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Careers and University

Careers



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You can help by:

- talking to them about their ideas and their study progress – research suggests parents and carers are the single biggest influence on young people's career choices.
- helping them consider what each option means, so they choose the route that best suits their skills and their future plans.
- encouraging them to work hard to get the best exam results they can, this will increase their choices.



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Academic Success

- The main priority! Provides more options, raises aspirations, and builds self-confidence.
- Get the grades and they can do virtually anything they want.
- Good grades give more choice and flexibility.





Options after Sixth Year

- **University**
- **Higher Level /Degree Apprenticeship (HLA)**
- **Foundation Degree**

The links below provide opportunity to compare universities and courses:

- <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings>
- <https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/>



University - How do I apply?



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UCAS

UK-based organisation whose main role is to operate the application process for 5 courses at universities in the UK. This is the route most students take - all students will complete this application.

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate>

CAO

The Central Applications Office (**CAO**) is the organisation responsible for overseeing undergraduate applications to colleges and **universities** in the Republic of **Ireland**. This will allow students additional applications on top of their UCAS choices. Students are encouraged to consider this pathway in addition to UCAS.

<http://www.cao.ie/index.php>



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Higher Level /Degree Apprenticeships



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- Offer qualifications from Level 4 to Level 7 (Masters degree). The majority are at Level 5 (Foundation degree or equivalent) and vary in length but will be a minimum of two years.

Other benefits include:

- gain the skills that employers need and that are relevant to the local economy
- improving prospects of good earnings and sustained employment
- earning while you learn
- achieving professional-level qualifications without paying higher education tuition fees
- increased opportunities for career progression
- a clear pathway to achieving ambitions in the workplace

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/higher-level-apprenticeships>

If students have no idea where to apply, they may want to try this link...

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/>

Other students may consider a gap year

<http://www.yearoutgroup.org/>



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Foundation Degrees -



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What is a Foundation Degree?

- Academic equivalent of $\frac{2}{3}$ of Bachelor's degree, a Higher National Diploma (HND).
- Gives the opportunity to get an understanding of your field of interest before progressing to the full three-year degree programme.

