

Post 18 options

Alternatives to university

Support within college

- Independent careers advisor
- Workshops about how to research the options
- Careers sessions to build / improve CV
- Interview preparation, incl mock interview
- July - Recent ex-students coming in to offer advice
Careers Fair
- Year 13: email alerts about post-18 opportunities

[https://www.hopin
to.co.uk/virtual-
employer-
encounters/virtual-
employer-
encounters/](https://www.hopin
to.co.uk/virtual-
employer-
encounters/virtual-
employer-
encounters/)

Great set of recorded
webinars showcasing
what different careers
involve.



CAREERS AS A WEB DESIGNER

Find out about Careers as a Web Designer



CAREERS AS A PERSONAL TRAINER

Find out about Careers as a Personal Trainer



CAREERS IN SET AND PROP DESIGN

Find out about Careers In Set And Prop Design



CAREERS AS A QUANTITY SURVEYOR

Find out about careers as a Quantity Surveyor.



CAREERS IN RADIOGRAPHY

Find out about careers in Radiography



CAREERS IN POLITICS AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Learn about careers in politics and public service



CAREERS IN THE AMBULANCE SERVICE

Find out about careers in the ambulance service.



CAREERS AS A BSL INTERPRETER

Find out about careers as a BSL Interpreter.



CAREERS IN FORENSICS

Find out about Careers in Forensics



CAREERS AS A MEDICAL WRITER

Watch now.



CAREERS IN CABIN CREW

Find out more about Careers in Cabin Crew in this webinar.



CAREERS IN PHARMACY

Find out more about Careers in Pharmacy



CAREERS IN LOGISTICS

Find out more about Careers in Logistics.



CAREERS IN PHOTOGRAPHY

Find out more about Careers in Photography



A CAREER WITH A DISABILITY

Find out more about Careers with a Disability

Predicted Grades

Predicted grades for use in applications are made in July, using all available information.

Trial Exams for Year 12: June 16 – 20
2 exam papers per subject



Apprenticeships



Employment



Art
Foundation



Gap
years

Gap Years

<https://www.ucas.com/alternatives/gap-year/gap-years-ideas-and-things-think-about>

UCAS

Further education

Undergraduate

Postgraduate

🏠 / Alternatives / Gap year /

Gap years – ideas and things to think about

Independent Gap Advice

Independent Gap Year Advice For Young People

[Home](#)

[Advice](#)

[Travel Advice](#)

[Fundraising](#)

[Database](#)

[Case Studies](#)

[Contact](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)



Home

<https://independentgapadvice.org/>

Independent Gap Year Advice and Support for Young People



Gap Years

Contact details for over 80 organisations offering gap year experiences available on the college network in [Pupils Read Only > Sixth Form > Gap Years](#)

DATABASE OF ORGANISATIONS OFFERING GAP YEAR OPPORTUNITIES, March 2024 Edition. Produced by Gap Year Fairs
www.independentgapadvice.org

