



# What next after sixth form?

## Activity overview

A teacher-led discussion that introduces future options for students when they leave school or college. We'll help you to showcase the range of routes available, from university to apprenticeships, along with key benefits and drawbacks to consider.

### Learning objectives

- ▶ To get students to think about what they plan to do once they leave sixth form.
- ▶ To outline the different Higher Education (HE) options available.
- ▶ To understand the benefits and considerations of some of the options.
- ▶ To reflect on whether any of the options might suit them and to actively encourage those who had not previously considered it, to explore going into HE.

### Activity

- ▶ Ice-breaker activity: ask students in pairs to think up ideas of what their options are after school.
- ▶ Using the PowerPoint, outline the broad options available.
- ▶ Go through the slides to explore each option – pause each of the slides at the title element, then ask students to quickly reflect and see if they can come up with some benefits or considerations before you go through those listed on the slide. Depending on your cohort you might want to focus more on certain slides.
- ▶ The higher and degree apprenticeships slide should be shown alongside a very short video ([www.getingofar.gov.uk](http://www.getingofar.gov.uk)) conveying why students were excited about starting an apprenticeship.

### AT A GLANCE

- ★ **Age group**  
11-14
- ★ **Activity type**  
PowerPoint-based discussion
- ★ **Suggested subject setting**  
Pick a moment when you are discussing future plans, for example during form-time or PSHE/PSE/PDMU/Health and Wellbeing sessions
- ★ **Student resources**  
PowerPoint: What next after sixth form?

## Suggestions for 14-16

- ▶ Use the same PowerPoint but go into more detail about each option, asking the students to contribute more complete ideas about the benefits and considerations of each. Students could undertake some self-analysis about which route might be suitable for them.
- ▶ Focus on the affordability aspect of the various options in order to encourage wider participation.

## Suggestions for 16-18

- ▶ Using the same PowerPoint, pause on the initial slide to elicit what the students know about the different routes outlined.
- ▶ Talk through the degree-based options in more detail and show students [www.which.co.uk/uniguide](http://www.which.co.uk/uniguide). For those interested in apprenticeships, show students how to look for apprenticeships using the search tool at [www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](http://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship).

## Extension activities

- ▶ For 11-14 – Get students to think about one of the options outlined in more detail. Provide a relevant piece of stimulus such as a university prospectus, or apprenticeship advert and encourage groups to create their own list of benefits and considerations. What three steps would they suggest to a friend preparing themselves to follow this option?
- ▶ For 14-16 – As a class, generate a list of skills and personal qualities, such as being hard-working, curious or friendly, in terms of attributes they think will be most important for them in the future. Discuss what skills and qualities you might develop or gain from going into Higher Education.
- ▶ For 14-16 – Ask students to talk about whether they feel there are any barriers about going on to Higher Education, note the key ones on the whiteboard and task them with coming up with ideas about how to overcome these barriers. As a follow-on activity, you could talk through the basics on student finance to show them that affordability should not be a barrier: [www.which.co.uk/studentfinance](http://www.which.co.uk/studentfinance).
- ▶ For 16-18 – Encourage students to think about whether university is affordable and task them with coming up with a list of ways they could financially support themselves. As a follow-on activity, take a look at access to bursaries and scholarships – highlight to students that there are lots of unclaimed bursaries out there, so it is worth taking the time to research: [www.which.co.uk/bursaries](http://www.which.co.uk/bursaries) and [www.which.co.uk/studentfinanceguide](http://www.which.co.uk/studentfinanceguide).

### Discovering more

- ▶ Students can read a host of articles to help prepare them for university: [www.which.co.uk/preparingforuni](http://www.which.co.uk/preparingforuni)
- ▶ Find out more about funding available for students in care: [www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/individual-needs/care-leavers](http://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/individual-needs/care-leavers)
- ▶ Find out more about studying abroad: [www.which.co.uk/studyabroadguide](http://www.which.co.uk/studyabroadguide) See also [www.studyineurope.eu](http://www.studyineurope.eu) about studying in Europe
- ▶ See [www.fulbright.co.uk](http://www.fulbright.co.uk) for study in US and [www.studyoptions.com](http://www.studyoptions.com) for Australia and New Zealand
- ▶ Explore apprenticeships in more detail: [www.which.co.uk/apprenticeships](http://www.which.co.uk/apprenticeships)