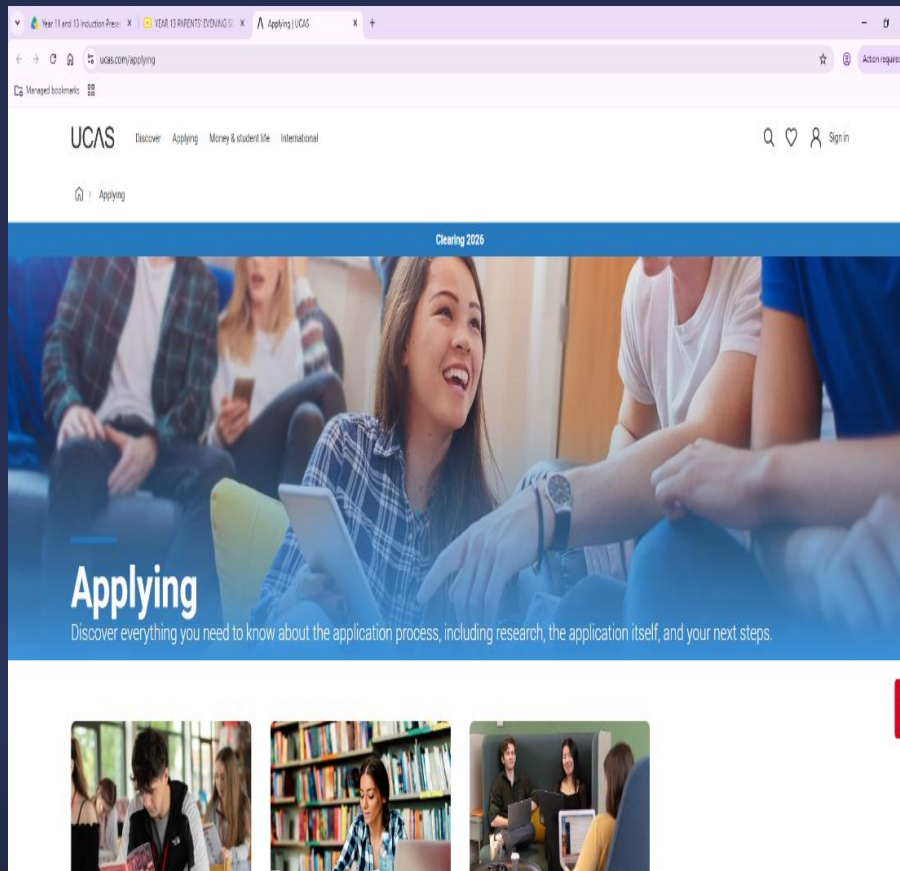
Benefits of a Foundation Degree

- Bridges the gap if you don't have the right qualifications.
- Provides a broad introduction to subjects of your choice.
- Go into the second year of study.



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<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate>



UCAS website provides information on
course choices - writing personal statement -
applications - finance - interviews

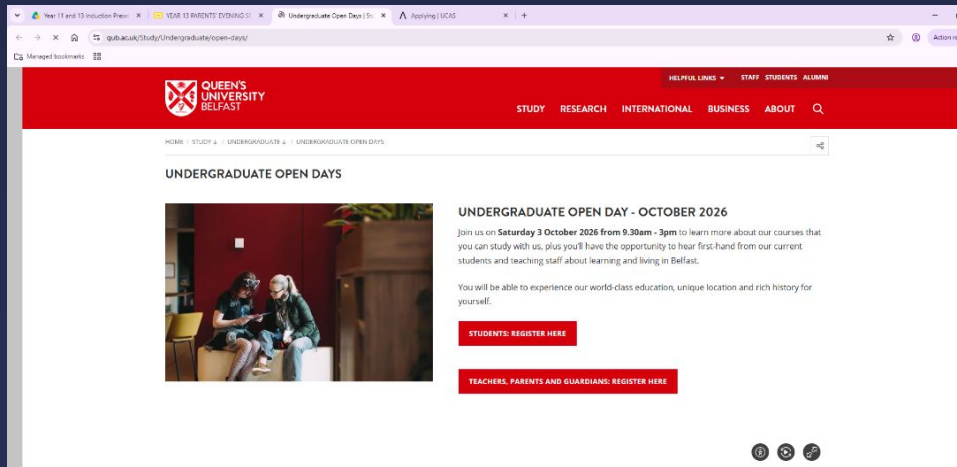
Early applications approx 15th Oct 2027

We recommend completing applications by
middle Nov 2027.

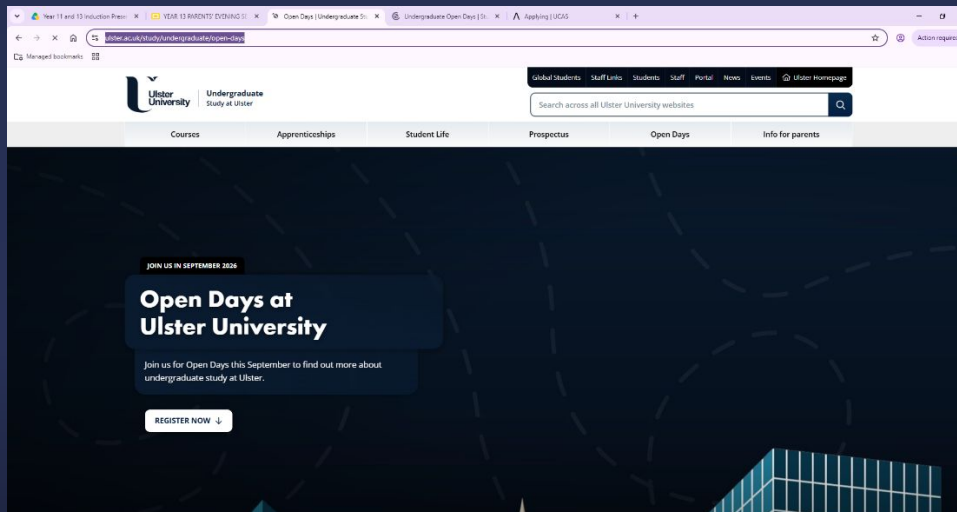
All students will apply to UCAS.

