



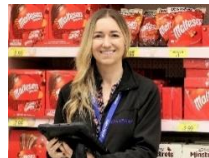
In the newsletter this month



Top 6 Hiring and Recruitment trends for 2025 – Hays recruitment



University of Oxford UNIQ programme – application deadline Thursday 23rd January 2025



Apprenticeships at MARS – Apply now



Skern Training & Skills (STS) Agriculture Open Evenings – Devon and Cornwall, Jan 2025

News updates

UCAS Report 10th December – more people could benefit from Level 4 and 5 qualifications



UCAS' report, 'Where Next? Who applies for Level 4 and 5 qualifications?', published in partnership with Gatsby Charitable Foundation discusses the experiences of Levels 4 and 5 applicants and shows that Level 4 and 5 qualifications provide a critical pathway in places where progression to higher education is relatively low. For more on the report's findings, read the full report [here](#)

University Applications USA news – January 2025 article from Times of India



This article highlights the competitive nature of application to the top 10 US colleges (included in this list are both Ivy league and non-Ivy League colleges and offers some tips for making your application stand out: [Top 10 US Colleges with the Lowest Acceptance Rates in 2024: How Many Ivy League Universities Make the List? - Times of India](#)

Top 6 Hiring and Recruitment trends for 2025 – Hays recruitment



An informative quick-10 minute read article on the hiring and recruiting trends for those 18 year olds, graduates and career changers entering the job market in 2025, covering aspects such as core skills, going beyond hybrid, learning and upskilling, Diversity, Equality and Inclusion and managing a multi-dimensional workforce: [Top 6 Hiring and Recruitment Trends for 2025 | Hays](#)

Imapcteurs blog: Top Job Market Trends and Predictions 2025



Interesting blog piece covering aspects such as Remote and Hybrid working, Tech and Digital skills, Soft skills, the Gig economy, Green jobs and Sustainability, Health and Wellness, Automation and Diversity, Equality and Inclusion. Read the full article [here](#)

Upcoming Events

NHS Career Challenge Next Step – Years 12 and 13



Open to students in Years 12 & 13, you can register to get a digital recording and complete the challenge. An opportunity to gain virtual work experience, this event will help students find out how the NHS uses data to improve patient outcomes. To register, see: [NHS Live Online Next Step Career Challenge](#)

Christ's-Trinity Women in Maths Residential March 2025 – closing date 28th Jan 2025



Open to young women interested in studying Maths and related courses at a top university. You'll attend lectures and classes taught by Cambridge academics, meet current students and admissions staff, have the chance to explore Christ's and Trinity Colleges and take part in social and other maths-related activities alongside academic sessions. For eligibility, dates and to apply, see: [Christ's-Trinity Women in Maths Residential March 2025 | Undergraduate Study](#)

Humanities Writing Competition – deadline Thurs 20th March 2025, 5:00pm



An opportunity for students to research and write beyond the curriculum, using one or more of five selected objects from the [Lawrence Room museum](#) objects, as their focus. Essays, dramatic monologues, short stories or poems equally welcome. Open to UK students in Year 12 with an interest in the Humanities. For more information and to enter, see: [Humanities Writing Competition | Cambridge](#)

Skern Training & Skills (STS) Agriculture Open Evenings – Devon and Cornwall, Jan 2025



Skern Training & Skills (STS) are running 6 Open events in the Devon and Cornwall areas starting at Devon YFC Centre on 20th January. These promise to be popular and well attended events for those with an interest in Agriculture and Farming life. You can find out more at: enquiries@skernttrainingandskills.co.uk and 01237 809 469

How to search and apply for Apprenticeships webinar – 23rd January 2025 3:30-4:00pm



[How to search and apply for apprenticeships - Amazing Apprenticeships](#) A webinar for teachers, parents/carers and students providing a step-by-step guide to the different vacancy platforms for apprenticeships, including Find an Apprenticeship, and tips for supporting your students/child during the application process.

