

Year 12 Next Steps Evening



19th March 2025

This Evening

Welcome – John Alexander, Head of Sixth Form

Careers Support at Northgate – Victoria Calder, Careers Leader

Higher Education – Georgie Carr, ARU

UCAS Applications & Student Finance – Emily Durrant, University of Essex

Apprenticeships – Anna Bird, Eastern Education Group

Speaker stands in foyer – please visit after presentations to ask any questions

Careers at Northgate Sixth Form

Victoria Calder

Careers Support at Northgate

Careers Department – Mrs Calder, Mrs Thomas

Head of Sixth Form – Mr Alexander

Sixth Form team

Tutors and Subject Teachers

External Partners – local universities, colleges, training providers, employers, Careers & Enterprise Company, Careers Hub.

Careers in Year 12

- Careers Lesson – Autumn Term & Spring Term
- Personal Careers Action Plan
- One-to-one careers appointments
- Monday morning Careers Drop-In sessions
- University trips
- Support securing work experience
- Opportunities advertised on displays – Careers-related learning; work experience; university taster sessions; employer talks

Careers Action Plan

Name: _____ Form: _____

Where are you now? _____ Where would you like to be? _____

How will you get there? _____

What will I do?	By who?	By when?	Done

Progress check date: _____

Signed (student): _____ Date: _____

Researching Options

- University
- Further Education courses
- Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs)
- Apprenticeship
- Employment
- Gap Year – volunteering, employment, travel, further learning

2024 Year 13 Destinations

- University – 50.5%
- University – deferred entry – 2.7%
- Further Education courses – 4.1%
- Apprenticeship – 9.9%
- Employment – 8.1%
- Gap Year – 14.9%
- NEET – 1.8%
- Medically unfit for learning or work – 0.5%
- Unknown – 7.7%

Why Higher Education?

- Transferable skills
- Improved career prospects
- Essential for some careers
- Experience of university life – academic and social
- Over one third of 18/19 year-olds progress directly into university
- Current Year 13 cohort – 65% have applied for university

University Headlines

- 600,660 university applications by main 29th January 2025 UCAS deadline.
- A record number of UK 18-year-olds have applied for a university or college place by January 2025.
- 40.6% of all UK 18 year-olds applied to HE.
- Growth in the number of 18-year-old applicants from disadvantaged backgrounds across all UK nations.
- The total number of UK mature (aged 21+) applicants has decreased by 6.4%.
- The total number of international applicants to UCAS has increased by 2.7%.

Graduate Employment

- The employment rate for university graduates in England was 87.7% in 2023.
- In 2024, average starting salary for graduates in the UK was £34,000.
- Average graduate starting salary varies by location, industry and subject.
- Net financial gain from a degree over working life.
- UK graduate job market remains relatively strong.

Most Popular Courses v Most Employable Degrees

2024 Top 10 most popular degree courses:

- Law
- Psychology
- Computer Science
- Sports Science
- Design Studies
- Medicine
- Sociology
- Economics
- Adult Nursing
- Business Studies

2024 Top 10 most employable degrees:

- Healthcare
- Engineering
- Law
- Business and Management
- Computers and Technology
- Education
- Architecture
- Physical Sciences
- Marketing
- Biological Sciences

Important Dates – University Applications

Northgate Internal Deadlines

Oxbridge & Medical/Veterinary/Dentistry UCAS applications –
22nd September 2025

All other UCAS undergraduate applications –
10th November 2025

UCAS Application Deadlines

Oxbridge & Medical/Veterinary/Dentistry – 15th October 2025

Main UCAS deadline – 14th January 2026

Why an Apprenticeship?

- Real job
- Paid employment
- Employer pays for training costs
- Experience in the workplace
- Transferable skills
- 4 different levels – to degree level and beyond

Changing World of Work

- Job hunt
- Roles at work
- Demographic changes
- Communication
- Preparing for jobs that didn't exist 20 years ago
- Increase in number and type of Apprenticeships

Things to do...

