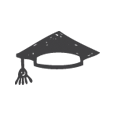
Focus West



S4

Interactive Workshop

HE Guidance

# 

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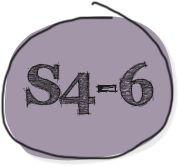
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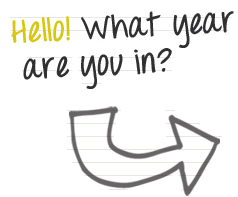
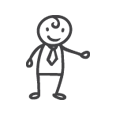
# What we do!

Focus West stands for Focus on College and University Study in the West of Scotland and is the largest division of the national Schools for Higher Education Programme. Our job is to increase the number of school pupils moving into higher education, whether this be directly into university or via a Higher National Qualification at college. We know not everybody will want to go to College or University, but we want to make sure that everyone has options and are aware of all the facts to make a choice that is right for them.

We work with a number of schools in the West of Scotland, targeting those that record relatively low levels of progression to higher education. However, rather than representing one specific university or college, Focus West works on behalf of *ALL* higher education institutions in Scotland. This means that we have a balanced overview of all the options open to pupils in our schools.

Working collaboratively with partner institutions; sharing expert knowledge with teachers, pupils, parents and care givers to ensure Scotland’s vision of widening access is delivered, and that every young person in Scotland has equal opportunity to reach their full potential.



# Aim of this Workshop

You will be learning about the process involved in applying to Higher Education.

### Learning Outcomes

By the end of this workshop you should be able to:

* Search College and University Courses.
* Aware of the process in submitting College and UCAS applications
* Grasp an understanding of how to write a Personal Statement.
* Increase knowledge of SAAS Funding.
* Raise awareness of support that is available.

Fourth year at school is an important time, with exams to study for and career choices to be made. Thinking about going to college or university is a big moment in your life. By the time you get to fourth year, you’re starting to make plans to leave the familiarity of school and starting something quite different. So, it would be normal to be feeling a bit nervous about it.

Truth is, you’re going to enjoy yourself and you’ll find your feet pretty quickly once you’re there. However, knowing what to expect before you start will definitely make the transition easier.

Remember, if you’re not on track to get the grades you need for university right now, there are lots of other options for you. Many people go to [college first](https://www.focuspoint.org.uk/s4-6/applying-to-college/); others go [straight into work](https://www.focuspoint.org.uk/s4-6/jobs-apprenticeships/)

Check out [My World of Work](https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI94fO78LT6QIVRLTtCh1dEgqAEAAYASAAEgItrvD_BwE) for more information about [College](https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/college-and-university-0) and  [Apprenticeship](https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/apprenticeships-0) opportunities

If you take part in the FOCUS West  [Top UP Programme](https://www.gla.ac.uk/study/wp/supportingaccesstogeneralsubjects/top-up/) in S5 or S6, you may also have the chance to boost your Higher grades and obtain adjusted entry for future college and university courses.

# Why go to college?

Lots of people go to college after school. This workshop will allow you to explore what this involves and why it might suit you.

In some ways, college is similar to school – you’ll choose a subject you’re interested in, learn about it in classes, and produce work of your own. However, at college you’ll most often focus on one subject, learning the skills and the knowledge you’ll need to pursue a specific career.

By completing a 1- or 2-year course, you can gain a qualification that will help you either get a job in the area you have studied or move on to university to study at a higher level.

The good news is that college is an excellent stepping stone to university. With a college qualification in the bag, a lot of universities will let you jump ahead into the second or third year of a university course. Loads of people take this route every year.

# Why go to university?

After school, many people decide to continue their learning at university.

A bit like at school, universities allow you to gain a qualification in a subject you’ve chosen to study. At university though, these qualifications, called degrees – are at a higher level, in fact pretty much the highest you can get. However, with one of them under your belt, you’ll be able to aim for all sorts of jobs that you wouldn’t be able to otherwise.

What’s the benefits of Higher Education?

There are lots of reasons why people choose to go to college and university:

Many specialized jobs require you to have completed a university degree before you can start, and for a lot of people, going to university helps them get a better, higher paid job.

