



A guide for Students

Progressing to Higher Education from a
Work-Based Learning Background

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Lancashire

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Lancashire
WBL Executive Forum

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A Guide for Students in Lancashire

The world is changing... by 2020 there will be five million fewer low skilled jobs in Britain than today.

40% of all jobs in 2020 will require a graduate level qualification.

The top 10 jobs in demand in 2010 did not exist in 2004.

Schools are preparing students for jobs that don't currently exist.

Apprentices and other vocational learners have many skills to offer and a higher level qualification will always prove useful for progression within a chosen career.

Currently only a very small percentage of Apprentices continue in study and achieve higher level qualifications; but it is a way to acquire a degree, or equivalent without being hampered with a student loan that you have to pay back.

Have you thought about where you want to be in 10 years time?

Consider the following questions:

1. Where do I want to be in 10 years?
2. Where do I want to live?
3. What car will I want to drive?
4. Will I want to socialise and have interests?
5. How much money will I want to be earning to afford all the above?

Now think about all the things you'll need to do, in order to reach that goal?

How can I progress?

What do you want to do when you leave school?

Your options are:

- A job without training
- College or Sixth Form
- Foundation Learning
- An Apprenticeship

What is an Apprenticeship?

It is an opportunity to earn & learn. There are Apprenticeships at Level 2 and Advanced Apprenticeships at Level 3).

An Apprentice gains qualifications related to their job and after achieving an Advanced Apprenticeship can progress part time into Higher Education (HE), while still in employment.

What is Higher Education (HE)?

Most people think of HE as gaining a degree over 3 years as a FT (full-time) student; this is true and most young people do gain a degree via this method.

However there are alternatives.

Type of Qualification	What is it?	Where can it be studied?	How long does it take?	Where next?
Honours Degree	A subject based qualification and the most common kind of higher education. Sandwich courses include a year at work	University or at a local college, where a university has validated the programme	3-5 years full-time Up to 8 years part-time or flexible learning	Master's degree PhD
Foundation Degree	An employment based qualification which combines academic and work-based learning	College or University	3 years part-time. Distance Learning, online learning and fully work-based are other options that may be available	Other Professional Qualifications or final year of specified Honours Degree
Higher National Certificate/ Diploma HNC/HND	A vocational qualification, available in a wide range of subjects	College or university	HND 2 years full time or 3 years part-time HNC 1 year full time or 2 years part-time	Honours Degree
National Vocational Qualification: NVQ Levels 1- 5	A work related qualification based on what an employee can actually do	College or Training Provider	Several years dependent upon which level an employee studies	NVQ Level 5 is equivalent to a degree. Learners who successfully complete NVQ Level 3 can move onto NVQ Level 4 or study towards a HNC/D or Foundation Degree

Any qualification that is graded at Level 4 or above is classed as higher education

Level	Qualifications relating to Level	
1	GCSE grades D – G, Foundation Certificates, NVQ 1	Further Education (excludes GCSEs)
2	GCSE grades A – C, Apprenticeship, NVQ 2,	
3	Advanced Apprenticeship, NVQ 3, Vocational A Levels National Diplomas	
4	National Diplomas, National Certificates, National Awards	Higher Education
5	Higher National Certificates/ Diplomas, NVQ 4, Foundation Degree	
6	Degree	
7	NVQ 5	

Do your research and call local Colleges, Training Providers, Universities and Distance Learning Providers which offer programmes of study you are interested in. See the Lancashire WBL Forum website to see a list of Training Providers and the range of Apprenticeships available in Lancashire: www.lancsforum.co.uk, the Lancashire 14 to 19 Prospectus: www.steps4me.co.uk or the Lancashire Lifelong Learning Network: www.lancashireln.org.uk.

Pay attention to entry requirements from Universities, some are confusing but a phone call to the Admissions Department or a local Training Provider should clear up any issues. Whatever you want to do in life, your career opportunities will be improved if you have a degree or diploma from a University or College. Remember a degree or equivalent

can open more doorways, lead you down different paths, maybe earn you more money, but it needs to be the right qualification for where you want to be.

