When I met you back in October to talk about post-18 Pathways session, you had an introduction into HE, the variety that is available in terms of courses and university.

This session takes one step back and will get you to examine motivations for choices...something that is definitely worth considering before you make major decisions.

Disclaimer – Not here to specifically promote university above all other options and say its ‘best for all of you’. Rather want to give you the full facts to allow you to make an informed decision about your p18 plans

Slide 2



University can mean different things to different people. It's important to think what you would want to get out of it. That will influence your choices.

Quick discussion (2-3 mins) then vote for most popular (hands up)

Slide 3

HE is *one* of your post-18 options

Higher Education	Gap year	Apprenticeship or job

We have already established that HE is one of the main options after post 18.

Fact: number of 18 year-olds at it's lowest point in 2020...so less competition for places (UCAS update 2019) Acceptance rate 76.7% for 2018 applicants, highest in 10 yrs.

Key point to make: You can go to university at any age (oldest current student is 94!), so whether you are thinking about this option now or in the future, it's worth taking some time to understand the principles and benefits to help you make your decisions. Still helpful even if not considering university right now

Slide 4

Today's session

1. Update your knowledge of Higher Education
2. Consider what the benefits of going to university are
3. Understand how to find out more to inform your decision making

Looking at the key information is important when making important decisions and so we will check in with the information/data so you have accurate information.

We'll look at those benefits and they may be wide ranging – can vary from person to person and in terms of their personal relevance and significance to you.

And finally I will signpost you to useful websites to get you started in looking for information and details about HE so that you can consider what is right for you.

Slide 5



This is a brief recap on what's involved in studying for a degree:

Specialising in a subject: doing a subject that you will like is key. Your learning will be in-depth, going into detail.

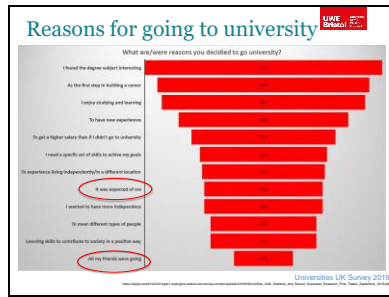
Analysing and critically thinking about particular modules, topics. Nothing will be taken at face value. You will engage with current affairs in your subject area and beyond and continue to form opinions, ideas, solutions. Encouraged to challenge, think deeply

Researching topics by looking at studies, literature, what academics and reports say on your topic will be really key. Maybe the academics at your university will be involved in pioneering research while you are there...Some unis have research specialisms for that particular department (give eg of Psych department at Leeds having driving simulator for responses to hazards on road

Professional training may be relevant if you are on a vocational degree (e.g. nursing / medicine), so you will need to be certain that you want to enter that particular area of work (Wex can help you test). Many courses are accredited too by the relevant professional body linked to that subject (to allow you to become chartered in the future)

In other cases, degrees may be semi-vocational; learning about an **industry** such as forensic science, childhood studies marketing, animal care can help you to specialise in an area as well as keeping options open about a range of occupations. It is worth finding out whether these subjects do lead onto the careers that you are interested in.

Slide 6



Slide 7

Why go to university?

The experience

What 'experience' are you looking to have?

- Moving to a new area
- Meet new people
- Gain independence
- Placements & part time work
- Joining clubs and societies

What's important to you? People often say "I'm going for the experience" – but this is a general concept. What does it specifically mean to you. What specific "experience" do you want to get?

Cooking & washing = Independent living skills

Slide 8

Blended can be positive

- Interactive sessions
- Academic support
- Easy to ask questions
- Course identity


Of the 20% of the workforce who are working from home 100% of the time, most are graduate roles.

We have found that with online learning sessions can be interactive and academics have worked hard to ensure that lectures and tutorials have elements of discussion and activities. Support is available and students can still ask for help with their academic work or as part of sessions. While the learning is taking place on line, both students and staff have tried to ensure that students still experience being part of a course.

UWE Bristol also used Block Zero approach at start of new term, where all content/delivery was online for 3 weeks. Perspectives on this from students were broadly favourable - 79% found the programme sessions useful; 63% felt motivated; 66% became more confident in using the technology used for teaching this year

From UWE perspective, CV19 impacts not observed in terms of Careers service usage. Seems like in many cases students have responded favourably and positively to challenges presented by CV19 – increased % of virtual appts, activities undertaken by students, usage of careers resources via an online toolkit.


Slide 9

Why go to university? 

