



**Welcome to the Careers Matters Newsletter**

## **DECEMBER 2023**

Please take a browse and look at the fantastic events, information and opportunities for you, generated by our independent Careers Adviser, Amanda Watson.

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Opportunities – Find out about current offers

Work Experience – Find out about current work experience offers and details

Apprenticeships – Current offers and resources

Careers – Delve into differing careers and current topics

### **Opportunities:**

- “Do you want to make a positive difference to peoples’ mental health and wellbeing? Meet professionals working as part of a multidisciplinary team, using their knowledge about how people think and behave to support individuals to live healthy and fulfilling lives. Participants will hear from experts working in the fields of Counselling, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy, Psychology and Social Work offering insight, advice and guidance into their career”

I have received details of a virtual event for those interested in working in the mental health sector – offered by NHS Lincolnshire Talent Academy - to be held on Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 from 5:30pm-8:30pm

You must be living or educated in Lincolnshire and be 15 – 20 years of age on the day of the event

Closing date for all applications is 4 pm Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January, applications received after this time will not be accepted.

Click the link to apply for your place –

[LINK](#)

- There are some financial support opportunities with the British Army being advertised now –
  - Undergraduate Bursaries – if applying to be an Army Officer, you could get up to £7,000 on a standard bursary and up to £24,000 on the enhanced bursary
  - STEM Bursary – you could earn up to £42,750 (£5,000 a year bursary plus tuition fees) if you join the Defence Stem Undergraduate Sponsorship (DSUS) – this is designed for students on STEM degree courses commissioning into the Royal Engineers, Royal Signals, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Royal Logistics or Intelligence Corp's
  - Music Bursary – you could be sponsored up to £9,250 per year, if you are studying a Bachelor of Music (BMus) in performance at a university or conservatoire.
  - Medical Bursary – if you are studying one of the following professions, the Army can offer financial assistance and support whilst you complete your qualification – Medicine (up to £75,000), Dentistry (up to £75,000), Veterinary (up to £60,000), Pharmacy (up to £51,000) and Nursing (adult and mental health – up to £42,000)

For more information on the above, click the link - [LINK](#)

- Are you keen on Maths? Then visit the website for the Institute of Mathematics and its applications on [www.mathscareers.org.uk](http://www.mathscareers.org.uk) – it currently includes their “festive Christmas Tree Puzzle” where you can win “an exclusive IMA Water Bottle” and a “Maths Careers Video Competition” where you could win a £120 voucher (closing date is the 12<sup>th</sup> of Jan) – you will also find some interesting articles and videos on the site too
- Here is a sample of some university (and other institution) open days / events for January and February/March 2024 – check websites for details including if you need to book your place / reserve tickets –
  - Guildhall School of Music & Drama – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January
  - Teesside University - Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January
  - Backstage Academy (Wakefield) – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January
  - University of Bradford – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January
  - Leeds Trinity University – as above
  - Bath Spa University – as above
  - Staffordshire University – as above
  - University of South Wales – as above
  - University of Winchester – as above
  - University of Worcester - as above
  - Arts University Plymouth – as above
  - London Metropolitan University – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January
  - University of Northampton – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January

- Nottingham Trent University – as above
  - Hartpury University – as above
  - University of Derby – as above
  - University of East Anglia (UEA) – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February
  - University of Roehampton – Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February
  - Oxford Brookes University – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February
  - Swansea University – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February / 23<sup>rd</sup> March
- Success At School has produced a University Guide 2023-2024 for parents and carers – click the link – [LINK](#)



- The British Army is offering an online Insight webinar to advertise their apprenticeships and scholarships – for parents, carers, teachers and Careers Leaders - to take place on the 16<sup>th</sup> of January from 6:30pm-7:30pm

If interested in attending, you will need to register via the link– [LINK](#)

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For all Year 13 female students – if you are –

- currently studying an A level in a science, technology or maths subject (other eligible courses not applicable to CGS)
- have received an offer (conditional or unconditional) to study an eligible computer science or related engineering course at a UK university (electrical/electronic, IT, software engineering, AI, computer games and animation, business computing, computer-aided engineering, computational maths, computational physics, others in computing such as computer forensics, creative computing and applied computing)
- enrolling at a UK university and commencing study at the start of the 2024/2025 academic year
- and have been eligible for free school meals from the date you started your post-16 studies AND/OR have at least one parent or guardian in receipt of state benefits (not child benefit)

