

The Parents' Guide to

Post 18 Options

2019-2020

Summary





Introduction

What your child chooses to do after sixth form (or college) is exciting but can be nerve-racking. There are lots of options available and understanding the pros and cons between different choices can be confusing.

It's not just about the deciding whether to go to work or continue further education – although that's a good starting point. Important considerations include how long they want to continue studying, how they will finance living expenses and course fees (and whether you can afford to help them), whether they want to study in a more academic environment or in a more practical environment (such as studying whilst working).

Many qualifications can be built upon, so they may commit to one year of further study and then decide to increase it for another year or two to get a higher qualification. This flexibility can be very useful, particularly for students who are not keen to commit to long-term studies after school, but find that they enjoy it once they've got started. In the case of degrees, they will need to commit to the length of study (minimum three years) from the beginning.

This guide is designed to outline post-18 options and give a brief introduction to what's involved. If you want to delve deeper and find out more, we've included useful links to other reliable sources. Simply click on the picture icons to be taken to our recommended websites.

University Degree

Qualification type

Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science

Length of commitment

3-4 Years

Some degrees, such as medicine are longer

Tuition Costs

£££

Students take out a “tuition fee loan” to pay course costs. No repayments are made until the student is earning £25k in the April after graduation and then only as a percentage of earnings above £25k. Payments are paused if salary drops below £25k. Any outstanding debt is wiped clear after 30 years.

Accommodation Costs and living expenses

£-£££

May receive a “maintenance loan” dependent on parents’ income; however, this is rarely sufficient to cover all costs and students will either need to supplement by working or have help from their parents (or both!). Accommodation costs will vary depending on where the student is living – large cities are more expensive.

Alternatives

Company sponsored degrees (they are not an employee but gain work experience from the sponsor company)

LOAN REPAYMENTS WON'T BEGIN UNTIL YOUR CHILD EARNS OVER 25K

More information

UCAS

The Parents' Guide to



**DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS OFFER
AN EARN WHY YOU LEARN ROUTE
TO OBTAINING A FULL DEGREE
QUALIFICATION**



Degree Apprenticeships

Qualification type

Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science

Length of commitment

3-4 Years

(Some can be longer, even up to 7 years)

Tuition Costs

£0

Course costs (at university) are paid by the company and government.

Accommodation Costs and living expenses

£-££

A salary is paid, but parents may need to subsidise living expenses, especially if relocating to an expensive area.

Alternatives

Could also consider school leaver programmes (non degree apprenticeships)

More information

Amazing
Apprentices

Gov.UK

The Parents'
Guide to

Non-degree apprenticeships

Qualification type

Advanced or Higher apprenticeship

Length of commitment

6 Months – 3 Years

Tuition Costs

£0

Course costs (usually at college or by an education provider) are paid by the company and government.

Accommodation Costs and living expenses

£-££

A salary is paid, and shorter apprenticeships may be local so students can continue living at home, but parents may need to subsidise living expenses, especially if relocating to an expensive area for longer apprenticeships.

Alternatives

Higher education courses

More information



IN 2018 OVER 100, 000 STUDENTS UNDER 19 STARTED AN APPRENTICESHIP



COLLEGE COURSES RANGE IN
BOTH LENGTH OF STUDY AND
QUALIFICATION TYPE

Higher education course at college

Qualification type

HNDs, HNCs, Foundation Courses,
Diplomas
Vocational course

Length of commitment

1 – 3 Years

Some are part-time.

Tuition Costs

££

Tuition fees need to be paid but these are less expensive than university fees. Students can apply for an “advanced

learner loan” where repayments are made as a percentage of earnings above a certain threshold. Any outstanding debt is wiped clear after 25 years.

Accommodation Costs and living expenses

£

Students can often find suitable courses at colleges commutable from home, but there are still living expenses to be covered.

Alternatives

Non degree apprenticeships

More information

Gov.UK

National
Careers
Service

Traineeship

Qualification type

To prepare students for work or to go on to further education.

Length of commitment

6 weeks to 6 months

Tuition Costs

£0

Training fees are paid by the government.