Bullet 2 (small)you can study a subject you enjoy in dept, it might be your favourite subject from school or it might be something completely new. There’re all kinds of subjects you can study at university, and the skills you learn are tranferable.

Bullet 3 (small)you can experience life as a student; It’s not all about the work. You’re a young adult, free of school, able to meet new people and try new things… There’s a lot of fun to be had.

# Choose your Future; what job would suit me?

To find out what route is best for you, you must first make some decisions as to what you would like to do once you leave school. Some people will know what job they would like to do and are working towards that goal while others may have a subject that they are passionate about studying at college or university.

If you haven't decided on what you would like to do yet, think about the subject(s) you enjoy most at school. What do you like about them? Could you study them or something similar at college or university?

Try signing up to [Focus Point](https://www.focuspoint.org.uk/register/) to help make up your mind and using our [Graduate Job Matcher](https://www.focuspoint.org.uk/job-match-results/) to match your favourite subjects with university, or [Course Search](https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/learn-and-train) to find out more about the subjects and Higher grades required for the career of your choice

Looking for that perfect career? Take the [Prospects](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/) Quiz or try the [Prospects Planner](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/planner) or [Job Match Tool](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-match) to see what job would suit you.

Remember, there’s lots of subjects you can study at university that don’t relate to one specific job. A degree will open up many different job opportunities for you, as well as giving you transferable skills and experiences that will help you whatever you decide to do afterwards.

This space is for you to add some notes on your job matcher and subject choice chooser

# Assessing your options

What courses are out there? where can I study them? and how do I get in?

Check out one or two university and college courses on UCAS course [Search](http://search.ucas.com/) to find out what's required to study the subjects you're interested in.

Bullet 1 (small) Decide on a subject you'd like to study at college or university?

Bullet 2 (small) Search Universities and Colleges in Scotland; Where can you study it?

Bullet 3 (small) Explore what the entry requirements are for the course?

The box below is for you to take notes on your course searches

# Professional Degrees

Some courses at university require more than just a UCAS application; particularly popular, demanding courses or courses with a restricted number of places are often in demand,

This is the case with 'professional degrees' in:

* LLB Law
* Medicine
* Dentistry
* Vet Medicine

As well as gaining strong Higher results, to enter these degrees universities may ask you to take additional tests, gain work experience, and attend an interview. If you're interested in one of these subjects it’s really important to know exactly what's required to get in, well in advance of making your application. That way you'll have time to prepare and get organised.

We've laid out the general requirements for each of the four subjects below and offered some tips to help you achieve them. Remember though, every university that offers these degrees has very specific entry requirements so once you’ve read our general advice, use university websites or prospectuses to check the exact details for the universities you'd like to apply to.

When you're applying to popular, competitive courses like these, you need to try your best to stand out from the crowd. Most applicants will have the same grades in the same subjects as you...so you need to show that you offer something extra - experience, enthusiasm, and commitment to the subject.

## Applying to LLB Law

### What do I need to do?

### [There are 10 universities in Scotland offering accredited LLB Law degrees](https://www.lawscot.org.uk/qualifying-and-education/qualifying-as-a-scottish-solicitor/llb-degree-in-law/where-can-i-study-the-llb/). The Higher grades required for entry range from AAAAA to BBBB in S5. You must have a Higher in English, while other Arts and Social Science subjects like History are considered valuable. You'll need good National 5 grades in Maths and Science too.

What’s the LNAT and how can I prepare for it?

The LNAT is run by a consortium of UK universities and comprises a two-hour on-screen test made up of multiple choice (80 minutes) and essay questions (40 minutes). The Universoty of Glasgow and The University of Edinburgh require students to take the [Law National Aptitude Test](https://lnat.ac.uk/) (LNAT) as part of the Law application.