.... then you may want to apply for this bursary

Applications need to be in by May 7 2024 – every scholarship is worth up to £20,000 across 4 years of study to cover expenses related to attending university, including tuition fees, accommodation and living costs

For more information, visit – [www.amazonfutureengineer.co.uk/bursary](http://www.amazonfutureengineer.co.uk/bursary)

- There are recent changes to the Student Loans system that has taken effect from this August – see below. The reason, according to the government, is that the changes are intended to make the fees “fairer for taxpayers and for students” and that this is because debt that is not paid back by students becomes the responsibility of the nation’s taxpayers. The government also claims that this is done to make sure that graduates “will not repay more than they originally borrowed over the lifetime of their loans, when adjusted for inflation”

Martin Lewis, of Money Saving Expert, has been quoted as saying “the new system leaves many who start university straight after school still repaying it into their 60s. Many typical graduates will pay over 50% more than under the prior system and a few double”

- The income threshold for repayments has changed from £27,295 to £25,000

This means graduates will not have to start repaying their debt until they start earning £25,000 or over – if they earn below this, they will not have to start repaying the loan.

Graduates will have to repay 9% of everything earned over £25,000 – the more you earn, the more you pay back. For example, if a graduate earns £28,000, the monthly payment will be approximately £22. If they earn £31,000, the amount will be £45, if they earn £33,000, the repayment will be £60 a month and so on.

- The repayment write-off period (when the debt is written off) has extended from 30 years to 40 years

This all means that graduates are likely to start paying back their loans earlier – due to this lower income threshold – and they will be paying it back for longer – due to the cut-off time.

It also means, from a Careers Adviser perspective, that students at school need to carefully consider ALL the factors/ pros and cons to choosing the full-time university option and weigh those up against the other main option of a higher level or degree apprenticeship. Do the research into both, as both have their pros and cons, as well check out other options, if necessary, such as taking a gap year and make a FULLY INFORMED decision – one that is best for YOU.

- Are you keen on STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) subjects and want to pursue a career in one of these sectors? Then you may be keen to enter this popular competition – where you can enter a STEM-based project of your choosing.

The Big Bang UK Young Scientists & Engineers Competition is now open – it is free and open to all those aged 11-18 years in state-funded secondary education, who are home-educated or who enter as part of a community group. Competitors can only enter one project, either

on their own or as part of a team. The competition will close for entries on the 27th of March 2024 – so plenty of time to think, prepare, get busy and get your entry in!

For all you need to know, for ideas on projects and more and to enter the competition, click the link - [LINK](#)

- Brunel Medical School is now offering the MBBS Medicine degree to UK students for 2024 entry – the course is 5 years and highly technology-driven and patient-focussed – you will need to apply via UCAS, as for other UK medical schools. The A level requirement is “AAB minimum including sciences – and via UCAT”

For more information and to book a place on their virtual open day on Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2024, visit [www.brunel.ac.uk](http://www.brunel.ac.uk) as well as click the link – [LINK](#)

To watch a video, click the link - [LINK](#)

- Have you applied to Oxford or Cambridge University? Hopefully, you will be invited for interview - here is an excerpt taken from the annual “Getting into Oxford and Cambridge 2024 entry” publication which gives some useful tips about the interviews -

*Do you know the sort of questions you may be asked? First of all, don't worry about the apocryphal bizarre Oxbridge questions. Some of the strange questions you hear about will have occurred in the context of a particular discussion and may have made perfect sense at the time! Most of the questions asked will be about your A level subjects, any super-curricular activities in which you have engaged and other topics that should give you an opportunity to show your abilities. There is a list of questions below that have been asked by tutors over the past few years. It's useful to look at them to give you an idea of the type of questions that might come up, but that's all. You are much more likely to be asked a straightforward question about your subject than any of the ones on this list.*

*It's also important to read a decent newspaper and keep up to date with current affairs. You may be asked your opinion on something in the news, so it's worth brushing up your knowledge of current affairs in preparation by reading newspapers or journals, or listening to appropriate podcasts.*

*Why do you want to read your subject?*

*What is it about the course that interests you? (Do you know the structure of the course – not just the plan for the first year but for the later years too?)*

*Why bother studying the subject at university? (This is a question it is very tempting to ask medical students who talk of their love of caring and modern language students who talk of their love of being able to switch into a different language. If caring interests you, then why not choose one of the many other related and valuable professions, such as nursing? If speaking a different language every day thrills you, why not simply move overseas and get a job?)*