Subject choice

50,000 courses available

- Linked to an area of work?
- Requirement of a job?
- Skills shortage?
- Fascinated?
- Curious?



There is more to this decision than ‘taking Maths because I like it’it’s important to ask WHY!

Why else do you want to do the subject. **Ask yourself this actual question.** There are 5 points to also consider

Slide 10



As we will see shortly however, there are a huge range of organisations that recruit graduates from any discipline, meaning that having a degree can unlock a wide variety of [often unexpected] career paths.

Slide 11

Graduate career paths

Having a degree can open up a range of related, yet less obvious, career paths. For example:

Degree subject	Example employment
Sociology	Probation officer
Marketing	Public relations
Languages	Tour operator
IT	Operations security analyst
Sports Science	Performance analyst
Fine Art	Art librarian

A table with two columns: 'Degree subject' and 'Example employment'. It lists six examples of career paths for graduates. A small red logo is in the top right corner.

Your degree can lead into related but unexpected paths (not just the more obvious career paths)

As we've seen, **many graduates need their degree to get into their first job (stepping stones into this)**. As in the 'Pathways' session, you looked at graduates that came from the same degree who went into different jobs. This is certainly possible.

On the screen you will see a number of destinations of graduates that went into careers related to their degree. What do graduates do 2018-19

CBI - Graduate employability:
<https://www.cbi.org.uk/media-centre/articles/higher-skilled-roles-rise-as-skills-gap-grows-cbipearson-annual-report/> : *More than three-quarters (79%) of businesses expect to increase the number of higher-skilled roles over the coming years... 87% of businesses that employ graduates have maintained or increased their levels of graduate recruitment over the last year*

Slide 12

Graduates from any subject wanted

BT, ASDA, NHS, John Lewis, Deloitte, DANONE, BRITISH AIRWAYS, sky

Transferrable Skills

QUICK & SIMPLE WAY TO REPRESENT WEALTH OF FUTURE OPPS???

Lots of careers, employers and jobs at a professional or degree level that will employ graduates from any subject. Many career areas simply prefer students who've shown they are capable of studying successfully at degree level, have developed a range of transferable skills and work exp whilst at uni (and don't actually mind what subject that degree is in). Selection of household names on this slide who take graduates from any discipline into prof/managerial level jobs in a range of areas.

Therefore, feel reassured that you don't need to know what career you want, before you go to university. Its OK/normal to not know exactly what you want to do.

Worth noting that many of these companies also offer placements for university students in the summer or sandwich year (this experience can help with future employability)

Some careers, such as Law, will take you from any subject with a conversion course afterwards.

For many employers they want to understand the skills that graduates bring to the roles and technical/specific training can be provided.

Slide 13

The poster is titled "Graduates from any subject wanted" and features the Civil Service Fast Stream logo. It is divided into two sections: "Houses of Parliament" and "Digital".

Houses of Parliament
Want to work at the heart of democracy?
• £32-28k
• 2:2 or higher in any degree subject
• 4 years
• London

Digital
dot and Technology
Design, build and run government digital services
• £28k
• 2:1 or post-graduate degree in any subject
• 4 years
• UK wide

Makes the point that there are varied and interesting opportunities out there that not necessarily aware of. Real life example to back up what I've been saying.

Just 2 of the schemes that require a degree in any subject.

Others are:

Commercial 2:2, Finance 2:1, Project Delivery 2:2, Government Communication Service 2:1, Generalist (working across different departments) 2:2, Diplomatic Service 2:2, Human Resources 2:2 NB **grade less important as selection done by psychometric testing**/grad selection process (see Hooley, ISE 2019: Our members are typically large employers with a strong history of graduate recruitment. One of the things that we ask them about is what they use as entry requirements.

Over the last five years, we've seen the beginnings of a major shift in employer practice in relation to the use of grades in selection. In 2014, 76% of our members were requiring a 2:1 for all of their graduate recruits; by last year, that had dropped to 52%. Similarly, the practice of requiring minimum A level grades (or UCAS points) has also declined, from 40% of employers to 28%.)

Houses of Parliament <https://www.faststream.gov.uk/houses-of-parliament/> still current 2019

If you have an interest in politics, public policy, and the constitution, this scheme will give you the experience and skills you need to develop your potential to be a future leader of the Civil Service. As a Houses of Parliament Fast Streamer, you'll be employed by the House of Commons and serve Parliament, not the government of the day.

You will learn to command the confidence of MPs by providing them with impartial and assured advice, no matter how challenging the issue may be.