Support and guidance is always available
from the careers team.

QUB Open Days



UU Open Days



Events this year



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QUB Open Day - Saturday 3rd October 2026

University Ulster Open Days

Belfast campus 3rd - 5th September 2026

Magee campus 10th - 12th September 2026

Coleraine campus 18th - 19th September 2026

University Ulster talk - 23rd October 2026

QUB talk - 2nd October 2026

Liverpool John Moore University - 9th October 2026



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www.nidirect.gov.uk/careers



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Careers

Need careers guidance, advice or support – contact the Careers Service for help by phoning 0300 200 7820, by email or webchat

Search
youtube + mechanical engineering

Google

youtube mechanical engineering

What is Mechanical Engineering? - YouTube



Mechanical engineering combines mathematics and scientific analysis with creative thinking to design and manufacture...

YouTube · University of Bath · 23 Dec 2019

1:59

10 key moments in this video

www.youtube.com › watch

Mechanical Engineer - YouTube



Meet three **mechanical engineers** who are designing the next generation of jet engines at a major US company. They explain...

YouTube · ThinkTVPBS · 8 Oct 2015

5:55

3 key moments in this video

www.youtube.com › watch

What is Mechanical Engineering? - YouTube



Me, a **Mechanical Engineer**: "I should watch this video so I know what **mechanical engineering** is." ...

YouTube · Zach Star · 7 Oct 2016

8:48

8 key moments in this video

Competencies and Employability



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- Students need to reflect on what they do. By the end of Year 13 they should be able to provide evidence of some of the following key competencies:

- ✓ Organisation
- ✓ Problem solving
- ✓ Effective communication
- ✓ Motivation/engagement
- ✓ Initiative
- ✓ Teamwork/collaboration
- ✓ Commitment
- ✓ Creative Thinking



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Opportunity Awareness



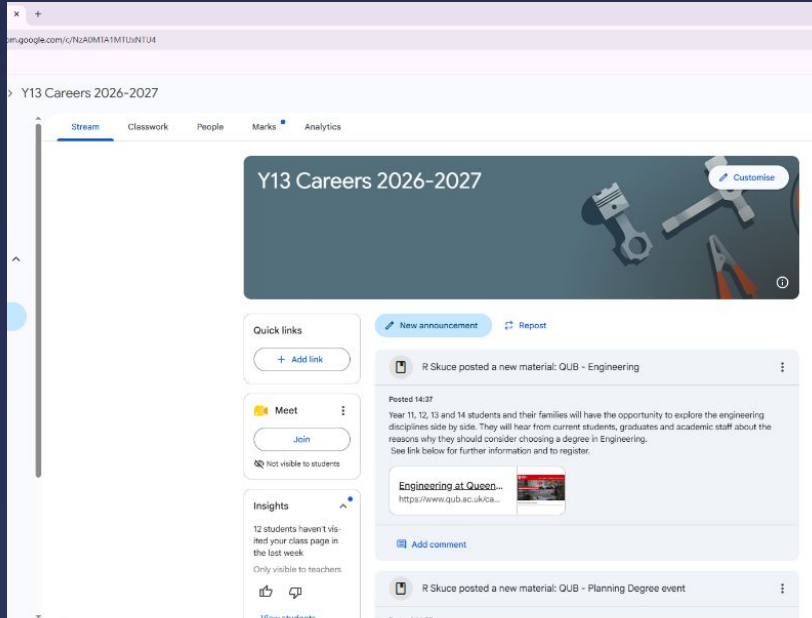
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- In life we will be provided with some opportunities..... but we also have to look for opportunities ourselves.
- Proactive and self reliant students will have the drive to grasp the opportunities they are given and the ability to identify other opportunities that are out there.
- What about work experience? Think carefully and select a placement relevant to career aspirations.