TYPE OF GAP YEAR	NAME OF ORGANISATION	PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS	PHONE	WEBSITE
Adventure Travel / Voluntary Opportunities	Oyster Worldwide	Adventure travel and volunteering opportunities in over 25 countries worldwide.	01892-770-771	oysterworldwide.com
Adventure Travel	Gapforce	Group tours, marine conservation and leadership training.	020-73843028	gapforce.org
Art History / Italy / Culture	Art History Abroad	Enlightening cultural courses travelling throughout Italy. 2-6 weeks, all year round, dynamic on-site tuition in small groups	01379-871800	arthistoryabroad.com
Church-Based Projects (Latin America)	Latin Link - Step and Stride Teams	Step and Stride Teams get involved with practical projects, help in community and serve alongside the local church in Latin America	0118-957-7114	latinlink.org.uk/step
Conservation	Earthwatch Institute (Europe)	An international environmental charity recruiting volunteers to join research projects operating all over the world.	01865-318838	earthwatch.org.uk
Conservation Volunteering UK	Action for Conservation	Residential summer conservation camps & information service on opportunities with other UK conservation charities.	07766-307-675	actionforconservation.org
Conservation Work with Wildlife	African Conservation Experience	Work with African wildlife and carry out valuable conservation work on Game and Nature Reserves in Southern Africa.	01454-269182	conservationafrica.net
Cookery & Recruitment for Ski Resort Work	Orchards Cookery Ltd	Training, recruiting chalet cooks 5 day / 2 week residential courses. Off to University course. Qualifies for Gold DofE.	01789-490259	orchardscookery.co.uk
Cookery/Wine(Professional/Amateur Courses)	Leiths School of Food and Wine	Cookery school offering professional chef diplomas, enthusiast courses and online cooking courses.	0208-749-6400	leiths.com
Drama Course	Year Out Drama	An intensive, full-time, year-long practical drama course based in Stratford-on-Avon.	via website	yearoutdrama.co.uk
Expeditions / Environmental Research	British Exploring Society	Adventure and environmental research expeditions to remote wilderness environments worldwide.	020-7591-3141	britishexploring.org
Gap Year Programme in Italy in Liberal Arts	John Hall Venice Course	arts and Culture gap year course in London,Venice,Florence,Rome.	020-8871-4747	johnhallvenice.com
Industry: Science, Engineering, IT, Technology	The Year in Industry (YINI)	Degree-related, paid, year-long work placements in business, ICT, marketing, technology, science or engineering.	01707-906-106	etrust.org.uk/the-year-in-industry
Internships / Career Experience (overseas)	Projects Abroad	Wide range of career experience placements in 30 countries around the world.	01903-708300	projects-abroad.co.uk
Internships / Career Experience (overseas)	Changing Worlds	Providing a wide range of life-changing learning, volunteering and travel opportunities around the world.	0117-471-0635	changingworlds.co.uk
Language Courses Abroad	LANACOS	Certified residential courses (DofE) 1 week to 1 year, approved by top universities, speak fast on a linguistic gap year.	01732-456543	lanacos.com
Language Courses Abroad	CESA Languages Abroad	1 to 16 week language courses + Academic Term / Year courses. All ability levels. In Europe, Latin America & Asia	01209-211800	cesalanguages.com
Languages / Hospitality Management (Paid)	Canvas Holidays	Paid summer work in campsites across Europe. Wide range of roles.	01383-629012	canvasholidays.co.uk/jobs
Medical / Journalism / Other Work Experience	Global Volunteer Projects	Medical, Nursing, Physiotherapy & Journalism work experience projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America.	0191-222-0404	globalvolunteerprojects.org
Paid work/Internships abroad	Oyster Worldwide	Guaranteed work in Canadian ski resorts, hospitality/Outbank work OZ/NZ.	01892-770-771	oysterworldwide.com
Paid work, Volunteering Worldwide, US Camps	BUNAC	Paid working holidays (US,Canada,OZ,NZ,Japan),volunteering (Africa,Asia,Americas), internships (Asia), summer camps USA.	0333-014-8484	bunac.org
Paid Seasonal Work Overseas	Eurocamp & Al Fresco Holidays	Paid summer work on campsites in Europe, variety of positions available working for Eurocamp and Al Fresco Holidays.	01606-787522	eurocampandalfrescojobs.com
Paid Work Placements (Various Roles)	PGL Travel Ltd	Paid work opportunities at children's activity and educational centres across the UK.	0333-321-2123	jobs.pgl.co.uk
Paid Work Placements	Childcare International Ltd	Au pair placements throughout USA (one year), Australia, New Zealand and Europe (3-6 months+)	020-8371-4551	childint.co.uk

When to apply?

- If you plan to take a gap year before going to university, it's best to apply to university while in Year 13 and tell the university you want to defer the start by one year
- Try to have some idea of what you will do on your gap year by the time you apply to university (the university will want to know that you will not be wasting the year)
- You would usually then make the actual arrangements for your gap year during Year 13
- **What to do now:**
Do some research to make a long-list of things you might like to do on a gap year, then find organisations that can help you to achieve it.

Art Foundation

Most students who complete an Art Foundation course after Sixth Form do it with:

- Hertford Regional College (Ware)
- Cambridge Regional College

The logo for HRC (Hertfordshire Regional College) is a purple circle with the lowercase letters 'hrc' in white.

Chances
to visit
them...