*What are the last three novels you have read?*

*What are the last three books on your subject that you have read?*

***What makes you more deserving of a place than the other five candidates applying for your place?***

***Remember, no tutor will be trying to make you feel small, trick you or humiliate you. A good interviewer will allow you to demonstrate your interest in your subject and your academic potential. They are most interested in your ability to think logically and express your ideas orally. If you can show how you are thinking and that you can think ‘on your feet’, that is more important than always getting the right answer. Remember that in certain subjects, there may not necessarily be a ‘right answer’ anyway. In mathematical and science subjects, how you are attempting to work out problems or how you are working out the answer while you are attempting to solve a problem could be equally important.***

- THE (Times Higher Education) has released their World and UK University 2024 subject rankings – see some examples below.

My usual disclaimer! – although many of us can find League tables interesting with many students asking me “what the best universities are” for specific subjects, it is important to state that they do NOT tell the whole story, of course – what is best for one person, is not best for another. There are a number of (more) important factors to take into account when choosing a course and institution. Course content and location being just two!

One interesting (high) placing below is the University of Essex (Law) – this is a university that also places 32<sup>nd</sup> in The Complete University Guide 2024 Table (out of 130), 30<sup>th</sup> in The Guardian’s “The best universities 2024” table and is ranked 459<sup>th</sup> in the QS 2024 World University Rankings – many students will probably not be aware of, or considered, this university, especially compared to the more familiar, well-known institutions

For more data/other tables for other subjects, click the link – [LINK](#)

#### UK

##### Law

- 1) University of Cambridge
- 2) University of Oxford
- 3) UCL
- 4) University of Edinburgh
- 5) LSE
- 6) King’s College London
- 7) University of Glasgow
- 8) University of Nottingham
- 9) University of Essex
- 10) Queen Mary University of London

##### Life Sciences (includes agriculture and forestry, biological sciences, veterinary science and sport science)

- 1) University of Cambridge
- 2) University of Oxford
- 3) Imperial College London

- 4) UCL
- 5) University of Edinburgh
- 6) King's College London
- 7) University of Manchester
- 8) University of Glasgow
- 9) University of Bristol
- 10) University of Sheffield

#### Physical Science (such as maths, physics, chemistry and others)

- 1) University of Cambridge
- 2) University of Oxford
- 3) Imperial College London
- 4) UCL
- 5) University of Edinburgh
- 6) University of Manchester
- 7) University of Bristol
- 8) University of Southampton
- 9) King's College London
- 10) University of Leeds

#### Computer Science

- 1) University of Oxford
- 2) University of Cambridge
- 3) Imperial College London
- 4) University of Edinburgh
- 5) UCL
- 6) University of Manchester
- 7) King's College London
- 8) Queen Mary University of London
- 9) = University of Bristol / University of Warwick

#### World

#### Physics, Chemistry and Maths

- 1) California Institute of Technology
- 2) Harvard University
- 3) Stanford University
- 4) Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
- 5) University of Cambridge

#### Engineering

- 1) Harvard University
- 2) Stanford University
- 3) MIT

- 4) University of Oxford
- 5) University of Cambridge

#### Medicine

- 1) University of Oxford
- 2) Harvard University
- 3) University of Cambridge
- 4) Imperial College London
- 5) Stanford University

#### Law

- 1) Harvard University
- 2) Stanford University
- 3) University of Cambridge
- 4) Columbia University / New York University

- Are you interested in studying at a university in the USA? I see quite a few students who are keen on this option – the main organisations that I recommend to get the information on the application process, universities, visas and other topics are The Fulbright Commission along with EducationUSA - visit the website - [www.fulbright.org.uk](http://www.fulbright.org.uk)

EducationUSA at the US-UK Fulbright Commission - "EducationUSA provides free, unbiased information to UK students looking to study in the United States at an accredited college or university. We provide expert advice on choosing US universities, funding US study, applying and enrolling at a US university. Our UK centre is based at the US-UK Fulbright Commission which works to advance knowledge, promote civic engagement and develop compassionate leaders through education exchange between the peoples of the US and the UK. The Commission also delivers the Sutton Trust US Programme, designed to help high-achieving, low-income UK students explore US higher education"

