

Post 18 Routes

All Routes

- Follow [The Somerset Careers Hub Parents Facebook Page](#) for opportunities and information
- [Get the Jump](#) – Government website detailing all routes.
- [The Parents Guide What's Next 23-24](#) (Post 16 & 18)

Comparing post-18 pathways



	Undergraduate degrees	Apprenticeships	Employment	Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs)
Institution	Study at university, college or conservatoire	Work for an employer, with part-time study	Work for an employer	Study at FE colleges, universities, IOTs or independent training providers
Length of study	At least 3 years	Ranges from 1-6 years	N/A	1-2 years (if full-time)
Study/training focused	Classroom-based, some with option to do placement year	Work-based, while studying for a qualification	Work-based	Classroom-based, some with workshops, labs or work experience
Cost	Tuition fees (£9,250 a year) and living expenses. Eligible for student finance	No fees	No fees	Tuition fees (£7,000-£9,250 a year) and living expenses. Eligible for student finance
Salary	Average of £26,500 per year after graduation	At least the <u>minimum apprenticeship wage</u> during apprenticeship, salaries vary afterwards	Average of £19,000 per year	Average of £24,410* per year after completing your course

Higher Technical Qualifications

- 1-2 years, include work experience, eligible for student finance for tuition and maintenance loans. Full or part time, taught at many universities or colleges. Develop practical, high quality skills.
- [Get the Jump- HTQs](#)
- [HTQ information](#) – Amazing Apprenticeships
- [Amazing Apprenticeships – What are HTQs](#)
- [How to Research and Apply for HTQs. Application Guide](#)
- [HTQ Course Listing](#)
- [HTQs resources & webinars. Parents guide to HTQs](#) From Amazing Apprenticeships
- [What is an HTQ Video 2 min. Case studies. HTQ resources hub- videos](#)

Which HTQs are available?



Available now

- Digital
- Construction & the Built Environment
- Health & Science
- Business & Administration
- Education & Early Years
- Engineering & Manufacturing
- Legal, Finance & Accounting

Available from September 2025

- Agriculture, Environment & Animal Care
- Care Services
- Catering & Hospitality
- Creative & Design
- Protective Services
- Sales, Marketing & Procurement

Higher Technical Qualifications

- **Job focused**
- **Flexible**
- **Employer-led**
- **Education setting based**

Where do HTQs fit in with other qualifications?

Year 3/4 (Level 6) Top up degree: Further study could turn your HND or foundation degree into a full undergraduate honours degree.

Year 2 (Level 5) Apprenticeship: A package of work and study available in Level 2-7.

Year 1 (Level 4) Undergraduate degree: A three-year programme of academic study.

Level 5 Higher Technical Qualifications: Approved vocational qualifications. Includes HNDs, Foundation Degrees and others.

Level 4 Higher Technical Qualifications: Approved vocational qualifications. Includes HNCs, Cert HE and others.

Level (3) A Levels, T Levels, BTEC, Diploma

Apprenticeships

- [Amazing Apprenticeships. Higher/ Degree vacancies. Gov/ apprenticeships](#)
- [Springpod Apprenticeships](#) - information on all sorts of apprenticeships with major companies and details of what is currently available.
- [Sixth form student apprenticeship guide](#)- A self-directed learning and development guide for Y12-13 students to inform about apprenticeships and the benefits.
- Apprenticeship [Parent Packs](#)
- [UCAS Apprenticeships](#) site
- Amazing apprenticeships have many [resources](#), including [Rapid Reads](#)
- [Career Starter Apprenticeships](#)
- Subject Snapshots- Overview of [apprenticeships in different subject areas](#)
- [Apprenticeships website](#)
- Links for job hunting [Gov apprenticeships](#), [Indeed](#), [Simply Hired](#) and [Adzuna](#)
- [Careermap](#)
- [Apprentice Ambassador video stories](#)
- [Application Support](#) – Government website; Applications, Interviews, First day of work, Degree Apprenticeships- an Open Day guide
- [Preparation for tests and assessment centres | University of Essex](#)
- [Apprenticeships v University](#) Pathways CTM myth busting video podcast 43 mins
- [Answering Interview Questions](#) - How to answer certain common questions and planning your answer. [PowerPoint version](#)

[Companies with Apprenticeships.](#)
[How to Find an Apprenticeship](#)

Starting Your Own Business

- [Youth Employment UK](#)
- [Small Business UK](#) – where to get support.
- [Life Hack](#) – 20 websites to help you start your own business.
- 10 ways to get your business off to a good start – [The Guardian](#)
- [Nerd Wallet](#) - 41 online businesses you could start.
- [Chomp](#) -free programme ages under 24 in Sedgemoor to set up, run & manage a business.
- [SBA](#) – offer courses, webinars, resources, support & advice on running a successful business
- Is self employment right for you? [Prospects](#)

SEND Resources / Supported Internships & Apprenticeships

- Imagine the Possibilities [Families Guide](#)- Describes supported apprenticeships & traineeships, support in work, relevant legislation
- [Imagine the Possibilities](#) website
- [Somerset – Your Futures](#) – SEND friendly website created by the Careers Hub to look into different careers, and also specific to our area.