01
May

Open Event

5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Ware Campus, Broxbourne Campus

> I want to know more

30
Sep

Open Event

5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Ware Campus, Broxbourne Campus

> I want to know more

Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Art and Design (18+ only)

Course Code
ARDE301A.SP

Start Date
01/09/2025

End Date
19/06/2026

Location
Ware Campus

<https://hrc.ac.uk/our-courses/level-3-foundation-diploma-in-art-and-design-18-only/>

Apply Now >

This course helps students to bridge the gap between their Level 3 study and the Level 4 study of universities. Students on the course will learn a variety of industry skills, as well as learning to challenge pre-conceptions of what art can be, how to take risks and make exciting and innovative work. Students on this course will also get the opportunity to work on live briefs and exhibit work throughout the year in a professional gallery environment, helping to prepare them for further study and careers in the industry.



Chances
to visit
them...

Cambridge Open Day
Thursday 24th April
4:30pm–7:00pm

[Book here](#)

Cambridge Open Day
Tuesday 1st July
4:30pm–7:00pm

[Book here](#)

<https://www.camre.ac.uk/course/ual-level-3-foundation-diploma-in-art--design-post-18/MV1FDA/>

UAL Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Art & Design (post 18)

Course Information

Cambridge Campus, 01/09/2025

Level: 3

Duration: 1 Year(s)

Start Date: 01/09/2025

Type: Full Time

Location: Cambridge Campus

Code: MV1FDA

[APPLY NOW](#)

About the Course

This pre-degree intensive course is an experience which will form the foundation of your professional arts practice for the rest of your professional life. Nurturing your understanding of global art, encouraging risk taking and invention this Study Programme will allow you to work to your strengths and embrace areas for development. The UAL L3 Foundation Diploma in Art & Design is a highly regarded course which has helped individuals to progress onto outstanding places in Higher Education and win national awards and commissioned work.

When to apply?

- Most colleges accept applications for Art Foundation courses from around December of Year 13
- It's best to apply before February in Year 13 to secure your place
- By then, you need to make sure you have a varied portfolio of art work to take along to the interview
- **What to do now:**
There are only a small number of local colleges you might do an Art Foundation course at, so contact them all to find out the details.

Apprenticeships

Some of the possibilities ...



ACCOUNTING | ADVERTISING & MARKETING

AGRICULTURE | ANIMAL CARE | AVIATION

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION | CATERING

CREATIVE & DIGITAL | DENTAL NURSING



CONSTRUCTION | CUSTOMER SERVICE

CYBER SECURITY | EVENTS MANAGEMENT

FLORISTRY | HIGH PERFORMANCE ENGINEERING

HAIRDRESSING | HEALTH CARE | HOSPITALITY



HORTICULTURE | JOURNALISM | JEWELLER

LEGAL SERVICES | GAMES TECHNICIAN



POLICE OFFICER | PROJECT MANAGEMENT

SURVEYING | SOLICITOR | TEACHING

VETERINARY NURSING

Levels of apprenticeship

Intermediate ...	Level 2 (equivalent to GCSEs at C+ grade)
Advanced ...	Level 3 (equivalent to A-levels)
Higher ...	Level 4 (equivalent to 1 st year of degree)
Degree ...	Level 5-7 (equivalent to a full degree)

+ / - of apprenticeships

Good

- Recognised qualification after 1 – 5 years
- Training free if 19 or under
- Earn while you learn (eg. National Grid pays £19,800 starting salary)
- Over 90% of apprentices find employment on completion

Bad

- Minimum wage for apprentices is £7.55 / hour
- Variable quality of training
- Not a wide range of employers in the Buntingford area

When to apply?

- **Apprenticeships with big firms** often start in September and applications open up to a year in advance.
- **Apprenticeships with smaller, local firms** start year-round, and applications often open only a month or two before start date.
- **What to do now:**
Look on companies' websites to see when they will be opening for applications

How to find apprenticeships

www.unifrog.org

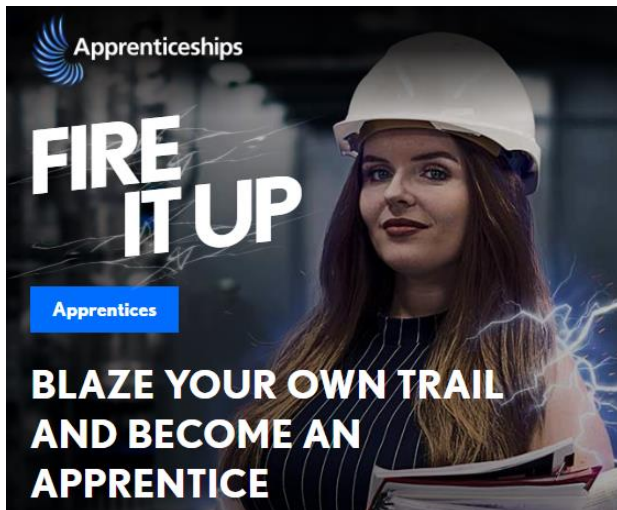


APPRENTICESHIPS

Parents can also access Unifrog by using the code: **Fremanparents**
(this code will time-out at the end of April)