Opportunity to work in areas such as:

- public outreach
- media and communications
- diversity and inclusion
- research and information (the House of Commons Library)

Digital <https://www.faststream.gov.uk/digital-data-technology/>

6 placements over four years, working in up to six government departments nationally. You may be:
project managing a new feature, product or IT system upgrade
gathering and analysing data, including user research
building web services and creating content for websites
advising ministers on digital, data and technology policies

Common concerns

Employment prospects

1. What % of graduates are unemployed 15 months after graduating?
 - 5.5% of graduates
2. How many needed their degree to get their first job?
 - **71.8%** are in professional or managerial level jobs
3. What is the average graduate starting salary?
 - £24, 217



A common headline is that graduate unemployment is high....but how high is it?
NB If students guesses are way out leads back to initial point of where are they getting their information from – important to check sources of info and that they are reliable

<https://luminare.prospects.ac.uk/what-do-graduates-do>

Q1. 5.5% - from 'What do Graduates do?'
Pub Dec 2020

Majority of the remainder in further study
e.g. Masters degrees (12% in further study
Dec 2020)

We all know of people who continued their weekend job after finishing uni, but how many graduates actually get a higher **professional or managerial level job**? I.e. they needed a degree

Q2. **71.8% nationally 78% UWE** ('What do Graduates do?' Pub Dec 2020- 15 months post graduation LEO

3.5 years after graduating, this increases to 84% of graduates in professional employment

(DLHE Longitudinal Survey)
<https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/publications/long-destinations-2012-13/employment>

We see that graduates' median earnings rise with the time since they graduated, with average earnings in 2016/17 ten years after graduation being £30,500, compared to £23,300 three years after and £19,900 one year after. Looking across graduate cohorts, graduate earnings (in nominal terms) have been increasing
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/790223/Main_text.pdf Mar 2019

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/graduate-outcomes-leo/2018-19>

Median earnings for UK domiciled graduates continued to increase in 2018/19 compared with previous tax years. The median graduate earnings at five years after graduation was £27,400 which was a 4.2% increase compared with 2017/18 and a 8.7% increase compared with 2014/15. **Adjusting median graduate earnings for inflation (to give earnings in real terms) reduced the increase on previous years.** Median real terms earnings at five years after graduation was £25,500 and represented a 2.4% increase compared with 2017/18 and a 1.2% increase compared with 2014/15.

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/graduate-labour-markets>

Graduates and postgraduates continue to have higher employment rates than non-graduates. However, employment rates for working-age graduates, postgraduates and non-graduates alike were slightly lower in 2020 compared to 2019.

In 2020, the employment rate for working-age graduates – those aged 16 to 64 – was 86.4%, down 1.1 percentage points from 2019 (87.5%). **For working-age postgraduates the employment rate was 88.2%**, **for non-graduates it was 71.3%**; these data represent falls of 0.5 and 0.7 percentage points from 2019, respectively.

66% of working-age graduates were in high-skilled employment, compared with 78.4% of postgraduates and 24.5% of non-graduates. The

graduate rate increased 0.4 percentage points in 2019. The rate for non-graduates was 0.6 percentage points lower than in 2019 while for postgraduates it was 0.5 percentage points down on the previous year.

The median salary for working-age graduates was £35,000 in 2020. This was £9,500 more than non-graduates (£25,500) but £7,000 less than postgraduates (£42,000).

Slide 15

Common concerns

Employment prospects

Comparing graduates in work vs non graduates in 2020

87.7% of graduates are employed
71.3% of non-graduates are employed

DFE 20

Therefore better lifetime employment prospects as a graduate

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/graduate-labour-markets>

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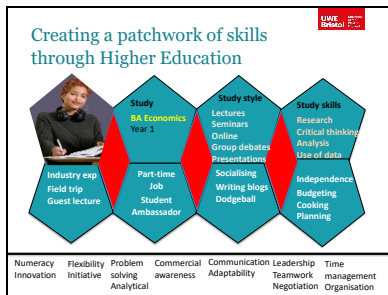
The median salary for working-age graduates was £35,000 in 2020. This was £9,500 more than non-graduates (£25,500) but £7,000 less than postgraduates (£42,000).

Gap has been consistent over last 10 yrs when was last assessed over working life as v similar %

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/797308/GLMS_2018_publication_main_text.pdf

Graduate Labour Market Statistics 2018

Slide 16



Getting involved in a wide range of different facts of university life can help you build up a valuable and sought after skillset (not just studying for degree, but also wider activities)

Basic message is that uni helps develop range of transferable skills that whole host of different employers will value...