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Yr 13 Careers Google Classroom Code: kogmr6q



What else happens this year?

- Personal Statements - June 2027

What can parents do?

- Encourage
- Prepare
- Extracurricular activities
- Promote skills and qualities necessary to their course

What can I do now?



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- Research university courses and find out the entrance requirements (grades/points needed to get into their desired course)
- Check the Careers Google Classroom for announcements on available opportunities.
- If students are unsure of their future career plan, they should talk to Mrs Skuce or Mrs Olphert during a careers or study period.



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Where can they get help?

- Mrs Skuce
- Mr Laird
- Mrs Olphert





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Work Experience 2026-27

Parents' Meeting
September



Previous placements



UCAS (university applications) -

Personal statement questions (Sept 2025+)

Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

Examples include :

Work experience / Volunteering / Clubs and societies / Online courses / Sports music and Duke of Edinburgh Award / Part-time job

When is work experience taking place?

Mon 7th -Wed 9th June, 2027.

Other options

- Opportunities during staff training days
- Some opportunities during school time e.g.
 - WHSCT workshops
 - virtual workshops in careers library

How are placements arranged?

There are 2 main areas of placements

- Student organised

- Virtual placements (throughout the year)

1. Futures for all - <https://www.futuresforall.org/>

- In person placements (June)

1. Student asks employer
2. Futures for all (Speakers for schools) - <https://www.futuresforall.org/>
e.g. Seagate / Translink / National trust / Graham construction / Kainos

- School applications only –

- Work inspiration (Belfast based) (June)

- Hospital based workshops (Autumn term) –

- WHSCT - combination of virtual sessions and in-person shadowing. SCHOOL APPLICATIONS ONLY

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SPEAKERS
for schools

BACK TO MAIN MENU EXPERIENCE EDUCATORS EMPLOYERS YOUNG PEOPLE

BRITISH LAND PROPERTY VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE
Employer: British Land
Age: 14-19
Industry: Property
Date: 24/10/2022
Timings: 10:00 - 15:00
[Read more](#)

5 DAYS CONSTRUCTION VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE
Employer: Wates Residential
Age: 14-19
Industry: Construction
Date: 24/10/2022
Timings: 10:00 - 15:00
[Read more](#)

MEET THE FACES BEHIND THE MASK: FOUR FIELDS OF NURSING
Employer: NHS
Age: 14-15
Industry: Healthcare
Date: 24/10/2022
Timings: 12:00 - 15:00
[Read more](#)

bp
CAN YOU DESIGN AND BUILD A SUSTAINABLE RAILWAY?
Employer: Amey
Age: 14-19
Industry: Engineering
Date: 24/10/2022
[Read more](#)

amey consulting
CAN YOU DESIGN AND BUILD A SUSTAINABLE RAILWAY?
Employer: Amey
Age: 14-19
Industry: Engineering
Date: 24/10/2022
[Read more](#)

National Portrait Gallery
FOLLOW YOUR PASSION: CAREERS IN THE ARTS
[Read more](#)

SPEAKERS
for schools

BACK TO MAIN MENU EXPERIENCE EDUCATORS EMPLOYERS YOUNG PEOPLE

WANT TO BECOME A DENTIST?
Employer: Western Health
Age: 14-19
Industry: Healthcare
Date: 12/10/2022
Timings: 09:00 - 12:00
[Read more](#)

THE FUTURE OF ENGINEERING - NI STUDENTS ONLY! 9:30AM-3PM
Employer: Seagate
Age: 14-19
Industry: Engineering
Date: 12/10/2022
Timings: 09:30 - 15:30
[Read more](#)

INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN HOSPITAL PHYSIOTHERAPY?
Employer: Western Health
Age: 14-19
Industry: Healthcare
Date: 12/10/2022
Timings: 09:30 - 12:30
[Read more](#)

NHS Hawkins' Brown
WE ARE ARCHITECTS, RESEARCHERS, COLLABORATORS, DESIGNERS, MAKERS, ARTISTS, PROBLEM SOLVERS...
Employer: Western Health
Age: 14-19
[Read more](#)

Virtual placements

<https://www.futuresforall.org/>

Index | futuresforall.org/opportunity-search

okmarks



Remote opportunity

Explore the world of Management Consultancy (2 day Virtual Experience)

19 Nov 25 • 2 days
Business & Sales
Virtual opportunity

fullcircle.