How to find apprenticeships

www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship



This site will show most of the apprenticeships open for applications in the country.

You can register to receive alerts when a new apprenticeship opens in the field you want.

How to find apprenticeships

www.hopinto.co.uk



This site only shows
apprenticeships
available in
Hertfordshire

How to find apprenticeships

www.ucas.com/apprenticeships



UCAS has recently introduced an apprenticeship platform

Many apprenticeships ask for a minimum number of UCAS points.
How many UCAS points are your qualifications worth?

A-level	AS level	EPQ / Finance	Cam Tech in Sport (x2 if doing Triple)	Cam Tech in Business, IT or Health & Social Care	UCAS points
			Distinction *		84
			Distinction		72
A*				Distinction *	56
A			Merit	Distinction	48
B					40
C				Merit	32
		A*			28
D		A	Pass		24
	A	B			20
E	B	C		Pass	16
	C	D			12
	D				10
		E			8
	E				6

The following slides show a selection
of employers in our local area that
offer apprenticeships

Johnson Matthey

Royston and Brimsdown, UK

Enhance your skills while achieving recognised qualifications at one of our key hubs in the UK.



Manufacturing
Apprenticeships



Scientific Apprenticeships



Engineering Apprenticeships

<https://matthey.com/en/careers/apprentices>

GlaxoSmithkline



Higher, Advance
and Degree-level
apprenticeships

Artwork and design apprenticeships

Are you interested in a career in artwork and design? Find out about our apprenticeship opportunities in the UK.

Engineering apprenticeships

Do you want to design, install and maintain manufacturing technologies that save lives? Discover the opportunities within our engineering apprenticeship scheme in the UK.

IT apprenticeships

Do you want to train in information technology (IT) to deliver life-enhancing healthcare? Learn more about our information technology (IT) apprenticeships in the UK.

Laboratory apprenticeships

Do you want the chance to train, study and be paid? Find out about our laboratory apprenticeships in the UK.

Supply chain apprenticeships

Looking for an apprenticeship? Find out about starting your career in supply chain with GSK in the UK.



Manufacturing apprenticeships


Want to enhance your technical or functional expertise and improve your business knowledge with our manufacturing apprenticeship scheme in the UK?

www.gsk.com/en-gb/locations/united-kingdom/apprenticeships/

Airbus

AIRBUS

[JOB SEARCH](#) [LOGIN](#)   **MENU**



Engineering Undergraduate Apprenticeship (Airbus)

Supply Chain Higher Apprenticeship (Airbus)

Commercial Undergraduate Apprenticeships (Airbus)

Craft apprenticeship (Airbus)

Craft apprenticeship (Airbus Defence and Space)

Technical Data Apprenticeship (Airbus)

Engineering apprenticeship (Airbus Defence and Space)

Engineering apprenticeship (Airbus Helicopters)

<https://careermap.co.uk/airbus-apprenticeships-blog/>

Skanska

In engineering:

- Civil engineer (apprentice)

In operations:

- Planner (trainee)
- Estimator (trainee)
- Construction supervisor (trainee)
- Buyer (trainee)
- Design technician (trainee)
- Mechanical and electrical engineer (trainee)
- Street lighting (apprentice)
- Plumbing (multi-skilled) (apprentice)
- Piling (apprentice)
- Vehicle technician (apprentice)

In commercial:

- Quantity surveyor (trainee)

In our enabling functions:

- IT (apprentice)
- Finance (trainee)
- Administration (apprentice)

Skanska offers a mix of **apprenticeships** and **traineeships**

Traineeships are shorter (usually up to 6 months) and focus on providing hands-on experience and employability skills.