## Work Experience:

- For those aged 13-18 years, there are the following "Career Days" on offer – these involve 1-day online work experience opportunities covering a wide range of careers and each cost £69

The next ones for 2024 - all on a Saturday (unless otherwise stated) - all online - are -

- Medicine – 30<sup>th</sup> March
- Midwifery – 6<sup>th</sup> April
- Dentistry – 13<sup>th</sup> April
- Psychology – 20<sup>th</sup> April
- Business – 27<sup>th</sup> April
- Architect – 4<sup>th</sup> May
- Vet – 11<sup>th</sup> May



- Performing Arts – Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> May
- Law – 18<sup>th</sup> May
- Computer Science – 25<sup>th</sup> May

For more information, visit [www.careerdays.co.uk](http://www.careerdays.co.uk)

- “Observe GP”, a free, virtual and interactive medical work experience programme, set up by the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP), is still running and recommended for those who are keen on becoming a GP.

It is aimed at those aged 16 and over and consists of a series of 8 pre-recorded videos showcasing the roles of various members of staff that work in general practice – they estimate it should take between 2 and 2 and a half hours to complete but does not have to be completed in one go.

For more information, visit [www.rcgp.org.uk](http://www.rcgp.org.uk) and enter “Observe GP” via the search facility – will then see the Observe GP box with link inside

- Premed Projects is another organisation offering in-person and online work experience courses/career programmes, mainly for those aged 14-25 years and who are keen on becoming doctors, nurses, midwives and dentists

The costs can be high for some of their opportunities so you do need to weigh up the pros and cons for yourself and decide, with family/carer support, if you/they wish to pay the fees required – the courses do get booked up just to add so you may need to be quick – and some of these may no longer be available at the time of this newsletter coming out –

Some forthcoming opportunities –

- The Weekly Surgery – online - every Monday at 7:30pm – access to this and other sessions is via a subscription at £39 a month
- Human Anatomy – online – for students aged 14+ - can start the course at any time and work at your own pace with 90 days to complete it once you start - £195 for the full course

Some of their online courses –

- Virtual Medicine Work Experience Week – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December-Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023

The cost is £199 for the full week and “students of any age from all countries with an interest in medicine can attend”

- Emergency Medical Work Experience Course – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024

The cost is £79 for the full day

- Surgeon Work Experience Course - Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024

The cost is £79 for the full day

Check out the website for more information on these and other opportunities –  
[www.premedprojects.co.uk](http://www.premedprojects.co.uk)

- The Lincolnshire NHS Talent Academy also offer free work experience programmes for those at various ages and careers events across Lincolnshire within many healthcare professions – I have attended a couple of career events at Lincoln County Hospital recently which were very informative so I recommend them!

Keep up to date with the website for details of all their opportunities -  
[www.lincstalentacademy.org.uk](http://www.lincstalentacademy.org.uk)

Current examples – some/all may no longer be available at the time of this newsletter coming out -

- “Insight into Therapeutic Radiography” (1 day) – Lincoln County Hospital – for those aged 16+
  - “Children’s Services” (flexible days) – across Lincolnshire – for those aged 16+
  - “Medical Shadowing – Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Dr You” (up to 5 days) – Lincoln County Hospital – for those aged 16+
- Medic Mentor also offer various online and in-person opportunities within medicine, dentistry, other healthcare careers and veterinary medicine – examples below - these may be fully booked at the time of this newsletter coming out -
    - Medicine – online “Get Into Medicine Conference”
    - Dentistry – online “Dental Mentor”
    - Medic Mentor Summer School – 3 locations - Stirling University / University of Greenwich / University of Nottingham

The next 2024 dates (residential) are the 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> June (Stirling), 30<sup>th</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> August (Nottingham), 30<sup>th</sup> July-3<sup>rd</sup> August (Greenwich), 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> August (Greenwich), 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> August (Greenwich)

There are also 2025 dates now out!