UCAS Adviser lunchtime session - apprenticeship applications with BAE Systems



On 21 Jan 12:30pm, UCAS Adviser will be discussing the best approach to supporting apprenticeship applications with a current apprentice and early careers recruiter from BAE Systems, taking your questions and sharing the latest resources for National Apprenticeship Week. Book your place [here](#)

Accenture Elevate your Applications virtual event 5th February 2025, 6-7pm



Technology is at the core of change today, and Accenture is one of the world's leaders in helping drive that change, with strong ecosystem relationships. Join them on 5th February for this session on what to expect, as well as how to prepare for the task and strengths-based interviews for the nationwide Technology and London-based Consulting degree apprenticeships. Register [here](#)

Smallpeice Trust Engineering Experience (virtual) – 18th-21st February 2025



Explore the world of engineering with this three-day virtual course. Discover the intricacies of Cyber Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Space. Applications are now open for students aged 12-14, book your place [here](#)

Smallpiece Trust “Engineering our Environment” – 15th-17th July 2025, University of Leeds



Applications are now open for the “Engineering our Environment” in-person experience at the University of Leeds. Aimed at students in year 12 or the equivalent, the event allows the opportunity to tackle real-world challenges and discover how engineering can create solutions for a sustainable future. Financial support is available if cost is a barrier. Book your place now at: [Engineering Our Environment](#)

Recommended Websites & Resources

UCAS Adviser news: Nurturing Wellbeing in Careers – top tips from a RCDP



While January often brings renewal and hope, it can also usher in the January blues, for students navigating uncertainty and careers professionals working to support them. Caroline Green (RCDP) shares five top tips to help you and your students protect wellbeing, ensuring career planning remains a positive and empowering experience. Read the tips [here](#)

FutureSmart Careers Blog: Space Careers - One small step for you, One giant leap into your Future



Coming soon: Watch this ‘space’ for this month’s FutureSmart Careers blog on the topic of “Space Sector Careers” from the National Space Academy, including how to explore careers, build experience, access online resources and reflect on your skills. Our blog should support your students with finding out more about careers in space. Read the blog on our website soon: [FutureSmart Careers](#)

What happens once UCAS gets an application – advice for parents & carers

The UCAS application process



This useful UCAS guide explains the process once UCAS receives an application: [What happens once UCAS gets an application?](#) Covering aspects such as types of decisions, replying to offers and types of reply, as well as reply deadline dates, it's a helpful catch-all for parents and carers supporting young people with their UCAS application.

UCAS Cost of Living guide for parents & carers

How much will it cost?

UCAS application fee is £24

Your two main expenses will be:

1. Tuition fees (Up to £9250 per year)
2. Living costs (food, accommodation, going out)

How much you pay will depend on which university you attend and what course you choose to study.

This guide sets out the costs associated with university from application cost, tuition fees, living costs, extra support and the repayment system, it helps parents & carers to clearly see the costs and support their young people with the financial implications of university study. You can read the full guide at: [How to pay for uni | Undergraduate | UCAS](#)

Gap year inspiration from GoOverseas – 10 places to volunteer abroad 2025



In need of some Gap Year inspiration? The team at GoOverseas have used their knowledge of location history, cost of living and programmes offered as well as vetting procedures to source recommendations for their Top 10 places to volunteer abroad in 2025. Read the full article to help you with firming up your Gap year plans at: [The 10 Best Places to Volunteer Abroad in 2025 | Go Overseas](#)

Apprenticeship Opportunities

British Army Apprenticeships resources – Amazing Apprenticeships



There are some brilliant British Army Apprenticeships resources available on the Amazing Apprenticeships site for those young people interested in a Career in the Armed Forces. From booklets, posters and a parent/carer guide to quizzes and videos, there is really something for everyone. To access, see: [Apprenticeships with The British Army - Amazing Apprenticeships](#)

Government Social Research degree apprenticeship – applications open



Applications to the Civil Service's 2025 Government Social Research degree apprenticeships are now open, deadline on Thursday 30th Jan [Government Social Research - Amazing Apprenticeships](#). Working on how government can tackle climate change, improve education, prevent crime and reduce homelessness this opportunity will appeal to humanities and social science students. [Government Social Research Degree Apprenticeship Programme 2025 - Civil Service Jobs](#). Join the virtual Q & A 15th January 4:30-5:30pm [here](#)

Level 2 and Level 3 Apprenticeships with Specsavers – Recruiting now



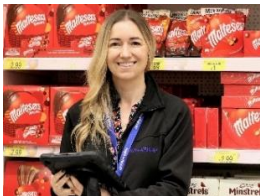
Specsavers are recruiting for Level 2 Customer Service apprentices and Level 3 Optical Assistants and Spectacle Technicians. An apprenticeship with Specsavers is a stepping stone into a career in Optics or Hearcare. Over 90% of our apprentices stay with Specsavers on completion of the apprenticeship. For more information about the roles and to apply, see: [Join Specsavers](#)