<https://www.skanska.co.uk/about-skanska/careers/early-careers/apprentices/>



Mercedes-Benz

<https://careers.mercedes-benz.co.uk/early-careers>



Level 6 Chartered Manager Degree Apprenticeship

Duration: 4 years

Applications Open:
January 2024



Level 6 Digital & Technology Degree Apprenticeship

Duration: 4 years

Applications Open:
January 2024



Level 4 Data Fellowship Apprenticeship

Duration: 2 years

Applications Open:
January 2024



<https://amazonapprenticeships.co.uk/our-programmes>

**Human
Resources,
Business
Management,
Finance and
Procurement**



Buying and Merchandising Apprenticeship >
Project Management Apprenticeship >
Chartered Management Degree Apprenticeship >
Recruitment Consultant Apprenticeship >
Product Manager Apprenticeship >
HR Consultant Apprenticeship >

Digital



Data Analyst Apprenticeship >
Business Analyst Apprenticeship >
Solutions Architect Apprenticeship >
Software Development Engineer Apprenticeship >
Cyber Security >
Dev Ops Apprenticeship >

**Marketing and
Sales**



Marketing Apprenticeship >
Sales / Account Manager Apprenticeship >

Boots



Search to find out more about our teams



Latest job opportunities

At the moment we don't have any opportunities within this area – but please come back soon as we update roles all the time.

Don't forget you can also follow us on **Twitter** and **Facebook** for the latest roles too.

Higher Apprenticeship

If you've finished your A Levels and would like to do a real job while you continue learning, there's no better place than Boots UK.

We can offer you every opportunity to shine in a nurturing and rewarding environment. Our two-year programme in everything from Brand, Buying and Marketing through to Supply Chain will give you real exposure in a commercial environment. Successful completion of the Higher Apprenticeship could lead to progression onto our Chartered Manager Degree Apprenticeship. And there's a starting salary of £15,000 plus 25 days' holiday and great discounts.

Technical Apprenticeship

Corporate and Support

Retail

Pharmacy

Optics

www.boots.jobs/early-careers/



www.kpmgcareers.co.uk/apprentice



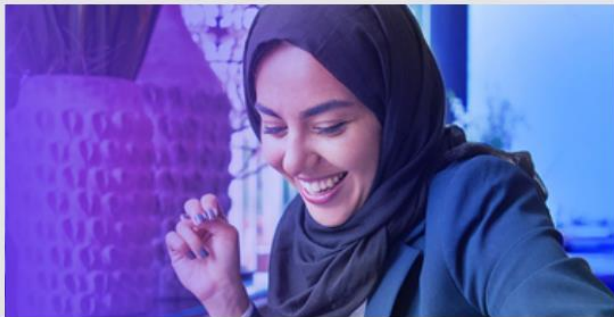
Audit Apprenticeships



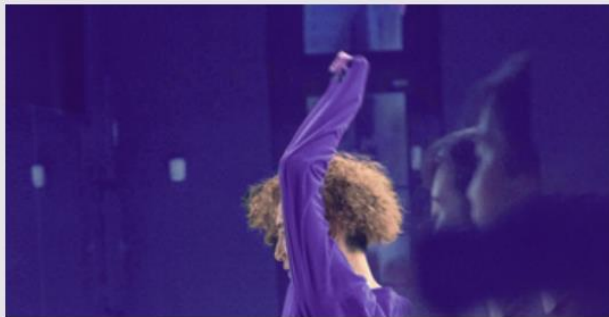
Technology & Engineering
Apprenticeships



Consulting Apprenticeships



Tax & Law Apprenticeships



KPMG Business Services
Apprenticeships



Work Experience

Apprenticeship programme general overview

About our apprenticeship programme

- Structured training for the ATT, ATT or CFAB. First step on your career as an accountant
- On the job training so you can immerse yourself in the business and build strong relationships
- Real work and client exposure allowing you to apply the theory you learn to real-life situations
- Supportive teams
- A variety of career routes to explore

<https://careers.pricebailey.co.uk/jobs/early-careers/>

NHS nursing

Trainee Nursing Apprenticeship

leads on to

Nursing Degree Apprenticeship



<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/study-and-training/apprenticeships-traineeships-and-cadet-schemes>

Extensive list of apprenticeships with national companies on the college network, showing when they open for applications.

