

"You don't have
to go far to go
further"

What's next?

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What are your options after sixth form?

- Get a job
- Take a gap year
- Find a higher apprenticeship
- Go away to university
- Go to university, but stay local

These are all part of **Higher Education or HE**.

Understanding levels:
Level 2 = GCSE
Level 3 = A levels
Level 4 and above = HE

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Better education = better job

Gaining a Level 3 qualification generates economic benefits of £78,000* over your lifetime so you've already given yourself a good start.

Studying at Level 4 and above improves your career prospects further.

National employment rates*	
Those with L4 qualifications:	Those with no qualifications:
87%	43%

*Data taken from the Government White paper on Post-16 skills, October 2025

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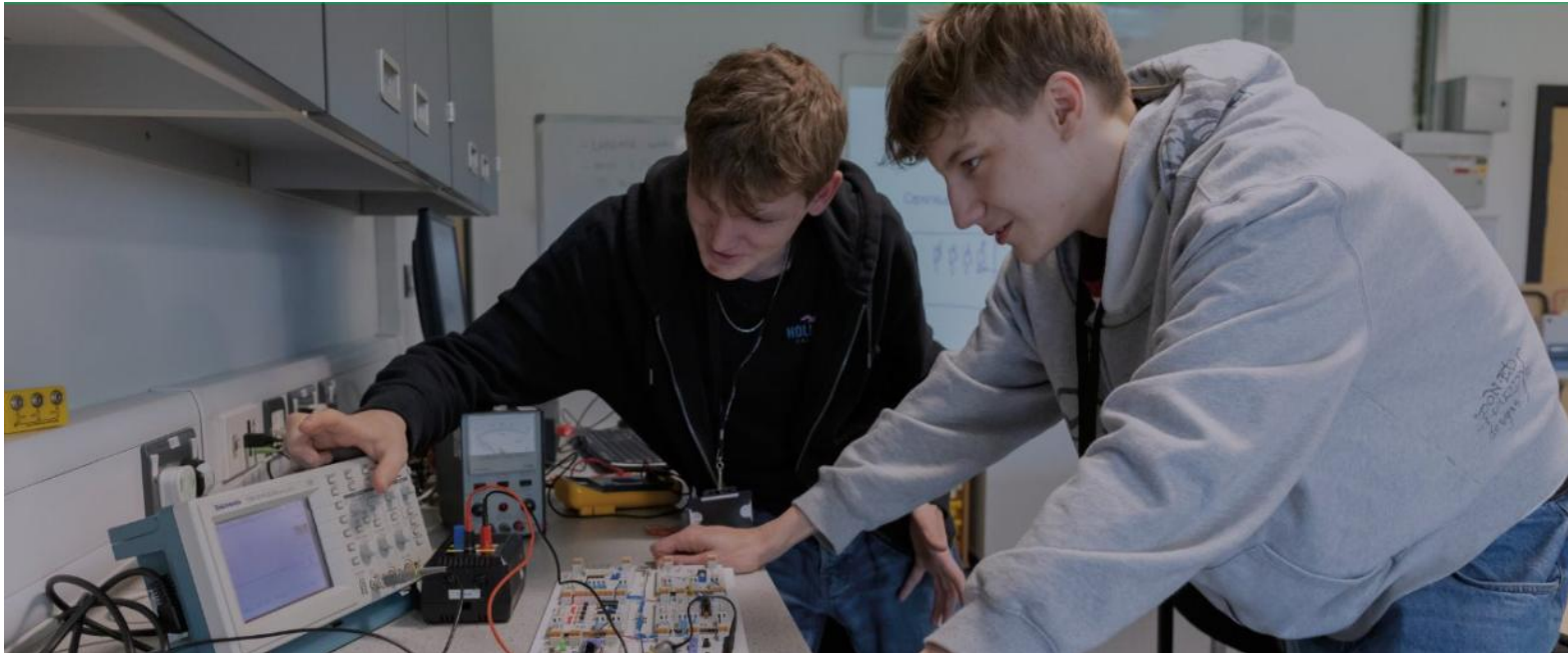
Looking for an apprenticeship?

Do your research

Employers can't just set up an apprenticeship themselves. There has to be an apprenticeship framework to follow, a bit like a syllabus.