University/ Higher Education

[UCAS](#)- UCAS is the route into applying for most higher education courses. UCAS Hub is a new, brilliant way of exploring your options, comparing courses, following a simple to-do list and saving your favourites as you go.

[CUKAS](#) - search and apply for music conservatoire courses

[The Open University](#) - search and apply for distance learning courses

[Deciding which University subject to study?](#) Hundreds of subject videos; Accounting to Zoology, covering why consider the subject, what to expect in studying it, careers it may lead to and application tips.

[Next Steps South West](#) - Outreach programme in the South West providing impartial information about HE:

NSSW [Parents Guide to Higher Education](#)

NSSW [HE Applicant Guide](#)

[Open day Travel Costs](#) bursaries – University Finder

[Contextual Offers](#) – lower offers for certain students

[Guardian Good University Guide](#) - An overall league table of UK universities, ranked according to their Guardian score. You can see how they performed on several important factors. There are also subject tables.

[Prospects](#)- Job profiles. Work experience and internships. Employer profiles. What job would suit me? Job sectors. Apprenticeships. Working abroad. Gap year. Self-employment. What can I do with my degree? Destinations for each degree subject.

[Springpod Subject Spotlights](#), mini lecture series delivered by top university academics, which dive deep into a course subject, giving students the opportunity to try a degree, before applying. Excellent for demonstrating on a Personal Statement, that a student has gone above and beyond, to explore content related to the subject they wish to study.

Videos – [An Introduction to University](#). Things to consider when [choosing your university](#). [Choosing the right university](#) for you

[WhatUni](#) – Information about open days and student reviews.

[Discover Uni](#) – Government website for university and their employability statistics.

[The Uni Guide](#) – Articles relating to university; personal statements, preparing for university.

[Uni Myth Busters](#)

[NiDirect](#) – What to do if grades are not as expected; clearing, track, resits, appeals, re-marks.

Local Universities: [University Centre Somerset](#) (part of Bridgwater and Taunton College).

[Yeovil College's University Centre](#). [University of West England](#) (UWE in Bristol).

Russell Group Universities: [University of Bath](#), [University of Bristol](#), [University of Exeter](#).

Student Finance

- NSSW - [Funding your Higher Education](#) video
- [Student Finance YouTube Channel](#) Student Finance explained 2023+. Parents video has all the information needed to support an application for student finance. Find out how to submit household income details, what information is required.
- Government site to [Apply for Student Finance](#), with information.

Oxbridge

- Oxford University - [Parent's guide on supporting an Oxford Application](#)
- Cambridge University - [Parent's guide on supporting a Cambridge application](#)

University Abroad

- [Studying at University abroad](#) by country - AstarFuture
- www.prospects.ac.uk
- [Scholarships to study in the US](#)
- [Eunicas](#) website (European University Central Application Support Service)
- [Fullbright Commission](#)

Clearing

- [Guide to Clearing](#) – If your grades were not as expected.

Careers Advice

Students are legally entitled to request a careers guidance meeting in school/ college (with a Careers Adviser with a professional careers guidance qualification of Level 6 or above). Please do contact the school's careers adviser, contact details will be on the school website in the careers section. You can also contact a National Careers Service careers adviser on 0800 100 900 8am to 8pm weekdays or 10am to 5pm Saturdays or [use webchat](#) to talk online.

Gap Year

- [Year Out Group](#): provides an extensive list of organisations that offer gap year options like living abroad on a cultural exchange, participating in an expedition and signing up to overseas courses.
- [Original Volunteers](#): This website offers over 100 volunteer projects in 18 countries across Africa, Asia and South America. Opportunities include working with children, building projects, conservation projects, sports volunteering and working with animals.
- [Year in Industry](#): EDT places gap-year students on high-quality work placements in engineering, science, IT, e-commerce, business, marketing, finance and logistics at companies such as Shell, Rolls-Royce, QinetiQ, British Energy, L'Oreal and AstraZeneca.
- [Best Gap Year](#)
- [Trailfinders](#)
- [Go Abroad](#)
- [Gapforce](#)
- [Go Overseas](#)
- [NIDirect](#) – Planning a Gap Year.
- [AHA](#) - Gap Year Courses, cultural adventures abroad.
- [CESA](#) – Language courses abroad.
- [Yamnuska](#) Mountain Adventures.
- [Safer Travel App](#)- can be downloaded free.
- [UCAS](#) – why take a Gap Year & contacts
- Projects Abroad have recorded [a video about their opportunities](#) for volunteering overseas for Gap year, & 1 about [the benefits of taking a Gap year](#)