Accommodation Costs and living expenses

£-££

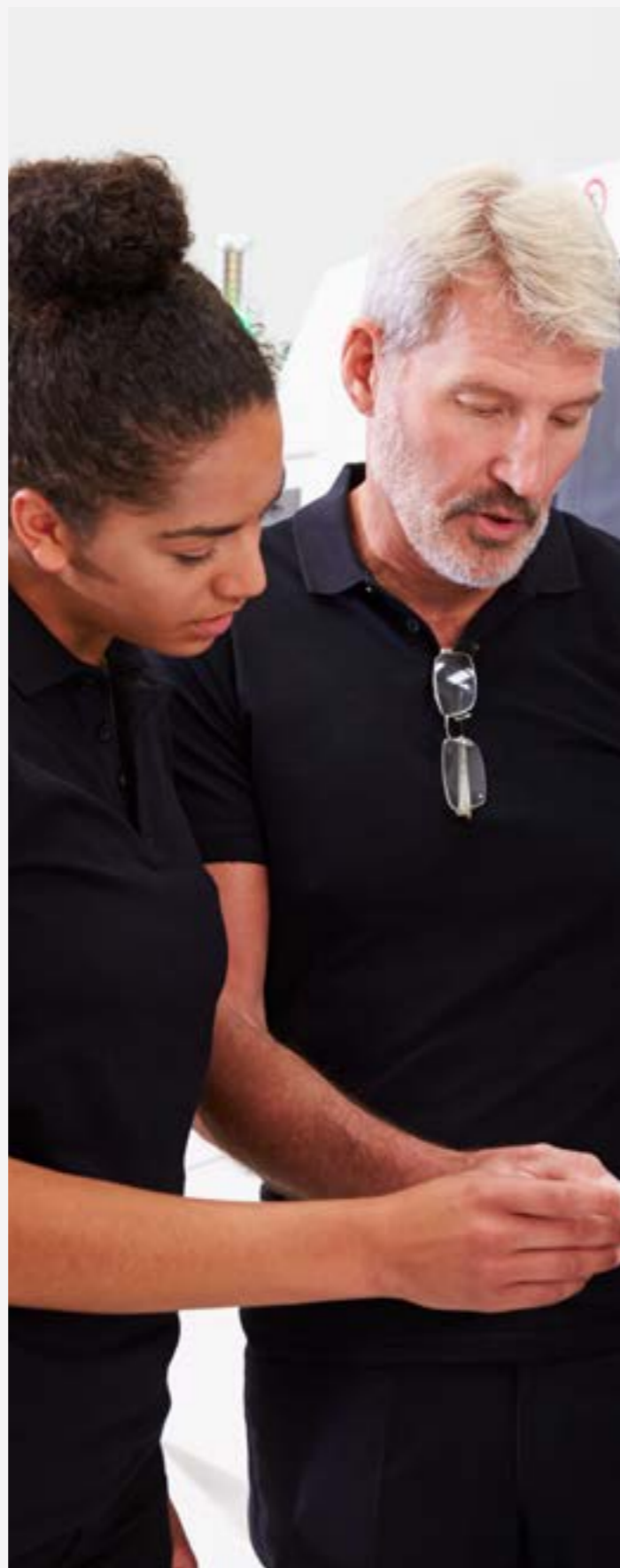
Not paid to work, but some expenses (such as travel) may be provided. Accommodation costs may be expensive if needing to relocate.

Alternatives

Job with training, internship or apprenticeship if they have some work experience.

More information

Gov.uk



Job with training

ON-SITE TRAINING MIGHT BE MORE ENJOYABLE THAN CLASSROOM TRAINING



Qualification type

Training usually funded by employer, but check that it is a national recognised qualification, such as NVQ

Length of commitment

n/a

Tuition Costs

£0

Training funded by the employer.

Accommodation Costs and living expenses

£

Salary provided and jobs are usually within commutable distance from home, though travel can be expensive.

More information

Gov.uk

City Gateway

Job without training / volunteering

Qualification type

Going straight into a job offers work experience but not a qualification. However, it is possible to create a personal training plan if desired.

Length of commitment

n/a

Tuition Costs

£-££

Any training would be self-funded.

Accommodation Costs and living expenses

£

Salary provided and jobs are usually within commutable distance from home, though travel can be expensive.

Alternatives

Company sponsored degrees (they are not an employee but gain work experience from the sponsor company)

More information

Job boards

WORKING CAN HELP YOUR CHILD DEVELOP KEY TRANSFERABLE SKILLS



Internship



Qualification type

None

Length of commitment

1 month to 6 months

Some might be longer.

Tuition Costs

£0

Internships are about gaining practical work experience so there are rarely any formal qualifications undertaken.

Accommodation Costs and living expenses

£-££

Legally interns should be paid (unless classed as a volunteer), but many aren't, although some companies may cover travel expenses. Depending on the location, living and travel expenses could be costly.