- Apprenticeship/university shortlisting table
- University Open Days (Mar-Dec) – www.opendays.com
- University taster sessions
- Work experience/volunteering/part-time employment
- Super-curricular activities – research and reading around the subject
- Start drafting UCAS personal statement – 3 questions; 4,000 characters
- UCAS 2026 course search opens 29th April 2025
- UCAS 2026 undergraduate applications open for 2026 entry 13th May 2025; can submit UCAS applications from 2nd September 2025
- Research any additional tests – e.g. UCAT, LNAT, STEP, Oxbridge

Careers Events Coming Up

- Oxbridge Webinar Series – Ongoing between March-July 2025
- Oxbridge Conference – 29th April 2025
- Medics Conference – TBC – May/June 2025
- UCAS Discovery Event at UOS – 11th June 2025
- Careers Day – 17th July 2025
- Careers Talks – HE/Apprenticeship focus – Autumn Term 2025
- University mock interviews – November 2025
- Apprenticeships Workshop/mock interviews – November 2025





Scan the code and complete the short form to register your attendance with us today!

The Schools and Colleges Engagement Team from Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) work throughout Cambridge, Essex, Peterborough and London to support young people and mature students to make informed decisions about progression to Higher Education. For further information visit our website (<https://aru.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges>) and if you have any questions, please contact schoolsandcolleges@aru.ac.uk

In order to effectively plan, track, monitor, evaluate and research the effectiveness of our activities we collect some personal data, and after-event feedback, from those who take part. We use a legal basis of public task to process this data and to find out more about this please see <https://aru.ac.uk/privacy-and-cookies>

We might also contact you, via email, in the future about relevant upcoming events, and with information, advice and guidance related to Higher Education, under a legitimate interest – as you have already expressed an interest in similar opportunities through participation. You can opt out of this at any time.

Need data? Join our guest wifi – Ruskin Guest – and use the following pin; 483536



So, Why University?

Busting myths and helping you discover your perfect pathway.





What's it all about?

*'University isn't just about learning, the experience
will enhance your life.'*

UCAS



We are
University of the Year



Campus

City

Commute



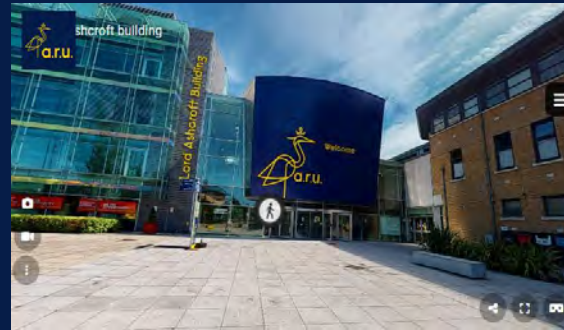
We are
University of the Year



Walk through each campus;



Cambridge



Chelmsford



Peterborough



We are
University of the Year



So why go to University?





Knowledge

Independence

A young woman with glasses and a blue shirt is smiling in a kitchen. She is holding a bundle of uncooked spaghetti over a pot of boiling water. The word "Independence" is overlaid in large, dark blue text on the right side of the image. The background shows kitchen cabinets and a microwave.

ARU has a range of bursaries and scholarships for students, below are just a few of these....

Help with the cost of placements

Help with buying a laptop

Help over the summer if you cannot work

Help with the cost of overseas expeditions

Help with the cost of interview clothes

Low income

Being a care leaver



We are
University of the Year





Social

aru STUDENTS'
UNION

JOIN A SOCIETY



Leave a message

Opportunity

Student
Ambassador

**Counselling
and Wellbeing**



ARU Temps



**Study Skills
Plus**



Money Advice £

**ARU Student
Support Services**



**Welcome
Buddies**

**Peer
Wellbeing
mentors**



Employability



**Disability and
Dyslexia**



We are
University of the Year



www.UCAS.com

Visit to find the full range of courses available in the UK

www.ARU.ac.uk

See the full ARU offer and more details on topics we have discussed

[Come Visit Us!](#)



We are
University of the Year





aru.ac.uk



[@AngliaRuskin](https://twitter.com/AngliaRuskin)