Not all industries have apprenticeship frameworks. Find out whether there is an apprenticeship for the sort of career you want. Your teachers may be able to guide you.

As you research, remember to try different key words and job titles. For example, there is a difference between the Community Sport & Health Officer apprenticeship, and a Sporting Excellence Professional apprenticeship.

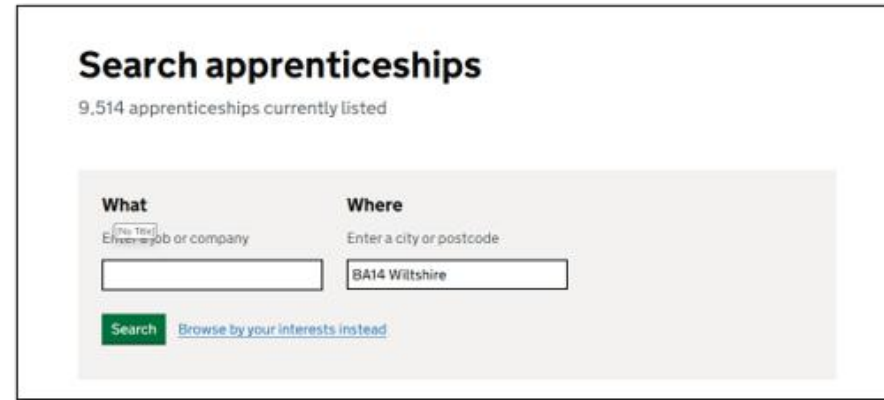


Applying for an apprenticeship

Apprenticeships are advertised in the same way as jobs. You will need to keep an eye on job websites. There is also a [national database](#).

It's a good idea to set a reminder to check for vacancies every few weeks. Don't leave it until the summer holidays. Although some employers time their recruitment with the end of school or college courses, there is no particular time of year when a placement will come up.

You will need to submit a separate application for each apprenticeship.



The screenshot shows a search interface for apprenticeships. At the top, it says 'Search apprenticeships' and '9,514 apprenticeships currently listed'. Below this are two columns: 'What' and 'Where'. The 'What' column has a dropdown menu with 'All jobs' selected and 'Filter by job or company' below it. The 'Where' column has a text input field with 'BA14 Wiltshire' entered and 'Enter a city or postcode' above it. At the bottom left is a green 'Search' button, and at the bottom right is a blue link that says 'Browse by your interests instead'.

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Applying for university: It's not too early to start looking.

University applications in the UK are handled by an organisation called UCAS. You can apply for up to five courses at the same time: you only need to write one application.

To go to university in Sept 2027, the deadline is in January 2027. Your school will want your application ready much earlier than that so that references can be added etc.

The UCAS website has some useful ways to search for a course: you can put in filters like how far away from home you want to be, for example.

Most people start off with a long list and then gradually reduce to five.

It's a really good idea to go and see the places you are applying to. You can pick up on the vibe of the location or chat to the lecturers. University open days tend to happen in the summer and autumn terms.

How are you going to
decide which course
or which university to
apply for?

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- Favourite subject
- Links to a future career
- Course has a good reputation
- Course has no exams / no presentations / lots of practical
- University has a good reputation
- There are jobs in my specialism nearby
- Social life looks great
- It's in a city/town I like
- My brother/sister/mum/dad went there
- My friend's going there
- I want to be by the sea
- It's where my football team is based

You don't have to go far to go further.

40% of university students in the UK now live at home while studying.

HE is changing. It's no longer the case that you have to move away to study for a degree.

There are universities on Wiltshire's borders that can offer you quality education within an easy commute.

We'd also like you to consider what you could achieve by staying with Wiltshire College and University Centre.

Let's look at some of the reasons you might want to do that.



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College-based HE focuses on making you work ready.

We offer courses where we have **line of sight to employment.**

To do that we work with bigger HE providers (universities) or awarding bodies who make sure our provision is good quality.

We also keep in touch with employers to make sure our offer is what they are looking for.

This means we are continuously reviewing and evolving our HE course offer.



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Value for money

Our tuition fees are typically lower.

In 2026-7 a Higher National course at WCUC will cost £6185 per year compared to the average £9000 university cost.