For more information on these programmes PLUS lots more opportunities Medic Mentor offer concerning their medicine-based conferences, summer schools, mentoring opportunities, their magazine and more, visit their website on - [www.medicmentor.org](http://www.medicmentor.org)

- InvestIN are offering various career experience programmes for 2024 for those aged 12-14 years and 15-18 years – they include in-person full day courses, live online full day courses, weekend programmes and up to 2 weeks in-person, hands-on experience alongside industry experts

You will need to check the age requirements as well as the venues and costs as well as accommodation as the latter is not provided/included in some cases – as I have said already, the fees can be considered very high for some of their programmes so be careful when deciding if it would be worth the expense to you/family/carers for what is being offered

For those aged 12-14 years, examples are programmes in Computer Science / Investment Banking / Medicine / Law / Engineering

For those aged 15-18 years, examples are in Architect / Art / Computer Science / Dentistry / Engineering / Entrepreneurship / Filmmaking / Fashion / Forensic Science / International Politics / Investment Banking / Law / Medicine / Psychology / Vet

Visit [www.investin.org](http://www.investin.org) for more information on all their opportunities, fees and more

- Springpod are another organisation offering a variety of work experience opportunities – all free and certificated too! They cover opportunities such as within Business, Finance & Admin / Science, Technology & Engineering / Healthcare & Medicine

For more information, visit [www.springpod.com](http://www.springpod.com)

## Apprenticeships

- New! – students aiming for an apprenticeship can find out their options alongside degree courses on the UCAS search tool in the Hub – this is due to the latest data that shows 40% of all UCAS undergraduate applicants are also interested in apprenticeships - about 430,000 with views of apprenticeship roles increasing by 85% over this year's results period – to register for the Hub, visit [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)
- Do you know what apprenticeships actually are and what is involved? Amazing Apprenticeships have produced an 8-minute video covering what you need to know if considering this option now or, possibly, in the future – click the link – [LINK](#)
- The October 2023 edition of the HIGHER & DEGREE VACANCY LISTING has now launched – explore 250+ higher and degree apprenticeship vacancies from 50+ employers including Amazon, Morrisons, Rolls Royce and British Airways – download from the link – [LINK](#)
- CATCH Stallingborough are one of the main training providers for engineering in our region – they offer Level 3 apprenticeships in Plate Welder / Pipe Welder / Science Manufacturing Technician / Maintenance and Operations Engineering Technician / Engineering Construction Pipefitter / Metal Fabricator (Plater)

You will require a minimum of grades 4-9 or A-C in GCSE English, Maths and Science – applications need to be made online and there will be aptitude/selection assessments and interview to follow.

Their next open evenings are to be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January and the 8<sup>th</sup> of February – to register, email [apprenticeships@catchuk.org](mailto:apprenticeships@catchuk.org) or if any questions, you can ring on 01469-552835

Their website is [www.catchuk.org](http://www.catchuk.org)

- HETA are another training provider in our area (cover Hull, Grimsby and Scunthorpe) offering a variety of apprenticeships within engineering and they are recruiting now for

2024/25 – they offer Electrical / Mechanical / Electrical Installations / Fabrication & Welding / Machining / Multiskilled / Process Operations

You will need GCSEs in English, Maths and any Science at grade 5 or above as well as a grade 5 or above in at least one other subject

Their next open evenings in Grimsby are – Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> January / Thursday the 22<sup>nd</sup> February / Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> March – each date will host 2 sessions starting at 5pm and 6pm

For date for the events at Hull and Scunthorpe, as well as to get more information on the apprenticeships, the Taster Days, to apply online and more, visit [www.heta.co.uk](http://www.heta.co.uk)

- CBRE, who are, apparently, the world's largest commercial real estate services and investment company with 115,000 employees across 100+ countries (with offices in Birmingham, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Oxford and more) are now advertising their many various opportunities such as their 4-year apprenticeships in Accountancy, Engineering, Environmental, Social & Governance, Marketing, Human Resources and Real Estate

For more details on these and other opportunities, how to apply and so on, click the link - [LINK](#)

- Accenture, an award-winning fortune 500 company (a global professional services firm that specialises in strategy, consulting, digital, technology and operations) are currently advertising degree apprenticeships -
  - Consulting Degree Apprenticeship (London)
  - Technology Apprenticeship (London)
  - Technology Apprenticeship (Birmingham)
  - Other locations include Newcastle and Manchester

Applications will close February 2024 – visit [www.accenture.com](http://www.accenture.com) and click the link for more information on their Apprenticeships and to apply - [LINK](#)

- BAE Systems are now advertising their Apprenticeships – at Intermediate /Advanced / Higher Level / Degree levels in various job areas – the closing date is late February 2024 and early applications are advised - for more information, visit [www.baesystems.com](http://www.baesystems.com), click “Careers”, then “UK”, then “Early Careers” and you will find the “Apprenticeships” section! The link I had was very long so this is the easiest way to explain how to find them!
- If you are keen on a career in accounting, business management or technology, PwC offer many opportunities such as those for school and college leavers wanting to work and study for a degree at the same time.