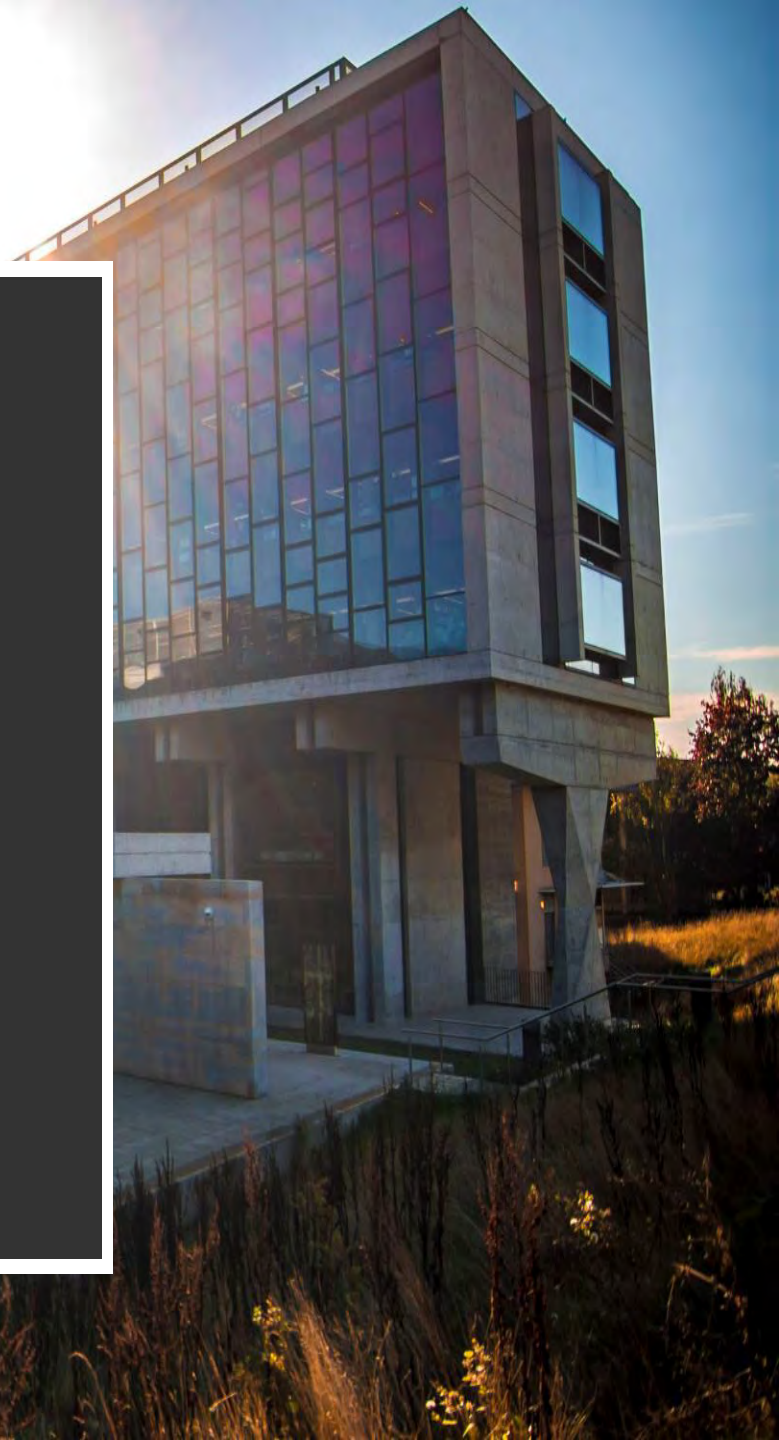
answers@aru.ac.uk



Discover University

Student Finance, UCAS & Personal Statements

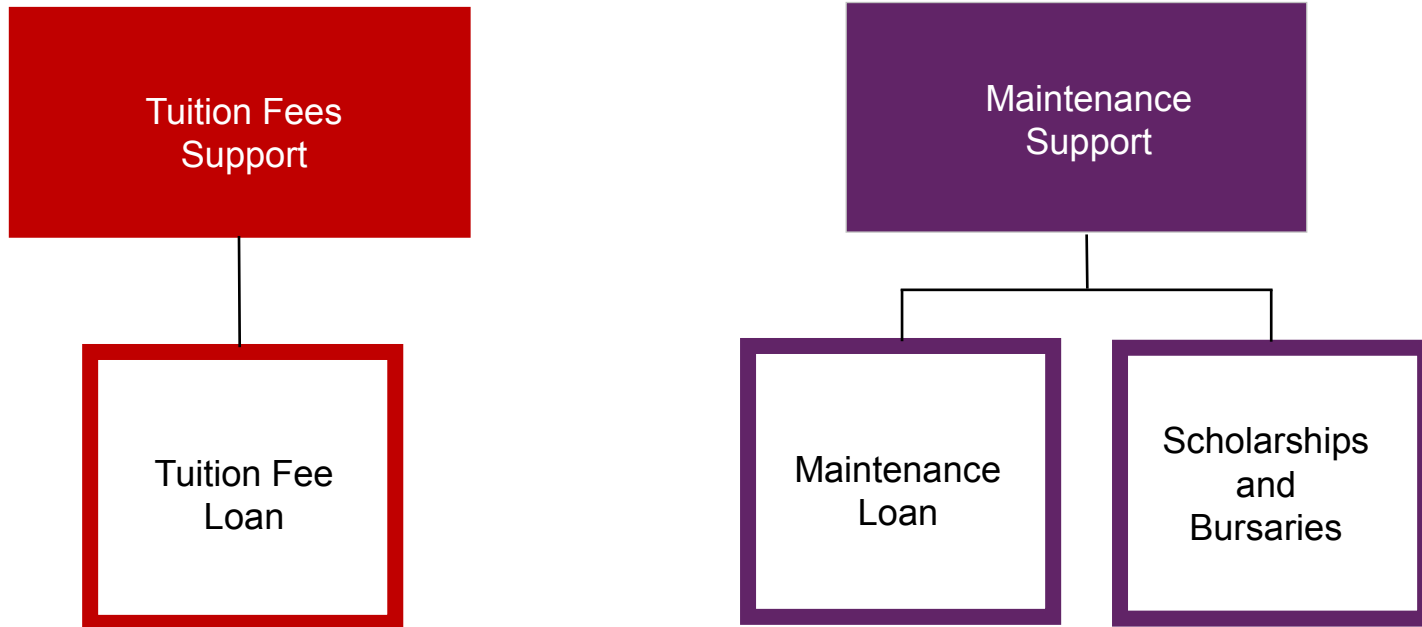
Northgate High School



Session overview

- Funding
- Applying & Personal Statements
- What next?

What is student finance?





Tuition fee loan

- Covers full cost of your course – max £9,535
- Available to all UK students on a full-time, undergraduate course
- Not income assessed – loan covers the full fee
- Paid directly to the University
- There is nothing to pay before or during the course



Maintenance Loan

- Available to all UK students on a full-time, undergraduate course
- Paid directly to the student in 3 instalments



What you get depends on 2 factors:

- Your household income and;
- Where you study

Income Assessment

Where	Household income limit*
Outside London	£60,876
London	£67,485
Home	£56,960

- Household incomes below £25,000 will always receive the maximum loan amount available.

Applying for a Maintenance Loan

- Apply via Student Finance England
- Applications open in March
- Register at University
- You will need to apply every year





Repaying your student loan

- Earliest repayment April after you graduate
- Based on income, £25,000+
- Only 9% each month
- Automatically taken from your paycheck
- Working overseas
- Interest rates (RPI 4.3% 2024)
- Written off after 40 years.

2025 Scholarships and bursaries

<p>Up to £3,000 Essex Futures Bursary</p>	<p>Cash bursary and accommodation discount support package (variable amount) awarded to those with a household income below £35,000</p>