Living at home while studying may also reduce your costs. You can still apply for a maintenance loan to pay towards rent, travel etc.

You can also keep your current part-time job to supplement your studies.



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Coventry
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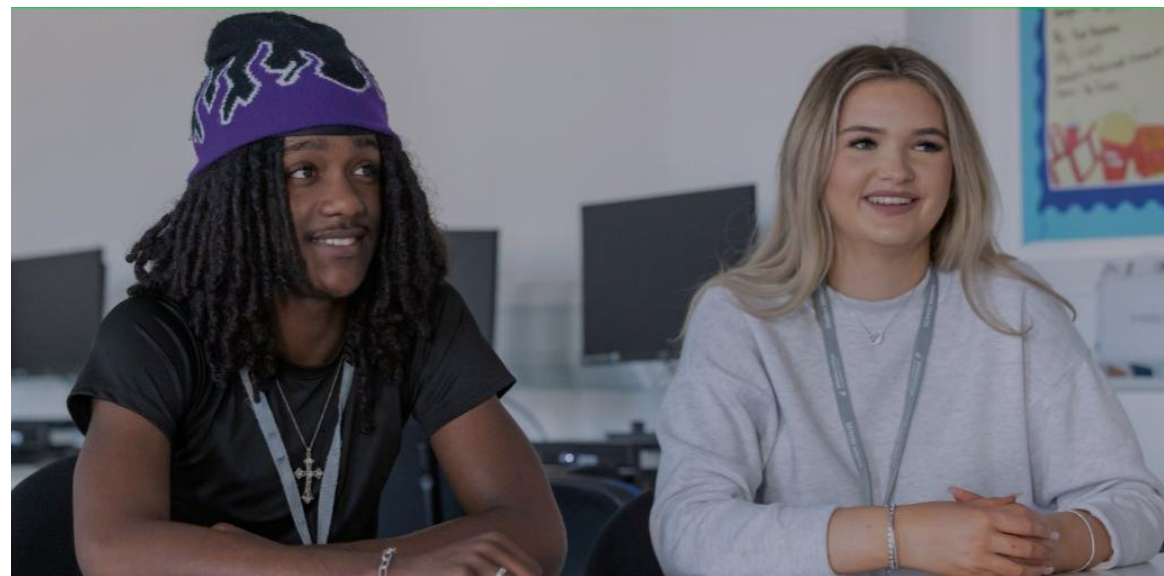

Wiltshire College
& University Centre

Small group sizes

Our class sizes are smaller than many universities.

You get to build a rapport with your lecturers and learn how to get the best out of your HE experience.

WCUC support teams also get to know you, giving you the best chance of success.



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Build towards independence

HE courses start at Level 4, so you will be stretching yourself academically. Some students prefer to do this while they are still living at home.

You also have the option to move into halls at Lackham or Salisbury. You don't have to do that from Year 1. It can happen in Year 2 or 3, when you are ready.

Other students choose to “top up” their Higher National or Foundation Degree to a full degree. That could be with us, or with another HEI provider.

Basically, you could live at home for a year or two and then move out to continue your studies.



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Why study HE with us?

- Good quality provision, strong employer links
- Value for money
- Small group sizes
- Build towards independence



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Bournemouth
University

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Financing your studies

Student finance is going through a major reform. From 2027 everyone will be able to borrow up to £38,140 towards their tuition fees.

You do not have to use this Lifelong Learning Entitlement all in one go. You could study part time, or complete your first year, take a break and go back to it later. You will also be able to "buy" modules from different HE providers.

Student Finance England will also invite you to apply for a maintenance loan to pay towards living costs while you study, even if you continue living at home.

If you come from a low-income household you might be eligible for a maintenance grant which you do not have to pay back.

Some universities and colleges offer bursaries as well. A lot of students also get a part-time job to supplement their income, although you have to make enough time for your studies!

The sums of money can be daunting, but you don't have to pay anything back until you are earning more than £25,000 a year. Even then, the amount you pay back is in proportion to your income.



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We Are Your Next Step

**This could
be you...**

- Explore our courses by scanning the QR code below.
- Course details for 2027 will be updated in April.



Stay in touch



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