<https://courses.uwe.ac.uk/L100/economics>

BA Economics year 1 modules

Microeconomics
Macroeconomics

Economic Reasoning
Statistics and Data Management
Evolution of Economy and Industry

History of Economic Thought.

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/spais/research/paired-peers/journals/>

<https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/showthread.php?t=4420708>
<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/blogs/day-life-university-student-uk>

Slide 17

**Common concerns:
Cost of university study**

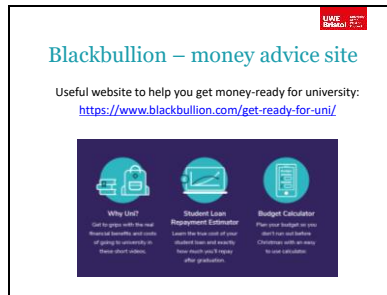
- Don't start repaying student loans until earning over **£27,295/year**.
- On a salary of £29K/year, this equates to **£12.80/month**.
- All student debt is written off after 30 years.

To help you out financially, **scholarships, bursaries, paid placements and part-time work** are all worth investigating



Don't start repaying loans until you earn over £26,525/yr (threshold for repayments from April 2020). Repayments are only on the amount over £26,755 you earn (9% of this – always affordable). On £27K this is £475 over the threshold. 9% of this = £42.75/yr (or **£3.60/mth**)
£28K salary = £10.70 pm
Estimates are that approx. 4/5 (approx. 80%) will never pay it back in full (it is written off after 30 years)

Maintenance loans are means tested – max can borrow is £9K / year. Parents sometimes have to contribute to fill short fall
What was the average salary of graduates under the repayment threshold for the student loan?
Yes, with an average salary of £24,217 and a repayment threshold of £26,575



Money-Ready for University: A resource for Prospective Students: Money-Ready has a bunch of useful tools to help you wrap your head around applying for university, and understanding the financial side of it. Including:

Why Uni? - A short video to help you get to grips with the real financial benefits and costs of going to university

Student Loan Repayment Estimator - A tool to help you understand the real cost of your student loan, and exactly how much you would repay after graduation

Budget Calculator - Easily plan your budget for each of your prospective universities with this simple calculator, don't let money-fears get in the way of Uni!

Parents Guide - A quick video explaining the reality of university life from the perspective of your primary caregiver, to put any worries at ease!

You can log in at any time and get Money-Ready for Uni at moneyreadyforuni.com with the promo code, UWE Bristol

Slide 19



<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/preparing-to-go/student-jobs-working-part-time>

Slide 20

Could you get a bursary or scholarship?

1. GCHQ Cyber first bursary
2. Royal & Ancient Golf Scholarship
3. The Leverhulme Trade Charities Trust
4. Vice Chancellor's scholarship
5. National Craft Butchers
6. Esports Scholarship
7. Access to Bristol Bursary
8. Leeds University Scholarship

Spot the false source of additional funding!

The slide includes a 'True False' quiz graphic with 'True' in green and 'False' in red. A logo for 'THE SCHOLARSHIP HUB' is in the bottom right corner. A small red logo in the top right corner reads 'LEEDS UNIVERSITY'.

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/money/free-degree-courses-apply-online-12344061>

<https://www.savethestudent.org/student-finance/weird-university-bursaries-grants-scholarships.html>

<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/media/5244026/english-and-university-bursary-and-scholarship-grid-2019.pdf>

<https://www.york.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/fees-funding/uk-eu/scholarships/foundation-bursary/>

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/fees-funding/awards/access/>

http://www.leeds.ac.uk/info/130532/scholarships_personal_circumstances/23/scholarships

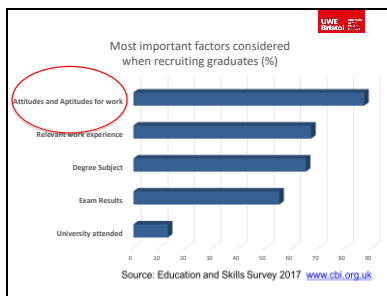
Slide 21

Could you get a bursary or scholarship?