Here are just a few things to be thinking about:

- Graduates are less likely to be unemployed.
- Those with a higher education qualification can expect to earn more over the course of their working life than those without.
- Over the last five years, graduates had double the average number of promotions at work than non-graduates.
- An overwhelming majority of students (95%) agree that going to University is a worthwhile experience.

Case Studies

Name: Jonny Smith aged 21

Employer: Training 2000

Qualification: DTLLS (Diploma in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector)

At school, Jonny didn't perform particularly well and after leaving school he embarked on an ICT diploma at college but soon realised that he wanted to get out into the world of work and start to earn some money.

He started to look into the Apprenticeship route which would give him the benefit of earning money whilst continuing to learn on a practical basis which means less of the classroom and more hands on activities. He applied for a Business Administration Apprenticeship at Training 2000 and had his first interview with the engineering department in September 2004. He was offered the job and became their apprentice administrator; he started straight onto a level 3 in Business Administration, which is the equivalent of 2 A Levels.

In October 2007, after completing all of his Level 3, Jonny became a Career Development Officer within Training 2000 which is a trainee Career Development Advisor. He is following a 3 year development plan in which he is completing numerous



qualifications including a 2-year higher level skills teaching diploma at Level 5, a counselling qualification, an Assessor award and an advanced ECDL. He now works with apprentices and is able to offer them valuable advice because of his school and job experience.

Jonny says "I am one year down and still loving it - I would definitely recommend Apprenticeships, especially for those who do not like the classroom environment. My situation proves that if you work hard you can progress quickly and move up the education and career ladder"

Burnley College has worked in partnership with the East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust for nine years to provide the Advanced Apprentice Healthcare Cadet scheme. Advanced Level Cadets gain work experience on a range of wards at the Hospital while studying at Burnley College. The Cadets work hard to balance studying for a nationally recognised qualification whilst working in a very challenging environment at local Hospitals. The majority of Cadets have to undertake two years of hard work and commitment in order to achieve the qualification and then progress onto further study or jobs in the healthcare profession. Some of the Cadets talk about their plans following their success on the programme.



Sara Rhodes:

“I got accepted at the University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan and Leeds University. I

decided to accept University of Manchester where I will be living in. I start there in September. I am doing adult Nursing and after my three years there I plan on joining the RAF and working my way up to being a nursing officer.”

Melanie

Whittam:

“I have been offered a place on the adult nursing diploma at UCLAN, Preston. I have recently turned 18, so I applied for the NHS Trust Professionals position. I had my interview last week and got accepted straight away. I am currently waiting for my CRB check to go through and proof of vaccinations report. I am looking forward to starting my nurse training, I hope it is as good as the Health Care Cadet Scheme was.”



Rhiannon

Bury : “I have been accepted at Manchester University where I will specialise in adult nursing

and my training will be at Manchester Royal Hospital, I am really looking forward to it.”

Anna

Cowperthwaite:

“I have been accepted on the adult nursing diploma at UCLAN, Preston and will do my placements at Royal Blackburn Hospital, so I have not far to travel each day.”



Did you know that the qualifications you achieve are likely to have a direct effect on how much you earn?

Employers pay most for skills that:

- are specialised
- have required training
- are particularly important to their business
- are in short supply

Employers pay least to:

- unskilled workers
- semi-skilled workers

Employers place a greater value on some qualifications than others and are willing to pay people more as a result.

People with few or no qualifications are:

- likely to earn less than people with better skills
- less likely to own their own home

Remember though, even graduates do not simply walk into high-paying jobs. Higher education can certainly help, but you will still need to build up experience and work-related skills; and where better to learn these skills than whilst under-taking an Apprenticeship.

In some cases employers will support their Apprentices financially to progress to HE. There is a lot of competition for jobs today and if you do not have qualifications, you will find it increasingly difficult to get a job. Apprentices do not have this difficulty as they are already in work.