The close-reading and essay-writing exam is taken externally in Pearson Test Centres during the year of your application to university and tests your language and writing skills. Registration for the LNAT starts in August and tests can be booked from September to January: [LNAT Dates and Deadlines](https://lnat.ac.uk/registration/dates-and-deadlines/)

### Do I need to sit the LNAT Test?

University of Glasgow applicants are required to sit the [LNAT Test](https://lnat.ac.uk/)

### How do I go about getting work experience?

Work experience is not always a requirement for studying Law but it is a very useful addition to an application. Gaining work experience will:

* Demonstrate your commitment and enthusiasm
* Allow you to understand the realities of a career in Law
* Develop essential skills for the study and practice of Law
* Types of experiences which would be relevant for a Law application
* Visiting a court
* Working in a solicitor's office
* Working at an estate agent
* Volunteering at a branch of the Citizens Advice Bureau
* Speaking to a solicitor, judge or other kind of legal professional

It can be difficult to gain these kinds of experience so remember any kind of work that allows you to develop the kinds of skills which are valuable for the study and practice of Law will help to demonstrate your commitment. Quality work experience is always better than quantity.

### When do I need to apply to LLB Law?

The [UCAS deadline dates](https://www.ucas.com/ucas/events/find/scheme/undergraduate/type/key-date) for Law is the same as general UCAS deadline, JANUARY 15th.

### Any additional advice on applying to Law?

As well as gaining academic qualifications, prospective Law students will also have to demonstrate that they have the essential skills needed for the study and practice of Law. These skills include:

You will also have to demonstrate what kinds of extra-curricular activities you currently do, that demonstrate these skills?

What kinds of experiences or achievements could you gain to help develop these qualities?

Remember, you need to be able to demonstrate these skills both inside and outside of school, to show you are meeting the criteria of a suitable candidate and have the following attributes:

* Ability to analyse and interpret information
* Logical reasoning
* Ethical judgement
* Communication skills
* Excellent written and spoken English
* communication skills
* problem solving
* working under pressure
* managing time effectively
* reaching decisions quickly

These skills are highly transferable and attractive to a very wide variety of employers.

 [Contact Law Society Scotland for more advice & guidance](https://www.lawscot.org.uk/qualifying-and-education/qualifying-as-a-scottish-solicitor/)

## Thinking of Applying to Medicine?

[There are 5 universities in Scotland](https://careers.nhs.scot/careers/explore-our-careers/medical/thinking-about-becoming-a-doctor/) that offer MBChB Medicine degrees. The Higher grades required for entry range from AAAAA to AAABB (or AAAAC) in one sitting in S5, plus additional Advanced Highers in S6. Chemistry, Biology, Maths and Physics are very important subjects for Medicine. You'll also need a good National 5 result in English.

As well as this, applicants will be expected to sit the [University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT)](https://www.ucat.ac.uk/ucat/)

Gaining work experience is important as you need to be able to demonstrate that you understand the realities of a career in Medicine.

If you have achieved the required grades in your exams, a high enough score in your UCAT, and demonstrated your potential through your UCAS application, you'll then be expected to attend an interview. This will finally determine whether you've achieved a place on the course.

### How can I prepare for the interview?

Once the university has read your application, if they like what they see you may get invited for an interview. Every university has a different way of interviewing but most involve either a [Traditional Panel Interview](https://www.themedicportal.com/application-guide/medical-school-interview/traditional-medicine-interviews/) or [Multiple Mini Interview](https://www.themedicportal.com/application-guide/medical-school-interview/mmi-interviews/) (MMI).

A panel interview consists of two or three members of the university asking you questions about your application to try and get to know you. Typical questions might be:

Can you describe your work experience, what you learnt and why it was valuable?

What skills and qualities do you have that a future doctor requires?

Why do you want to study at this university?

### Some ways to prepare for this include:

Get friends and family to ask you questions so you can practice speaking your answers out loud.

Read quality newspapers and look out for the latest medically-related stories. The BBC News ‘health’ webpage is a good place to start.

Seek out experiences which will build your confidence. Medicine will be looking for confident, articulate, enthusiastic candidates so practice your communication skills whenever you can.