Alternatives

Traineeship, job with training

More information

Gov.uk

Personal contacts

Gap Year

Qualification type

Could include a year working for a charity or other employer to gain skills – not just about travelling. Can combine sixth-form retakes in this year.

Length of commitment

1 year

Tuition Costs

£0

There are no tuition costs unless retaking examinations

Accommodation Costs and living expenses

£-£££

Gap years need not be expensive. Flights and accommodation are usually covered for overseas volunteering. Personal travel can be funded by working for part of the year

More information

STA Travel

A GAP YEAR CAN BE SELF FUNDED BY WORKING PART OF THE YEAR



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Start a business



Qualification type

None, but it's important to have drive, commitment and an idea of what business idea to pursue.

Length of commitment

n/a

Tuition Costs

£-££

It may be useful to take some courses to hone skills when setting up a business. The Princes Trust, Local Enterprise Partnership, and New Enterprise Allowance offer grants and mentoring.

Accommodation Costs and living expenses

£

Lots of young people start their businesses online, which means minimal start up costs and they can continue living at home.

Alternatives

Start the business whilst working or in education

More information

Local Enterprise Network

Prince's Trust

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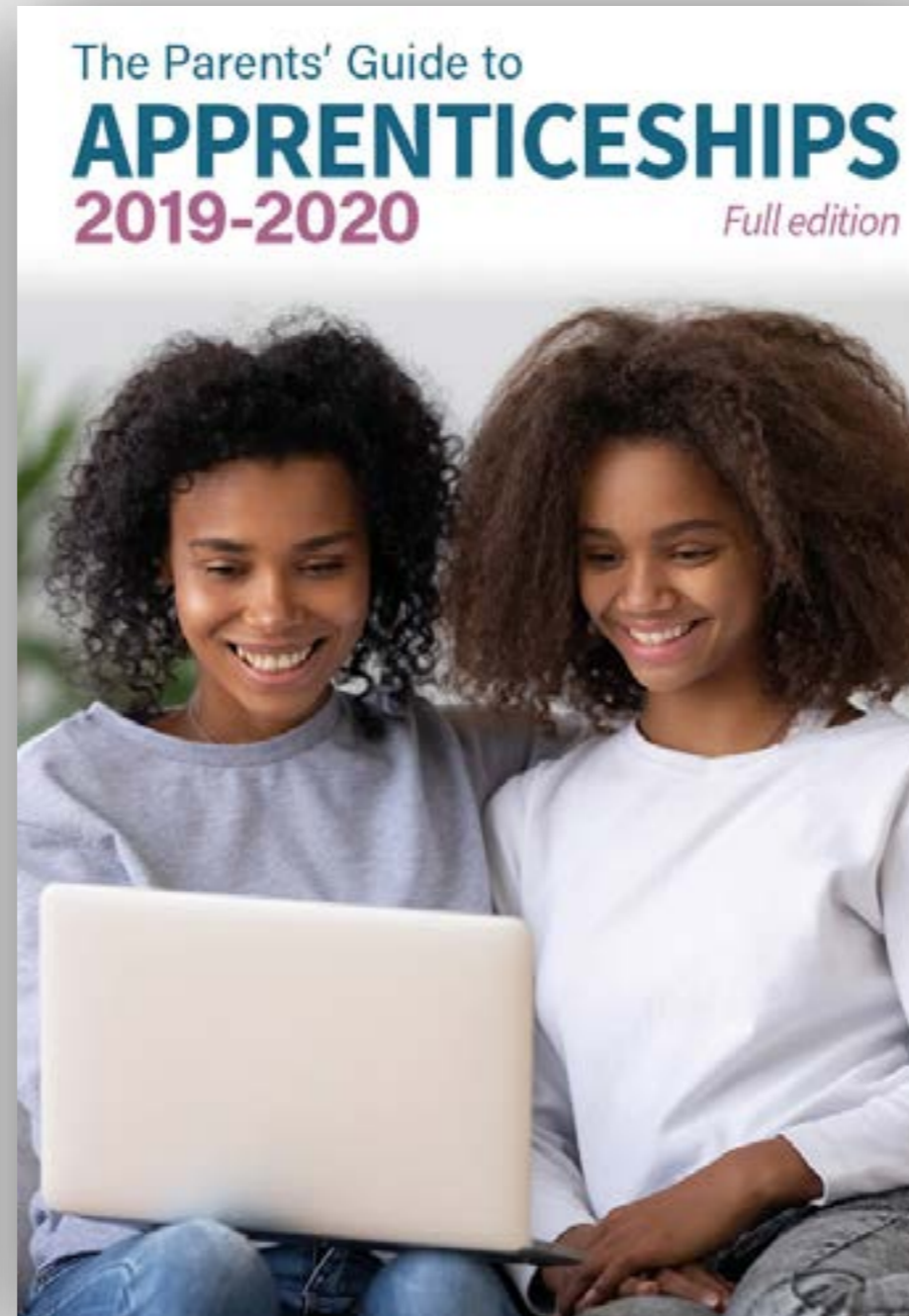
Summary table (pt 1 / 2)