<p>£1,000 Schools and Colleges Membership Bursary</p>	<p>Awarded to those progressing from Schools and Colleges Membership (Plus, London, Midlands & South East) schools/colleges</p>
<p>£250 Essex Preparation Programme Bursary</p>	<p>Cash bursary awarded to those who complete a short online study-skills programme</p>

Applying via UCAS

- Manages UK undergraduate applications
- Offers support on getting into Higher Education
- Everyone in the UK applies online through UCAS
- UCAS sends your application to the Universities
- Apply to up to 5 courses
- Track your application online

Some universities have a direct application too



What to Include

- General information
- Education history
- Employment history
- Personal statement
- Reference



What is a personal statement?



Your 1 personal statement goes to all 5 courses/ Universities you apply to.

New 2026 Entry Version

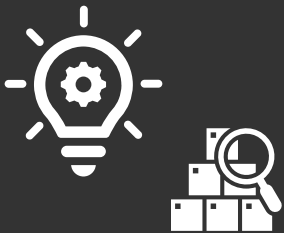
(Launch May 2025 –Submission September 2025)

- 3 section with question prompts
 - 4000-character limit in total
- Character limit can be used as you wish across all questions but there is a minimum requirement of 350 characters per question





- 1. Why do you want to study this course or subject?**
- 2. How have your qualifications & studies helped you prepare for this course or subject?**
- 3. What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**





Personal Statement Writing Guide

- If you are looking for support on what to write, see real examples and have some top tips, we have created a Personal Statement Writing Guide to help you get started!
- Scan the QR code to download it now or head to our website to download it later on.