For more information on the company (voted the UK's number 1 graduate employer in The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers Survey 2023) and for details on their Flying Start programme, click the link for their Talent Community section – [LINK](#)

- [www.pwc.co.uk](http://www.pwc.co.uk) – also see “Careers”, then “Early Careers” links in main menu

- Deloitte are advertising their School Leaver Programmes that offer a variety of opportunities, within audit & assurance/technology/tax consultancy –
  - Career Shapers – for students in Year 10-12 – short work experience placements
  - Entry Level Apprenticeship
  - Brightstart Apprenticeship – degree level apprenticeships

Click the link – [LINK](#)

- The British Army achieved 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 2023 Top Apprenticeship Employer Table – to watch a film that shows Junior Soldiers at the Army Foundation College (AFC) in Harrogate talk about their experiences, click the link below. The AFC supports 16 and 17-year-olds in learning military skills, fitness and education so they are ready to join an apprenticeship and successful career within the Army – see the Careers section below for more information on the College - [LINK](#)
- For details of opportunities / apprenticeships with BP such as in accountancy, engineering, energy and utilities, IT and the internet, Science & Research and other “career zones” click the link – [LINK](#)
- IBM are advertising their apprenticeships from Level 3-6 including Degree Apprenticeships – this is a multinational company that provides information technology products and services including the selling of system hardware and software as well as infrastructure, hosting and consulting services.

Their opportunities include the Digital & Technology Solutions Degree Apprenticeship (via the University of Exeter and Manchester Metropolitan University)

For more information on IBM as a company and their career opportunities, visit <https://www.ibm.com> and to register your interest, you can click this separate link - [LINK](#)



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If you are keen on working in technology, then this opportunity with a multinational investment bank and financial services company may appeal to you – taken from Morgan Stanley’s advert -

*The Morgan Stanley Digital and Technology Solutions Degree Apprenticeship enables students to benefit from theory-based learning at university whilst working alongside industry experts within the Morgan Stanley Technology division.*

*Delivered in partnership with Queen Mary University of London, students are supported to achieve their degree whilst developing valuable practical skills within the financial services industry.*

**Programme Start Date:** September 2024

**Application Deadline:** 19 February 2024

To apply, applicants will need a minimum of a B grade in GCSE Maths, minimum of A Level grades AAB or ABB including either Computer Science or Maths. You will also need a passion for technology, a keenness to forge a career in technology, particularly within the financial sector, a basic understanding of the types of work undertaken within a technology division, effective communication skills, both written and verbal and good attention to detail

Click the link to apply - [LINK](#)

- Another reminder of the main apprenticeships websites where you can find out more about opportunities at all levels and search for live vacancies across the UK – as well as register for email/vacancy alerts

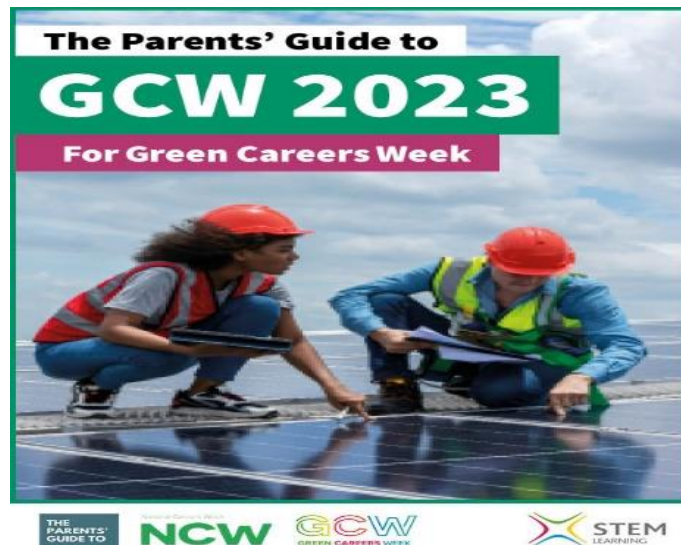
These advertise apprenticeships all year round – but don't forget other sources of opportunities too – employer websites, personal contacts (friends/ family/ employers from part-time job, volunteering, work experience), online local/regional/national media, social media, local/regional/ national events/careers fairs...