1. GCHQ Cyber first bursary - £4000 per year applicants must have 3 B grades at A Level studying STEM degree
2. Royal & Ancient Golf Scholarship, £5000 applicants must have; Male handicap of +1 Females 2 or below
3. The Leverhulme Trade Charities Trust: Children of commercial travellers, chemists, grocers, £3000 per year
4. Vice Chancellor's scholarship, £10,000 per year Liverpool John Moore's University- 144 UCAS points
5. National Craft Butchers -£500 one off award for those in hardship-Vegetarian Charity
6. Esports Scholarship, £1500 per year University of Roehampton
7. Access to Bristol Bursary, Bursary for living costs £3855, Fee waiver for the first year (household income below £25,000)
8. Leeds University Scholarship £3000 per year household income below £42,875

- <https://www.mirror.co.uk/money/fee-degree-courses-apply-online-12344061>
- <https://www.savesthestudent.org/student-finance/weird-university-bursaries-grants-scholarships.html>
- <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/media/5244026/english-and-university-bursary-and-scholarship-grid-2019.pdf>
- <https://www.york.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/fees-funding/uk-eu/scholarships/foundation-bursary/>
- <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/fees-funding/awards/access/>
- http://www.leeds.ac.uk/info/130532/scholarships_personal_circumstances/23/scholarships

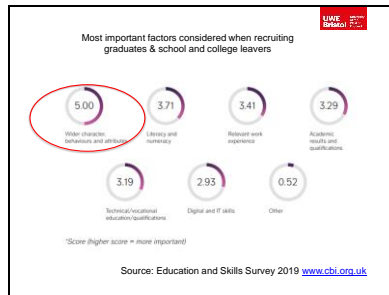
Slide 22



Remember, employers who take on graduates are keen to discover your skills.... Perhaps surprisingly the university results or degree is less important than the skills/attitudes that a person has. **University study can help you to develop the key skills/attitudes that employers value** (especially if do work placements etc)

2016 survey % 87, 67, 65

Interesting to note which precise university you attended isn't actually an important factor for many employers.



Remember, employers who take on graduates are keen to discover your skills.... Perhaps surprisingly the university results or degree is less important that the skills/attitudes that a person has. **University study can help you to develop the key skills/attitudes that employers value** (especially if do work placements etc)
https://www.cbi.org.uk/media/3841/12546_tess_2019.pdf There was no report in 2020, data from 2021 report not yet out. Interesting to note which precise university you attended isn't actually an important factor for many employers.

The majority of businesses surveyed report that they are satisfied or very satisfied with the academic and technical knowledge of young people who have applied for jobs during the past 12 months, 74% and 57% respectively (Exhibit 1.3). The proportion of respondents that cited they are very satisfied or satisfied with digital and IT skills (58%) is also a cause for optimism. This is critical as 95% of employers expect their digital skills needs to grow, however less than one third said they were confident that they will be able to access the digital skills they need in the next 3-5 years.⁷ With potential challenges ahead, it is promising that close to 6 out of 10 respondent employers are satisfied, but there is still work to do.

As identified (Exhibit 1.2), employers' value more than just qualifications alone. Being 'work ready' remains a priority, with two in five (40%) reporting that they

are dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with wider character, behaviours, and attributes (Exhibit 1.3). Furthermore, one third (33%) are either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied by the amount of relevant work experience young people have.

Slide 24

University: Should I go?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social life • Independence • Higher earnings • I'll need a degree for the job I want to do • Less likely to be unemployed in the future • Gives me an advantage in competitive careers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't like or had enough of studying • I want to be in work now • Not sure I want to study a subject that doesn't lead to a particular job • I don't know what I want to do in the future: is it a luxury?
---	---

This is a list of the common views that we hear from students.

It's important to understand which are true and based on factual information.

Some things will matter to some individuals and not to others...e.g.. "I don't know what I want to do in the future."

Refer back to the students' pros & cons lists – has this changed anything/challenged any preconceptions? Any other questions/issues?

How will you find out more to make the right decision for you?
Next slides

Slide 25

Finding the information

- Discover Life
- National Careers Service
- The UniGuide
- Career Pilot
- UCAS
- PROSPECTS
- GOV.UK
- SACU
- opensdays.com

Slide 26

What next?

Assess the pros & cons of all the opportunities that are open to you

If you have a career in mind - find out if you need a degree

Research: Courses, HE providers, UCAS apply, Student life, Finance, Grades etc.

Research alternatives and make an action plan

Start now!

Start exploring now. You may change your mind....Research takes time.

Slide 27

Thank you for watching

We hope you found the information in the session useful.

If you have further questions about planning for Higher Education and careers you can contact us by emailing prehecareersadviser@uwe.ac.uk

Good luck with your plans, and we look forward to meeting you in a classroom in the future.