	University Degree	Degree Apprenticeship	Non-degree apprenticeship	Higher education course at College
Qualification type	Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science	Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science	Advanced or Higher apprenticeship	HNDs HNCs, Foundation Courses, Diplomas Vocational course
Length of commitment	3-4 Years (Some degrees, such as medicine, are longer)	3-4 Years (Some can be longer, even up to 7 years)	6 Months – 3 Years	1 – 3 Years Some are part-time.
Tuition Costs	£££ Students take out a “tuition fee loan” to pay course costs. No repayments are made until the student is earning £25k in the April after graduation. Any outstanding debt is wiped clear after 30 years.	£0 Course costs (at university) are paid by the company and government.	£0 Course costs (usually at college or by an education provider) are paid by the company and government.	££ Tuition fees need to be paid but these are less expensive than university fees. Students can apply for an “advanced learner loan” where repayments are made as a percentage of earnings above a certain threshold. Any outstanding debt is wiped clear after 25 years.
Accommodation Costs and living expenses (i.e. food, book, travel, going out)	£-£££ May receive a “maintenance loan” dependent on parents’ income; however, this is rarely sufficient to cover all costs and students will either need to supplement by working or have help from their parents (or both!).	£-££ A salary is paid, but parents may need to subsidise living expenses, especially if relocating to an expensive area.	£-££ A salary is paid, and shorter apprenticeships may be local so students can continue living at home, but parents may need to subsidise living expenses, especially if relocating to an expensive area for longer apprenticeships.	£ Students can often find suitable courses at colleges commutable from home, but there are still living expenses to be covered.
Alternatives	Company sponsored degrees (they are not an employee but gain work experience from the sponsor company)	Could also consider school leaver programmes (non degree apprenticeships)	Higher education courses	Non degree apprenticeships

Summary table (pt 2 / 2)

	Traineeship	Job with training	Job without training	Internship	Gap Year	Start a business
Qualification type	To prepare students for work or to go on to further education.	Training usually funded by employer, but check that it is a national recognised qualification, such as NVQ	Going straight into a job offers work experience but not a qualification. However, it is possible to create a personal training plan if desired.	None	Could include a year working for a charity or other employer to gain skills – not just about travelling. Can combine A level retakes in this year.	None, but it's important to have drive, commitment and an idea of what business idea to pursue.
Length of commitment	6 weeks to 6 months	n/a	n/a	1 month to 6 months But some up to a year.	1 year	n/a
Tuition Costs	£0 Training fees are paid by the government.	£0 Training funded by the employer.	£-££ Any training would be self-funded.	£0 Internships are about gaining practical work experience so there are rarely any formal qualifications undertaken.	£0 There are no tuition costs unless retaking examinations.	£-££ It may be useful to take some courses to hone skills when setting up a business. The Princes Trust, Local Enterprise Partnership, and New Enterprise Allowance offer grants and mentoring.
Accommodation Costs and living expenses (i.e. food, book, travel, going out)	£-££ Not paid to work, but some expenses (such as travel) may be provided. Accommodation costs may be expensive if needing to relocate.	£ Salary provided and jobs are usually within commutable distance from home, though travel can be expensive.	£ Salary provided and jobs are usually within commutable distance from home, though travel can be expensive.	£-££ Legally interns should be paid although many aren't. Some companies may cover travel expenses. Depending on the location, living and travel expenses could be costly.	£-£££ Gap years need not be expensive. Flights and accommodation is usually covered for overseas volunteering. Personal travel can be funded by working for part of the year.	£ Lots of young people start their businesses online, which means minimal start up costs and they can continue living at home.
Alternatives	Job with training, internship or apprenticeship if they have some work experience.			Traineeship, job with training		Start the business whilst working or in education

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