- [www.topapprenticeshipemployers.co.uk](http://www.topapprenticeshipemployers.co.uk)
- [www.apprenticeships.gov.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk)
- [www.amazingapprenticeships.com](http://www.amazingapprenticeships.com)
- [www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk](http://www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk)
- [www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk](http://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk)
- [www.notgoingtouni.co.uk](http://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk)

## Careers:

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- I am seeing an increasing number of students interested in a “green” career and those within sustainability – Green Careers Week was last month but for all those keen to find out more about this sector, click the link below to download a careers guide – it says it is for parents but all ages can read it!



[LINK](http://www.greencareersweek.com) For more information, visit [www.greencareersweek.com](http://www.greencareersweek.com)

- Careers with the British Army – the AFC is mentioned above – for general information, the course is split into 4 sections: Military Training (59%), Education (25%), Resilience & Leadership Training (11%) and Physical Training (5%) – the College has two intakes a year – September and March and there are over 76 roles to choose from – such as Combat/Engineering/Intelligence, IT & Communication and others.

To find the best role for YOU, click the link for a questionnaire - [LINK](#)

- Are you interested in a career in law? Click the link for some useful information on career opportunities – [LINK](#)
- More for those keen on a legal career – these are considered the best podcasts, by [www.lawcareers.net](http://www.lawcareers.net) for those wanting to enter the law sector –
  - Law Pod UK
  - Nothing But The Truth with Elizabeth Bowden
  - The Linklaters Podcast
  - The Intelligence, The Economist
  - BBC Radio 4 Best of Today
  - The Judges: Power, Politics and the People
  - Talking Law
  - Legally Speaking Podcast
  - UK Law Weekly
  - Get legally speaking with Hatti Suvari
  - The Legal Room UK
  - Commercial Awareness with Watson's Daily business and financial news
  - FT News Briefing
  - The Irwin Mitchell Podcast
  - The LawCareers.Net Podcast

- Are you interested in a career in agriculture & the environment? Then click the link for an interesting overview of these sectors – [LINK](#)
- Are you interested in a healthcare career? Then you may find this article useful – click the link -  
  - <https://mol.im/a/12295199>
- Do you know what an Atmospheric Chemist does? Click the link for the answer! – [LINK](#)
- Industry spotlight – if you are interested in working within the energy & utilities sector, you will find this link to an article on opportunities within this increasingly important sector very useful -[LINK](#)
- Similar to above, if you are interested in a career in energy and the environment, the London School of Economics (LSE) has produced an interesting article – click the link – [LINK](#)
- For all those interested in medicine, you may find the following articles interesting – from The Medic Portal - highlights the link between Philosophy / Ethics and medicine – useful as part of your research as well as for potential university interviews - [LINK1](#) [LINK2](#)
- Medicine interviews continued – useful article – click the link – [LINK](#)
- NHS Hot Topics – click the link for the latest ones, via The Medic Portal website, which includes State of the NHS / Abortion / Ageing Population / AI in Medicine / Antibiotic Usage / Brexit and the NHS / Junior Doctor Strikes and others – essential knowledge for prospective medicine interviews as well as to help you choose whether medicine is the career for you...or not! - [LINK](#)
- Science Hot Topics – from the same website as above, check out these too – Superbugs / Antimicrobial Resistance / Zoonoses / Preserving Lifesaving Livers / Making a Difference with Chemistry - [LINK](#)
- News concerning the UCAS application process for those of you wanting to apply for medicine/dentistry/ veterinary medicine -

The current closing date for degrees in medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine AND for any course at Oxford and Cambridge Universities (2024 entry) has been the 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2023 – this has been the 15<sup>th</sup> of October in previous years - the other main deadline for all



other courses/universities is the 31<sup>st</sup> of January (used to be the 15<sup>th</sup> of January) – for 2025 entry, the closing dates are not out yet – keep up to date on [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

Again, for medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine, Cambridge Assessment Admissions Testing will no longer be offering the BMAT admissions test from 2024

6 universities (Imperial, Oxford, Cambridge, Lancaster, Brighton & Sussex and UCL) are still using the BMAT as usual at the current time but Leeds, another BMAT university, has already switched to the UCAT for 2024 entry

Imperial and UCL have also confirmed they will definitely switch to the UCAT for 2025 entry. Lancaster and Brighton & Sussex are “likely switching to the UCAT”