The MMI interview is very different. You'll move around a variety of different stations - at each one, you'll take part in timed activities designed to test your communication skills, logic, ethical reasoning and your ability to think quickly. You won't know beforehand what kinds of questions you'll be asked or what kind of activities you'll be asked to take part in so is tricky. Try anything you can think of to build up your communication and logic skills.

### What’s UCAT and how can I prepare for it?

For Medicine, applicants are asked to sit the [University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT)](https://www.ucat.ac.uk/ucat/) an admissions test used by a consortium of UK Universities for medical and dental degree programmes.

UCAT helps universities to select applicants with the most appropriate mental abilities, attitudes and professional behaviours required for new doctors and dentists to be successful in their clinical careers. It is used in collaboration with other admissions processes such as the UCAS application and academic qualifications. It is also your opportunity to stand out from other applicants and demonstrate your aptitude for a demanding programme of study.

UCAT is a computer-based test delivered in Pearson VUE test centres throughout the UK and internationally. The exam is taken externally at Pearson Test Centres and is divided into five sections:

• Verbal reasoning

• Quantitative reasoning

• Abstract reasoning

• Decision analysis

• Situational judgement

The test is designed to challenge applicants' quick-thinking as each section is strictly timed. That means the best way to prepare is to practice answering questions quickly. Then practice some more! You can try practice tests on the UCAT website - the more you do this, the more you’ll get used to the pace of answering that's required. Brushing up on your maths and English language skills would also be useful.

### How do I go about getting work experience?

Gaining work experience in a hospital or at a GP practice can be hard. Universities understand this so specific work experience in these environments is not always essential when applying to Medicine. However, they do want to know that you understand the realities of a career in Medicine. This could be gained through work experience in other areas, particularly in caring professions. Consider:

• Care homes

• Hospices

• Charity organisations

• Speaking with doctors, GP’s and other medical professionals

All of these things will give you a valuable insight into a career in Medicine. Remember, quality is always better than quantity so make the most of whatever opportunity you get by asking lots of questions and working hard.

### When do I need to apply?

The [UCAS deadline for Medicine](https://www.ucas.com/ucas/events/find/scheme/undergraduate/type/key-date) is OCTOBER 15th each year. Registration for the UCAT begins in the previous May to September and the last testing date is at the beginning of October before the UCAS deadline.

### Any other advice on applying to Medicine?

As well as achieving the right grades in school and scoring well in the UCAT, applicants to Medicine need to demonstrate that they have the skills and qualities needed to be a future doctor. These skills include:

* Empathy
* Teamwork
* Patience
* Communication skills
* Ability to demonstrate commitment, motivation and enthusiasm for a medical career

Taking part in extra-curricular activities will help you to develop these skills. You'll then be able to write about them in your [UCAS personal statement](https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/how-write-ucas-undergraduate-personal-statement) , proving that you have all the [skills and qualities](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/medicine) that a future doctor requires.

## Applying to Dentistry

### What do I need to do?

There are 2 universities in Scotland that offer BDS Dentistry degrees: [University of Glasgow](https://www.gla.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/dentistry/) and [University of Dundee](https://www.dundee.ac.uk/undergraduate/dentistry)

The Higher grades required for entry range from AAAAB to AABB in one sitting in S5, plus additional Advanced Highers in S6. Chemistry, Biology, Maths and Physics are very important subjects for Dentistry. You'll need a good National 5 result in English too.

As well as this, applicants will be expected to sit the [University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT)](https://www.ucat.ac.uk/ucat/)

Gaining work experience is very important as you need to be able to demonstrate that you understand the realities of a career in Dentistry.

If you have achieved the required grades in your exams, a high enough score in your UCAT, and demonstrated your potential through your UCAS application, you'll then be expected to attend an interview. This will finally determine whether you've achieved a place on the course.

### How can I prepare for the interview?

Once the university has read your application, if they like what they see you may then get invited for an interview. [Multiple Mini Interviews](https://www.themedicportal.com/application-guide/medical-school-interview/mmi-interviews/) (MMI) are the style of interview used at both the University of Glasgow and the University of Dundee. It's very different to a traditional interview. You'll move around a variety of different stations - at each one, you'll take part in timed activities designed to test your communication skills, logic, ethical reasoning, and your ability to think quickly. You won't know beforehand what kinds of questions you'll be asked or what kind of activities you'll be asked to take part in so preparation is tricky. Try anything you can think of to build up your communication and logic skills.

