

University Update

By the UCAS deadline of 29th January we had sent off over 200 applications and university offers continue to flow in. Popular courses this year include: Politics, Economics, Business Management, Maths, Law and Computer Science

Oxford and Cambridge applicants have had their interviews, both virtual and face to face, offers to study at Oxford have been received, Cambridge release their offers shortly.

Starting your university research

For students who are starting to research universities and courses there are a range of subject masterclasses being offered by universities such as

Cambridge <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/events/masterclasses>

Sheffield <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/undergraduate/visit/subject-tasters>

UEA <https://www.uea.ac.uk/study/information-for/young-people/subject-taster-sessions>

The UCAS website also offers subject spotlights in partnership with Springpod. These are available in a huge variety of subjects and can be found here: <https://www.ucas.com/applying/you-apply/what-and-where-study/subject-tasters>

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SUBJECT TASTERS

Explore this section ▾

Try university degrees before you apply. Subject Spotlights from Springpod give you a taste of what it's like to study real subjects delivered by university lecturers and developed in partnership with the universities

NATIONAL
APPRENTICESHIP
WEEK 2025

Amazing
Apprenticeships

WE'RE SUPPORTING

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

10-16 FEBRUARY 2025

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT APPRENTICESHIPS BY VISITING
AMAZING APPRENTICESHIPS' PARENT & CARER ZONE



Please find below a number of websites, opportunities and resources which highlight the range of apprenticeships that are available. The new Higher and Degree Apprenticeship list is also available here:

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

<https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/zones/parent/>

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

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

You may be interested in joining the Unifrog Apprenticeship fair on Wednesday 12th February.



To sign up scan here or visit:

<https://unifrog.ivent-pro.com/events/apprenticeshipfair/login>



The poster features the Unifrog logo at the top left. The main title 'APPRENTICESHIP FAIR' is in large, bold, blue letters. Below it, the date and time 'Wednesday 12th February, 4-6:30pm' are written in a smaller blue font. The central illustration shows a blue frog character on the right holding a tablet on the left. The tablet displays two smaller blue frog characters in a meeting. To the right of the frog are several social media icons: a blue speech bubble, a pink heart, a blue thumbs-up, and a blue speech bubble with a white heart. The background is a light green gradient. At the bottom, the text 'Get involved in National Apprenticeship Week! Join our virtual fair to find out more and meet 40 employers with apprenticeships for you!' is written in blue. Below this, it says 'With experts from:' followed by logos for NHS, BBC, TESCO, COOPER PARTNERSHIP, and EY, with 'plus many more!' to the right.

SHSB APPRENTICES

Every year we have more students who leave us to go on to complete apprenticeships. The application process isn't easy, and takes time and commitment. We are very proud of our students who have gone on to work for companies such as EY, PwC, JP Morgans, Christies, Ford, BAE Systems and IBM.

2 students who left last year share their stories below

SAM C-UNDERWRITING APPRENTICE

My role - I am an underwriting apprentice at the largest single syndicate in the Lloyd's of London Insurance Market. I rotate every 4 months to a different class of business that Canopus write.

The role requires key skills such as, attention to details, high levels of proactiveness and a willingness to learn, as well as achieving around 3 B's at A level (subject to how the firm perceive you as an asset to them, as this may be lowered).

Qualification - At the end of the apprenticeship I will have achieved the full cert CII (certificate recognised by the Chartered Insurance Institute) which consists of passing 3 insurance exams to then be able to receive this qualification.

Thoughts:

My initial thoughts after 5 months of employment would be: It is certainly a challenge, taking on such a different world to what the social norm is at our age is certainly a shock to the system, but a chance to embrace it and develop new skills.

Lots of learning and listening, an amazing opportunity to learn off some really experienced colleagues, take advantage of their knowledge and use it to your benefit to develop your understanding.

For me, it was definitely the right choice over University. I was going to go University, gain large debts and get a degree that I did not need for a job I can get without a degree, as some industries still value experience and talent over a label that you have a degree.

Finally, the money. It's true that you earn while you learn! It is not all about the money but it is certainly a benefit and something that university does not offer and for some people this can motivate them to produce better work and it something to consider when choosing between university and an apprenticeship.

JUSTIN P-SOLICITOR APPRENTICE

My role - I am a solicitor apprentice within the Court of Protection team at Fieldfisher LLP. We operate primarily as a European law firm, where we have 25 offices globally. I sit within the London based team, Court of Protection, which is part of the larger department Personal Injury and Medical Negligence. In the legal 500 last year the team ranked in Tier 3 (however we are hoping to be recognised higher this time next year).

Qualification - I study towards a Law degree 1 day a week at the University of Law and currently work 4 days a week. The degree is condensed down so that we can achieve this within the next 4 years. After this we begin preparations for the SQE 1 and SQE 2 exams to take in our 5th/6th year alongside completing our training contract.

Thoughts: For those who wish to work hard and embrace the apprenticeship to gain from everything they have to offer I think they are an incredible route into qualification. Working alongside professionals in their field of work is something that you just can't get at university while also avoiding the debt. The apprenticeship at times will be tough and you will have to work hard but that is the same with whatever you do.