EDF Apprenticeships open for applications – deadline 31st January 2025



With a range of opportunities available including: Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Quantity Surveying, Nuclear Engineering, Business, Human Resources and Cyber-Security, students can apply their skillset to EDFs 2025 Apprenticeships. The process is online application and strengths test, telephone interview and assessment centre. Students can find out more and apply at: [Apprenticeship schemes in the UK energy industry | EDF](#)

Apprenticeships at MARS – Apply now



A MARS apprenticeship a day helps you work, rest and play. Apply now for Operations and Engineering apprenticeships and join the talent community for Digital or Field Sales (Remote) roles. With a Guide to applying, FAQs and MARS part of the We back the Future campaign on Fair Apprenticeship wages, this is a useful start point to the application process: [Careers at MARS: Apprenticeships](#)

Deloitte Virtual Insight Evening - 4th February 2025, 6-7pm



Calling all Year 13s Join us for an exclusive insight evening on Tuesday 4th February, where you will gain knowledge of all the apprenticeship opportunities at Deloitte. Get an insider's view on life as an apprentice and what to expect when you apply. Deloitte is a leading global provider of audit and assurance, consulting, financial advisory, risk advisory, tax, and related services. Sign-up for the event [here](#)

KPMG Virtual Taster day - 18th February 2025



Find out about the apprenticeship opportunities for year 12 & 13s in Audit, Tax and Business Services at KPMG and get top tips on how to apply by signing up for the KPMG Virtual Taster day 18th February 2025 [KPMG Virtual Taster Day](#). For more information and to register for the event, visit [Pathway CTM events](#)

For Careers Leaders/Heads of Careers Department

University of Oxford UNIQ programme – application deadline Thursday 23rd January 2025



The programme helps UK state school students with good GCSE grades or equivalent make a more successful application to Oxford: [UNIQ - University of Oxford](#). UNIQ supports young people from underrepresented backgrounds at Oxford to explore their subjects and learn about applying and life at Oxford. To find out more, you may want to [watch our video](#) featuring Samuel. Applying is free and simple – register on the [UNIQ website](#). Before they apply, they should check they meet our [eligibility requirements](#).

National Apprenticeship Week 10th-16th February 2025 - Resources Available Now!



REMINDER: access your National Apprenticeships Week [NAW] materials, posters and guide from the team at Amazing Apprenticeships. You can find out more and download the materials at: [NAW2025 Resources - Amazing Apprenticeships](#)

Bath College's Apprenticeship & Careers Fair - Thurs 13th March 2025



Bath College invite you and your students to their Apprenticeship and Careers Fair at the Apex City of Bath Hotel on Thursday 13th March 2025. Useful for those based in and around the Bath area, the event is an opportunity for Students to practice communication skills and Careers Leads and Teachers to network with employability partners. To find out more, contact: schools@bathcollege.ac.uk

FutureSmart Essentials for schools

FutureSmart Careers offers a range of well-loved packages for schools but can also tailor a plan to fit schools' needs exactly.

FutureSmart Essentials is our essential package for schools and includes

- Suite of downloadable resources
- 9-5 careers advice helpline
- Monthly newsletters with news, events and opportunities

**FUTURESMART
ESSENTIALS.**

RESOURCES
HELPLINE
NEWSLETTER



Many schools upgrade to **FutureSmart Pro** which includes all of the benefits of Essentials plus additional in-school support from our team of qualified advisers for workshops, personal guidance sessions, talks and other activities tailored to the schools' exact requirements.

To find out about FutureSmart Essentials and how else we can support schools, please don't hesitate to contact us on **0330 311 9509**

ASK Programme for Devon and Oxfordshire



If you are school or college in Devon or Oxfordshire, please free to contact us for assemblies, application workshops, webinars and resources.



For Devon schools contact us at askdevon@futuresmartcareers.co.uk
For Oxfordshire schools contact us at askoxfordshire@futuresmartcareers.co.uk

Contact us



For all other enquiries, please contact our team at enquiries@futuresmartcareers.co.uk or give us a call on Tel: 0330 311 9509

We'd love to hear from you!

No responsibility can be taken for the content of external websites mentioned in this newsletter

Registered FutureSmart Careers Limited Reg. No 11968993 (Registered in England & Wales). Registered office 14 Apex Court, Woodlands, Bristol, BS32 4JT