As for Oxbridge, there is no information as of yet. They may introduce their own tests as they already run in-house admissions tests for some subjects, or they could stick with the UCAT like other universities

- Linked to the above, the UCAS Personal Statement as have known it for a number of years will be no more – the new format has now been confirmed to be introduced from 2025 (for 2026 entry) – for those applying to university for 2024 or 2025 entry, they will still need to write the traditional personal statement format for their application – this means the new process will be coming in after January 2025 (or October 2024 if applying to Oxbridge)

It will be replaced by a 3-question structure – covering Motivation for course / Preparedness for course / Preparation through other experiences and to include an Extenuating Circumstances section, if appropriate

- For all students interested in a medicine career – The Medic Portal, again, has recently published some application data from UCAS –

“The last 3 years saw a record number of people applying to study medicine with 26,820 applicants for 2023 entry. 29,710 applicants for 2022 entry and 28,690 for 2021 entry. The downward trend from last year as continued for 2024 entry, there were 24,150 applicants...the number of people reapplying for medical school this year is 3,580. That’s a big step down from last year’s 5,010 applicants...during the pandemic, the Student Office’s cap on medicine places was lifted, so there were around 10,500 places available to study medicine across the UK...the cap was reimposed last year so now there are around 7,100 medicine places available for home applicants and 500 for international students...for future medicine applicants, there is no suggestion that the cap will be raised again in the coming months by the current government...with the number of applications still high despite the downward trend, plus the cap on the number of places, competition for 2024 entry medicine is going to be fierce...you should be doing everything you can to prepare for medical school interviews...try lots of practice questions, and make sure you understand “NHS Hot Topics” and medical ethics”

- Are you keen on a career in, or studying Biology at university? Then click the link - [LINK](#)



Would you like to work for the Security / Intelligence Services? With the SIS, MI5? There are many varied career opportunities such as software engineering apprenticeships (London or Greater Manchester) as well as other career options – click the links –

- <https://www.mi5.gov.uk/careers/diversity>
- <https://www.sis.gov.uk/explore-careers.html>
- <https://www.mi5.gov.uk/careers/applying-for-jobs>
- <https://www.sis.gov.uk/eligibility.html>

- Would you like a career that is linked to Geography? Then click the link for an interactive infographic on some of the various opportunities within this diverse subject – [LINK](#)
- Are you interested in a career in construction? Many students think of engineering/IT/business/medicine when it comes to their interest in STEM subjects but there are many opportunities within this sector too – at all levels – from the trades such as bricklaying, plumbing and electrical installation to professional occupations such as Quantity Surveyor, Town and Urban Planner and Sustainability specialist – visit the website for Go Construct and find out what opportunities are out there by using their Career Explorer questionnaire – [www.goconstruct.org](http://www.goconstruct.org)
- If you are keen to find out what opportunities that graduates have after university, then click the link to download a 68-page document called “What do Graduates Do? 2023/24” – [LINK](#)
- Careermag – for parents, carers and guardians (though students can read them too!) - for the latest issues, click the link – you can subscribe to these – free too! - [LINK](#)
- I am getting more enquiries about postgraduate qualifications and research careers – click the link for an interesting article on PhDs and other similar qualifications – [LINK](#)
- I am aware that these newsletters can seem, to some, slightly heavy on the medicine/healthcare sectors but there is a lot of information out there on these popular careers / sectors that I am sent that students need to know about – especially as medicine/dentistry are very competitive – the more advice you can get on these sectors, the more opportunities there are and so on, the better!

To balance this, I list careers information-based websites in Year 11-13 Career Plans I produce for all students I see on a one-to-one basis as well as include them in handouts given at all Year 7,8,9,10 and 12 careers group sessions/ presentations that I deliver – these websites below cover every occupation / career / job sector there is!!

- [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)

- [www.careerpilot.org.uk](http://www.careerpilot.org.uk)
- [nationalcareers.service.gov.uk](http://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk)

Don't forget to visit the Careers page on the school website for much more information on a WIDE range of topics – for previous editions of Careers Matters, boxes containing report of webinars I have attended on topics such as higher education, degree apprenticeships, UCAS, the Russell Group, employability, reports on specific careers plus other boxes containing useful words for CVs and recommended websites

**AND FINALLY.....**

**A VERY MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
and Happy New Year !**

**AMANDA WATSON**

**CAREERS ADVISER**

**DECEMBER 2023**