What is Next?



Applied via UCAS

- It will vary course to course how quickly you hear back
- Interviews
- DBS Checks

Decisions universities can make:



- **Conditional offer**

You will need to meet the requirements – usually exam results



- **Unconditional offer:**

You've got a place, although there might still be some things to arrange



- **Unsuccessful or withdrawn**

Removes that option, but you could add more

What is Next?

Firm (First) choice

Your preferred place to study.
If you meet the offer conditions, your place will be confirmed here once you have your results.



Second choice

Your back up choice in case you do not get into your firm choice university.
Prefer it less, may have lower grade requirements.

Key Dates – 2026 entry

Keep to
internal
deadlines at
school and
college



- UCAS for **2026 Entry** opens **2 September 2025**
- Deadline for Oxford, Cambridge and most medicine, dentistry, and veterinary med/science, **15 October 2025**
- Deadline to submit **14 January 2026**
 - Clearing Opens **5 July 2026**

University Preparation Programme

An online resource with more information on everything student life with top tips on applying and education to get you ahead !

- How to study and revise independently
- Skills to develop an academic argument
- Revision strategies
- **How to apply to higher education**
- How to manage your money at university and student finance
- Student life and transition to university



**Any
questions?**



admit@essex.ac.uk



[@uniessex](https://www.instagram.com/uniessex)




Hello Northgate!

Apprenticeships at West Suffolk College



- We are currently training over 2000 Apprentices
- We are currently supporting over 900 employers
- We offer over 65 Apprenticeship Programmes
- The average salary for Apprentices paid by the employers we support is £240.50 per week, meaning our vacancies are paying £45.14 per week on average more than the National Minimum Wage for Apprenticeships



On average Apprentices earn
19%
more than those
who leave school
with just GCSEs

**FIRE
IT UP**
Apprenticeships

**W
S
C** WEST
SUFFOLK
COLLEGE



We have **65** different
Apprenticeships courses

**FIRE
IT UP**
Apprenticeships

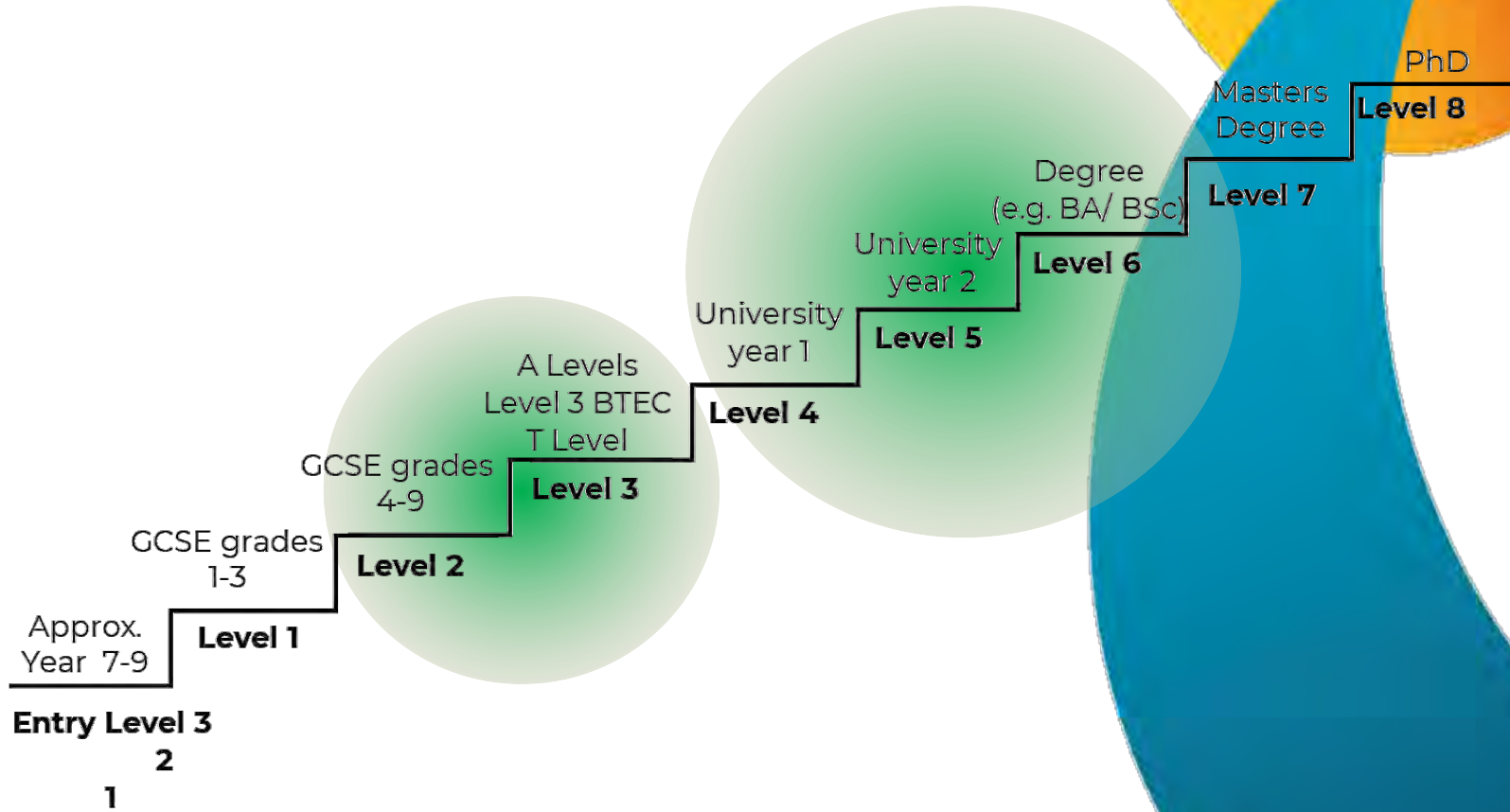
**W
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SUFFOLK
COLLEGE