### What’s the UCAT and how can I prepare for it?

This exam is taken externally at Pearson Test Centres and is divided into five sections:

* Verbal reasoning
* Quantitative reasoning
* Abstract reasoning
* Decision analysis
* Situational judgement

The test is designed to challenge applicants' quick-thinking as each section is strictly timed. That means the best way to prepare is to practice answering questions quickly. Then practice some more! You can try practice tests on the UCAT website - the more you do this, the more you’ll get used to the pace of answering that's required. Brushing up on your maths and English language skills would also be useful.

### How do I go about getting work experience?

Gaining experience 'shadowing' a dentist is a very important part of your application. This means spending some time at a dental practice, in a community setting, or in a dental hospital watching a dentist performing their duties. This will help you to gain an understanding of the realities of a career in Dentistry.

The best way to gain work experience is to phone local dental practices and let them know you would like to shadow a dentist. If, for whatever reason, you're unable to do this, you could always ask to speak to the dentist and ask some questions. They may be able to recommend other opportunities that might be useful for you too. Be polite but persistent!

### When do I need to apply?

The [UCAS deadline for Dentistry](https://www.ucas.com/ucas/events/find/scheme/undergraduate/type/key-date) is OCTOBER 15th each year. Registration for the UCAT Test begins in the previous May to September and the last testing date is at the beginning of October before the UCAS deadline.

### Any other advice on applying to Dentistry?

Applicants to Dentistry also need to demonstrate [characteristics](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/dentist) which are important for the dental profession. These include being able to:

* Demonstrate honesty and trustworthiness
* Demonstrate a caring nature, empathy, a respect for the views of others,
* Demonstrate good communication skills
* Work in a team and have the capacity to act as a leader
* Be self-critical and self-motivated
* Think independently
* Plan and think on the spot, with good problem-solving and analysis skills
* Show strong evidence of manual dexterity, creativity, and spatial awareness

Taking part in extra-curricular activities will help you to develop these skills. You'll then be able to write about them in your UCAS [personal statement](https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/how-write-ucas-undergraduate-personal-statement), proving that you have all the qualities a future dentist needs.

## Applying to Vet Medicine

### What do I need to do to apply?

There are two universities that offer degrees in Veterinary Medicine in Scotland: [The University of Edinburgh](https://www.ed.ac.uk/medicine-vet-medicine/undergraduate/veterinary-medicine)  and [The University of Glasgow](https://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/vet/). Entry requirements include AAAAB in your Highers by the end of S5, and BB in Advanced Highers in S6. Subjects which are important for Veterinary Medicine include Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Maths.

Universities also require applicants to have gained a wide range of work experience, involving both small and large animals. If you have achieved the required grades in your exams and demonstrated your potential through your UCAS application, you'll then be expected to attend an interview. This will finally determine whether you've achieved a place on the course.

### How can I prepare for the interview?

Once the university has read your application, if they like what they see you may then get invited for an interview. Every university has a different approach to the interview process but it’s likely that questions will arise from what you have written in your UCAS personal statement. Questions might include:

* Can you describe in detail what you did during each aspect of your work experience?
* Can you speak confidently about why you would like to study Veterinary Medicine?
* What makes you a good candidate?
* Why do you want to study at this university?

### Ways to prepare include:

Ask friends and family to give you a 'mock' interview so you can practice responding out loud.

Ask current students what their interview experiences were like.

Seek out experiences that allow your confidence to grow. Your interviewers will expect you to be confident and articulate so the more ways you can develop your communication skills the better.

### How do I go about getting work experience?

Gaining work experience can sometimes be difficult which is why it’s a good idea to start making plans early. Some ways to get work experience include phoning local practices and farms and asking if they need volunteers, speaking to friends and family to gather contacts, or contacting vets to ask for advice on the realities of a career in Veterinary Medicine.

