

Map your future



Careers planner for 16-18s

Age 16-17	Autumn Future routes	What will you do next? Travel, study, work: discover your options
		University: should you go? Uncover truth and myths about going to uni
		Is an apprenticeship right for you? Find out what it really means to be an apprentice
	Spring Finance tips	What would uni cost? Understand student loans and other available funding
		How can you save money? Top tips to save money and boost your income
		What will you do with your holidays? Find out about holiday jobs or work experience opportunities
	Summer Preparations	What next after exams? Investigate getting into uni and choosing a course
		How can you prepare outside of the classroom? Visit a uni or complete a taster course
		What makes a good personal statement? Start drafting your personal statement

Introduction

This planner will guide you through the big, exciting decisions you will make about your future over your two years at sixth form and help set you on the path to a bigger and brighter future.

Age 17-18	Autumn Think about employability	What's the best way to get a job? Get prepared by updating your CV
		What do employers look for? Identify the key skills you need to develop
		How will you succeed at interview? Practise your interview technique
	Spring Focus on exams	How will you decide which uni? Prepare to make your firm and insurance choices
		Where will you live at uni? Get your accommodation sorted
		How will you prepare for your exams? These revision tips can help you secure the best possible grades
	Summer Preparing for life after sixth form	What is it like to be a student? Prepare for life as a student
		How can you live on a student budget? Create a student monthly budget planner
		What happens if things don't go to plan? Read up on clearing and other options

Did you know?

Millions of pounds' worth of bursaries and scholarships go unclaimed. Make sure you don't miss out!

More than 26,000 students drop out in their first year, mainly because the course doesn't meet their needs. Don't be one of them: do your research.

Graduates who get a First or 2:1 earn more. Aim high to earn high.

Apprenticeships are available in 1,500 job roles, covering more than 170 industries, from advertising to youth work and from environmental engineering to law.

There are over 30,000 different university courses. There will be a course out there that's right for you.

Important dates

September: Ucas applications open
Mid-October: Deadline for medicine, veterinary, dentistry and Oxbridge applications
Mid-January: Deadline for university applications
Late March: Deadline for art and design applications
April - May: Deadline for student finance applications
End of June: Deadline for student finance applications (Scotland)
July: International Baccalaureate and BTEC exam results, Ucas Clearing opens
Early August: SQA exam results
Mid-August: A-level exam results
End of October: Clearing closes

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Future plans

- ▶ **What will you do next?** Carry out the *What next after sixth form?* activity with your class using the www.which.co.uk/sixthformslides
- ▶ **University: should you go?** Myth-bust with this activity: www.which.co.uk/unimyths. Discuss how possible barriers to going to university could be overcome, using one of these resources: on disability www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6myoXIOaQc; on students typically under-represented at uni www.manchester.ac.uk/connect/teachers/students/post-16/manchester-access-programme/
- ▶ **Is an apprenticeship right for you?** Help students make up their minds with the video clip, information and the apprenticeship search tool from www.gettingofar.gov.uk. Provide this guide to students for them to do their own research: www.which.co.uk/apprenticeships
- ▶ **What next after exams?** Provide one or more of these links to help students overcome any concerns they might have about uni as an option, starting with *The getting into uni guide*: www.which.co.uk/gettingintouni. Help on choosing courses: www.which.co.uk/chooseacourse and comparing courses between different unis: www.which.co.uk/comparecourses
- ▶ **How can you prepare outside of the classroom?** Encourage students to attend university open days and to think about what to look for/ask using these tips: www.which.co.uk/opendays. To find taster days, use www.unitasterdays.com/. There is a short video and a good search engine for finding taster courses.
- ▶ **How will you decide which uni?** Read through this article about making first and insurance choices and encourage students to think about how they will make their own decisions: www.which.co.uk/unidecision
- ▶ **Where will you live at uni?** What do students know about uni accommodation? Hold a class discussion before sharing this article: www.which.co.uk/uniaccommodation

- ▶ **What is it like to be a student?** Ask students to make a list of things they are excited about, nervous about or unsure about. Then use this link to encourage some independent research: www.which.co.uk/preparingforuni. How can they best prepare themselves?
- ▶ **What happens if things don't go to plan?** Briefly discuss students' expectations about results day and clearing before signposting students to the articles here: www.which.co.uk/clearing. Ask students to come up with a shortlist of key things they would tell a friend.

Skills development

- ▶ **What will you do with your holidays?** What have students got planned already - and what else could they fit in? Emphasise how important work experience is for students' personal statements using this article: www.which.co.uk/psworkexperience. Support students to create a class pledge to carry out some work experience or seek to enhance their skills over the holidays.
- ▶ **What do employers look for?** These sites can help students identify what employers are looking for and how they can build the necessary skills: <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/tools/skillshealthcheck/Pages/default.aspx> and www.barclayslifeskills.com. What key skills do students feel they need to build?
- ▶ **How will you succeed at interview?** Show students some interview howlers from *The Apprentice* here: www.youtube.com/results?search_query=the+apprentice+interviews+best+bits. How could these errors be avoided? Students can then interview each other to practise what they have learned.
- ▶ **How will you prepare for your exams?** Ask students to trade what worked well for them during previous exam periods. Share any additional tips outlined here: www.which.co.uk/revisontips

Skills showcase

- ▶ **What makes a good personal statement?** Watch this video with your class: www.which.co.uk/admissiontutortips and read the articles (links below) before tasking students with writing their own personal statement. Remind students that this can be a useful exercise for everyone, even if they are not intending to apply to university. This exercise can help students focus on their strengths ahead of interviews or job applications. Articles: www.which.co.uk/ps10tips and www.which.co.uk/pswhatnot
- ▶ **What's the best way to get a job?** Urge students to write or update their CV - this tool can help: <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/tools/cv/Pages/default.aspx>

Money matters

- ▶ **What would uni cost?** Help students find out about student loans and other available funding using the following links: www.which.co.uk/studentfinanceguide www.which.co.uk/studentbudgeting www.which.co.uk/bursaries
- ▶ **How can you save money?** What do students know about saving money? Share this student wiki: www.thestudentroom.co.uk/wiki/Making_the_most_of_your_money. Ask students to prepare a list of top tips for young people their own age.
- ▶ **How can you live on a student budget?** Ask students to come up with ideas for how to make their student loan go further. Use this article to give extra suggestions: www.which.co.uk/stretchstudentloan

Activity overview

This careers activity planner provides a series of practical activities and ideas to get your students thinking about their next steps after sixth form, whether they plan to head on to uni, an apprenticeship or start working.

Share the front side of this planner with your students. This reverse side provides more detail on running each of the activities.

Key

Use our key to help you find activities covering these areas:

-  Future plans
-  Skills development
-  Skills showcase
-  Money matters