90%
of Apprentices go
onto further training
in permanent roles

**FIRE
IT UP**
Apprenticeships

**W
S
C** WEST
SUFFOLK
COLLEGE



Apprenticeship



For anyone aged 16+

Work-based training programme

Earn whilst you learn!

1-6 years to complete, depending on level.

Focus on one industry area



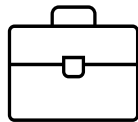
Four days a week at work, one day a week in College

Work 30 hours or more a week

Teaching and learning in the workplace, supported by a Programme Tutor

Find a live vacancy online

Apply directly to the employer



Why choose an Apprenticeship?

- ✓ Paid employment
- ✓ Treated as an employee
- ✓ Hands on learning
- ✓ 90% of apprentices retained by their employers
- ✓ Assessed by practical and written assessments, multi-choice exam, portfolio interview and portfolio evidence

Apprenticeship Pathway

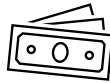
WSC Apprenticeship industry areas

Barbering and Hairdressing

Beauty Therapy



Bookkeeping and Accounting



Building and Construction



Business, Finance and Management



Education and Childcare



Engineering



Health and Social Care

Hospitality and Catering



Motor Vehicle

Nursing and Health Professions



Plumbing and Electrical

Science

Sustainability

Apprenticeship Pathway

US Apprenticeship industry areas- levels 4, 5 or 6

Accounting, Finance & Procurement

Business and Management

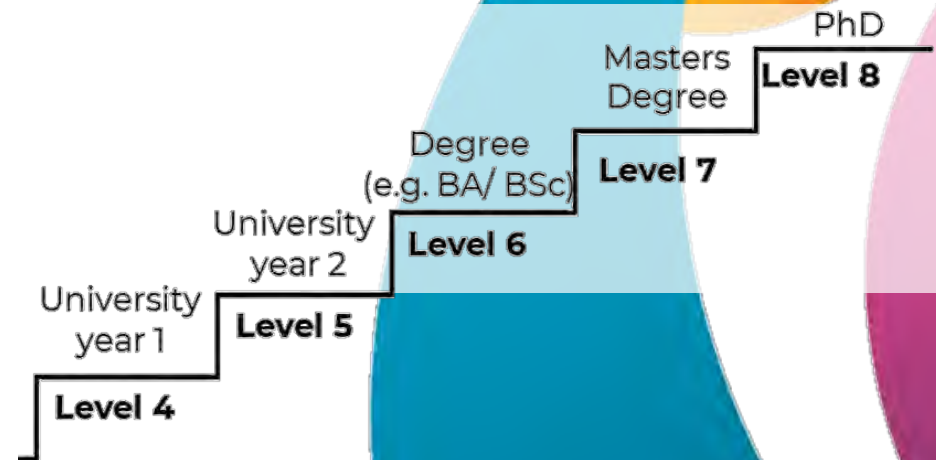
Early Years and Education

Engineering

Health & Social Care

Chartered Manager Level 6 Degree Apprenticeship

Manufacturing Engineer Level 6 Degree Apprenticeship



How do I apply for an Apprenticeship?