Business and administration

	Employer	Role	Level	Location(s)	Starting Salary	Applications		Start Date	Link to application details
						Open	Close		
	National Highways	People Professional	5	Birmingham	£22,600	February 2025	March 2025	September 2025	https://amapps.uk/jan25nh3
♥	Nestlé UK&I	Data Analyst Apprentice	4	Crawley	£24,375	Open now	March 2025	September 2025	https://amapps.uk/jan25nest1
◆	Network Rail	Professional Diploma in Procurement & Supply	6	Milton Keynes	£24,500	February 2025	April 2025	September 2025	https://amapps.uk/jan25nr5
◆	Network Rail	Project Management Apprenticeship	6	London Stratford	£24,500	February 2025	April 2025	September 2025	https://amapps.uk/jan25nr4
◆	Network Rail	Supply Chain Leadership Professional Apprenticeship	6	Milton Keynes	£24,500	February 2025	April 2025	September 2025	https://amapps.uk/jan25nr3
◆	Rolls-Royce PLC	Civil Aerospace Business Management Degree Apprenticeship	6	Derby	£21,776	Open now	February 2025	September 2025	https://amapps.uk/jan25rolls17

<https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/higher-degree-listing/>

Looking for inspiration?

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/vacancies/>

Long list of links to major UK apprenticeship providers.

Each link takes you to a page with details about the apprenticeships the company offers.



Application process for apprenticeships

- Almost all applications are online
- Application form (+ CV for some)
- Assessment centre
- Interview (often by phone or video)

Employment

FOUND 96 JOBS WITHIN 10 MILES OF SG9 9BT, BUNTINGFORD

Browse

Search

Keywords

Enter your keywords

Location

SG9 9BT, Buntingford

Within 10 miles

☒ Nationwide

☒ Homeworking

► Sectors

► Salary Band

► Contract Type

► Hours

► Recruiter Type

SEARCH

Email me jobs like this

CREATE ALERT

Newest first

Distance

SITE SALES REPRESENTATIVES

- Hertfordshire
- Competitive
- Wheatley Homes Limited

A Progressive and Expanding Development Company Operating In the Northern Home Counties Requires:...

View details

Wheatley

7 days ago | ☆ Save

IT TECHNICIAN

- Ware, Hertfordshire
- £9594 - £10502 actual Salary
- PINEWOOD SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST

Pinewood school is looking to appoint an IT Technician to join our staff team in Ware, Herts...

View details

pinewood school

1 day ago | ☆ Save

+ / - of employment

Good

- Earning straight away (minimum wage higher than for apprentices)
- Less commitment than apprenticeship

Bad

- Competing with candidates with more experience
- Lower earnings than workers with more qualifications?
- Not many big employers around here

Finding direct employment

FISH4JOBS

Candidates: [Login](#) | [Sign up](#)

[Home](#) [Find a job](#) [Your jobs](#) [Your profile](#) [Your account](#) [Recruiter A-Z](#) [Careers advice](#) [Upload your CV](#)

FIND YOUR NEXT JOB

Within 5 miles



SEARCH

TOP SECTORS

SEARCH OUR MEDIA PARTNERS



CONSTRUCTION



CUSTOMER SERVICE



EDUCATION



ENGINEERING



GRADUATE



HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE



IT



SALES

BROWSE ALL SECTORS

BROWSE LOCATIONS



Jobs for School Leavers



Find a job with universal
jobmatch



Browse jobs by location,
category or company



Find a job, upload your CV and
let recruiters find you



Find thousands of UK jobs from
local newspapers



Search this multiple jobsearch
site



Find recruitment agencies and
jobsites

BROOK STREET

Search the recruitment
database for jobs



Explore by area and type of job



Register and receive job details
by e-mail



Look for local vacancies



Choose from a wide range of
options

When to apply?

- Most job vacancies are only advertised a short while in advance, so you probably won't be able to sort things out as early as other students.
- If you have identified a local company you would like to work for, there is nothing to be lost by sending them a copy of your CV and a letter asking to be considered if they have any future vacancies.
- **What to do now:**
Get your CV looking as good as it can be, by using the Unifrog CV-builder tool: www.unifrog.org/student/cv


Application process for jobs

- Mostly CV + covering letter
- Interview likely
- Speculative applications?

Alternatives to university




Apprenticeships



Employment



Art
Foundation



Gap
years