[View Opportunity](#)



Remote opportunity

Digital Insight into Coding - Remote Delivery (Leeds only)

28 Nov 25 • 1 day
Digital, IT & Computing
Virtual opportunity

kainos®

[View Opportunity](#)



Remote opportunity

Digital Insights - Coding (Remote delivery - London only)

14 Nov 25 • 1 day
Digital, IT & Computing
Virtual opportunity

kainos®

[View Opportunity](#)

Western Health trust events – 2026 opportunities to be published soon



Autumn Series of Careers Information Sessions 2025

WEEK 1 (w/c 6th October)

Diagnostic Radiography and Imaging	Online	Tuesday 7 th October (Morning)	MS Teams
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WEEK 2 (w/c 13th October)

Social Work	Online	Monday 13 th October (Morning)	MS Teams
Nursing/Midwifery	Online	Tuesday 14 th October (Morning)	MS Teams
Nursing/Midwifery	In-person	Wednesday 15 th October (Afternoon)	Altnagelvin - MDEC
Radiotherapy & Oncology	Online	Thursday 16 th October (Morning)	MS Teams

WEEK 3 (w/c 20th October)

Biomedical Science	Online	Tuesday 21 st October (Morning)	MS Teams
Occupational Therapy	Online	Tuesday 21 st October (Morning)	MS Teams
Medical & Dental	In-person	Wednesday 22 nd October (Evening)	Altnagelvin - MedEdWest
Orthoptics	Online	Thursday 23 rd October (Morning)	MS Teams
Dietetics and Nutrition	Online	Thursday 23 rd October (Morning)	MS Teams

WEEK 4 (w/c 3rd November)

Nursing/Midwifery	In-person	Friday 7 th November (Morning)	South West Acute Hospital
Optometry	Online	Friday 7 th November (Afternoon)	MS Teams

WEEK 5 (w/c 10th November)

Physiotherapy	In-person	Monday 10 th November (Morning)	Altnagelvin
Pharmacy	Online	Tuesday 11 th November (Morning)	MS Teams
Medical and Dental	In-person	Thursday 13 th November (Evening)	South West Acute Hospital

WEEK 6 (w/c 17th November)

Physiotherapy	In-person	Friday 21 st November (Morning)	South West Acute Hospital
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DATES TBC

Dentistry	Online		MS Teams
Podiatry	Online		MS Teams
Speech and Language Therapy	Online		MS Teams
Medical Physics	Online		MS Teams
Psychology	Online		MS Teams
Medical Research and Innovation	Online		

Notes:

1. We will make contact in advance of each session to seek nominations from the school department. We ask that only students with a genuine interest in each career are nominated.
2. Sessions are open to students in Year 13, or above, or equivalent unless otherwise stated.

Other opportunities being offered

- students considering medicine at least one-day shadowing a doctor
- students considering nursing a 3-day work experience opportunity on a ward

What are the deadlines for taking part in the school work experience scheme?

Western Health trust applications

Requests for applications will sought by the school during the Autumn term, on the Year 13 careers & work experience google classrooms

Many other opportunities will also be highlighted on careers google classroom.

Student organized in person placements

Easter

- **Parental consent form signed**, completed and returned
- **Indemnity forms** to be completed by employer and returned to Mr Laird

Where can we get information regarding work experience?

- Work experience Google classroom - Classroom code **kb63s6dt**
- work experience talks
- blank indemnity forms
- live updates of new opportunities on the stream



Other Tips

Keep notifications on

Parents can join classroom and receive updates