1

Ready to learn & take direction

Think about transferable skills

Research the company

2

Find live vacancies on the West Suffolk College website/ recruitment pages
Or Via UCAS

3

Read through job description, check the entry grades and location

4

Send on your CV or complete the online application process

5

Attend a formal interview with the employer

6

If successful, start your new apprenticeship!
A range of assessments, meetings and an induction

Where can I find an Apprenticeship?

How can the College help?

- ✓ Access careers, advice and guidance
- ✓ Visit WSC website – Apprenticeship Vacancies
- ✓ Research local employers and companies in the industry you want to work in
- ✓ Apply online
- ✓ Attend Open Events
- ✓ Help with writing your application
- ✓ CV Review
- ✓ Face to face interview available
- ✓ GCSE English and maths support

Current Vacancies within 10 miles of Ipswich

Title	Employer	Start Date	Location	Price	
AAT Accounts Apprentice	Sarah Place Accountants Ltd	01/09/2025	IP32 7BS	-	↓ MORE INFO
Accounts/Finance Assistant Apprenticeship	Portable Space Limited	30/06/2025	IP14 4LE	--	↓ MORE INFO
Administration Assistant Apprentice	Adaptainer Ltd	31/03/2025	IP4 1JX	-	↓ MORE INFO
Apprentice CNC Machinist	Geosense Ltd	01/09/2025	IP30 9ND	-	↓ MORE INFO
Apprentice Electrician	Quartzelec Ltd	01/09/2025	IP32 7EA	-	↓ MORE INFO
Apprentice Maintenance Technician	Merit Plastic Mouldings Ltd	12/05/2025	IP22 4YE	-	↓ MORE INFO
Apprentice Production Operative	East Anglian Sealing Company Limited	05/05/2025	CO10 7ER	-	↓ MORE INFO
Apprentice Production Technician	Merit Plastic Mouldings Ltd	12/05/2025	IP22 4YE	-	↓ MORE INFO
CNC Apprentice	Instrument Machining Services Ltd	07/04/2025	IP24 1HZ	-	↓ MORE INFO
Dental Nurse Apprenticeship	West End Manse Dental Care	12/05/2025	CB9 9LA	-	↓ MORE INFO
Electrical & Mechanical Engineering Apprenticeship	Boardley & Roberts Ltd	12/05/2025	IP6 0JG	-	↓ MORE INFO
Engineering Operative Apprenticeship	Ashe Controls Limited	01/09/2025	IP3 9RR	-	↓ MORE INFO
Engineering Technician Apprenticeship	Ashe Controls Limited	01/09/2025	IP3 9RR	-	↓ MORE INFO
Groundworker Apprenticeship	Ashwell Construction Limited	01/09/2025	IP31 3AJ	-	↓ MORE INFO

Degree Apprenticeships


UCAS

Discover Applying Money & student life International

Search Heart Profile Sign in

Business Management Degree Apprenticeship

DS Smith

Apply 

LOCATION	APPRENTICESHIP LEV...	SALARY	INDUSTRY	DURATION	START DATE	POSTED DATE	CLOSING DATE
Newmarket	England - Degree Apprenticeship - Level 6	£23,795 a year	Business and administration	4 Years	08/09/2025	03/03/2025	28/03/2025

Job details

Vacancy reference: 1000306921

From day one, you'll take on real responsibility within a supportive culture that helps you get the most out of your time during the programme. You will work with other professionals and stakeholders and be involved in a variety of projects that will give you the exposure and skill set to progress your career at DS Smith.

Degree Apprenticeships

Where can I find out more?

The logo for UCAS, featuring the letters 'UCAS' in a bold, sans-serif font. The letter 'A' is red, while the other letters are black.

www.ucas.com



www.universitystudies.wsc.ac.uk

OPEN EVENT

Wednesday 2 July (4:30pm to 6:00pm)

apprenticeships@easterneducationgroup.ac.uk

Thank you for coming

Please visit the stands in the foyer to
ask any questions

or email

vcalder@northgate.suffolk.sch.uk