Further information /contacts

Aimhigher

www.aimhigher.ac.uk

Apprenticeships

www.apprenticeships.org.uk

Apprenticeships in Lancashire

www.lancsforum.co.uk

Career Development Loans

www.direct.gov.uk and search for Career Development Loans

Foundation Degrees

www.foundationdegree.org.uk

Finance

www.direct.gov.uk and search for Student Finance

www.studentfinancedirect.co.uk

www.scholarship-search.org.uk

www.slc.co.uk

Lancashire Lifelong Learning Network

www.lancashirelln.org.uk

National Union of Students

www.nusonline.co.uk

SKILL (Information for students with disabilities)

www.skill.org.uk

Training Providers

www.steps4me.co.uk

University information

www.uni4me.co.uk

Universities & Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

www.ucas.ac.uk



Jargon Buster

BA

Bachelor of Arts degree.

BSc

Bachelor of Science degree.

BEng

Bachelor of Engineering degree.

Bursary

Many universities and colleges offer non-repayable bursaries - see what is available as you might benefit.

Campus

This usually refers to the buildings and surroundings of a university or college.

Clearing

This is the system operated by UCAS (the central organisation that processes university applications) to allocate students places on courses that still have vacancies after A level results come out. It is mainly for those who have not made the grades required by their chosen universities, but it can also allow last-minute applications.

Honours Degree

A qualification awarded by a higher education institution after the satisfactory completion of the equivalent of three years of full-time study (or equivalent) at university level.

Diploma of Higher Education

A qualification awarded by some higher education institutions, after two year's study.

Faculty

A faculty is a group of academic departments - Faculty of Science, Faculty of Law and so on. Sometimes they are called schools, such as School of Health Studies.

Finals

The final exams taken by students at the end of their study. Most degrees or higher education qualifications today rely far less on the results from finals and tend to combine final exams with assessment throughout the course.

Foundation

A full or part-time job-related higher education course. Foundation Degrees may be awarded after two Degree years of study.

Freshers

Students beginning their time at a university are often referred to as 'Freshers' and a Freshers' Week may be organised to introduce them to university or college life. This can include social events as well as introduction to libraries and other resources.

HNC/HND

Higher National Certificate and Higher National Diploma.

LA

Local Authority. Your local council responsible for schools and education.

Masters Degree

A postgraduate degree. This can be either a Master of Science (MSc), a Master of Arts (MA), Master of Engineering (MEng) or Master of Philosophy (MPhil), depending on the subject. Masters degrees usually take a year full-time or two years part-time after completion of an Under-Graduate Degree.

NUS

National Union of Students. The organisation that represents students and looks after their interests.

PhD

Doctor of Philosophy. A person who has a degree and has undertaken years of research, published their work and been assessed. They can use the title Dr.

PGCE

Postgraduate Certificate in Education. A one- or two-year teacher training course taken after your first degree.

Postgraduate Courses

Courses at a higher level, usually only available if you have already passed your degree. Postgraduate study can lead to a Masters degree or a Postgraduate Certificate or Diploma.

Research

Research is a key feature of most HE courses. Research involves collecting information from a variety of sources including books, journals and the Internet or by carrying out experiments or talking to people, and analysing this information.

Scholarship

Financial help given by some organisations for specific courses.

Semester

Some universities or colleges divide the student year into three terms, some divide it into two semesters. A semester is half a study year.

SLC

The Student Loans Company. Provides financial services, in terms of loans and grants, to over one million students annually, in colleges and universities across the UK.

Tuition fees

Student Loans for tuition fees are funded by the government of the country where you choose to study, and paid directly to your college or university by the Student Loans Company. The maximum you can borrow depends on the fees charged by your university. It's not affected by your household income.

Tutorial

A one-to-one or small group session to discuss work or course issues with your tutor.

UCAS

Universities and Colleges Admissions Service. Pronounced Yew-Cass. All students applying for full-time courses apply through UCAS.

Vocational Course

A work-related programme of study designed to help you into a specific career.

Keep this booklet handy, because if now is not the right time for you to consider HE, you might think about higher learning again in the future. We hope you find the information in this booklet useful.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT A TRAINING PROVIDER OR TALK TO YOUR CAREERS ADVISOR IN SCHOOL.

www.lancsforum.co.uk or
www.steps4me.co.uk
www.lancashirelln.org.uk
www.aimhigher.ac.uk

This guide was compiled by
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