Types of work experience which you should try to gain include:

Attendance with a veterinary surgeon (companion animal and farm animal) - minimum of 2 weeks or occasional days/weekends over a substantial period.

* Experience of working on a dairy farm
* Assisting on a sheep farm at lambing time
* Experience working with horses
* Working in a boarding kennel or cattery
* Visit to an abattoir (not essential)
* Any additional relevant experience, e.g. zoo, wildlife park or laboratory.

### When do I need to apply?

The UCAS deadline for Veterinary Medicine is OCTOBER 15th every year.

### Any other advice on applying to Vet Med?

As well as achieving the right grades in schools and gaining a broad range of work experience, applicants to [Veterinary Medicine](https://www.planitplus.net/Courses/View/3626/2/13) need to demonstrate that they have the skills and qualities needed to succeed in the profession, these skills include:

* Empathy
* Teamwork
* Patience
* Communication skills
* Ability to manage stressful situations

Taking part in extra-curricular activities will help you to develop these skills. You'll then be able to write about them in your UCAS personal statement, proving that you have all the [qualities a future vet requires](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/veterinary-surgeon)

## The Reach Programme

Widening Access to the Professions

[Reach](https://www.gla.ac.uk/study/wp/professionalsubjects/reach/) is a national programme that aims to encourage, support and prepare pupils for the study of a professional degree at the Universities of Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh or St. Andrews.

[Reach](https://www.gla.ac.uk/study/wp/professionalsubjects/reach/) programmes run for three years, S4 to S6 and works with pupils with an interest in and ability to study a professional degree in Dentistry, Law, Medicine or Veterinary Medicine and Surgery.

[Reach](https://www.gla.ac.uk/study/wp/professionalsubjects/reach/) aims to ensure that pupils are well prepared for the transition to University, with participants gaining an understanding of career pathways, experiences of university learning and teaching, support with every aspect of the application process and advice from staff and students on becoming aDentist, Law Professional, Doctor or Vet.

As well as providing a valuable and engaging experience, successful completion of the ‘assessed elements’ of the Reach programme, means that pupils can be considered for [adjusted entry requirements](https://www.gla.ac.uk/study/wp/admissionssummary/ourgradeadjustments/entryrequirementsforapplicantstomedicinevetmedicinelawandeducation/) with the Schools of Dentistry, Law, Medicine and Veterinary Medicine.

### Who to contact for further support and guidance?

More information can be accessed here: [Supporting Access to Professional Degrees](https://www.gla.ac.uk/study/wp/professionalsubjects/reach/)

**\*** Taking part in the Reach programme is **NOT a guarantee of an offer or place**.

### Criteria for Adjusted Entry:

Many pupils may be on track to achieve published minimum or standard academic entry requirements, in which case, well done and keep going. However, pupils in any of the below categories, may benefit from someextrasupport and an adjusted offer.

Applicants who are GUARANTEED an adjusted offer of entry are those who can meet the adjusted entry requirements in S5 or S6 and:

* Are or have lived in [**Care**](https://www.gla.ac.uk/study/wp/supportingcareleavers/).
* Are estranged from family and living without family support.
* Who, at the time of application, are [**living in a priority postcode**](https://www.gla.ac.uk/study/wp/postcode/);

which is regarded by the Scottish Government as being within the 40% most deprived regions of the country, as categorised by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). This is sometimes referred to as "MD" or "MD40

Pupils may also be considered for an adjusted offer of entry if you do not meet the above criteria, but have successfully completed a pre-entry programme, such as Top Up, and:

* Are seeking asylum in the UK
* Have refugee status
* Are a carer (provide unpaid care)

More information on [Grade Adjustments](https://www.gla.ac.uk/study/wp/admissionssummary/ourgradeadjustments/) can be found here.

\*Entry requirements vary from university to university and you should always check the details on respective websites or at university open days to ensure you know what the entrance requirements are at each institution. Further details can be found on the [UCAS website](https://www.ucas.com/).

## Widening Access to Professional Subjects

Professional degrees tend to have restricted places and/or are very competitive with some of the highest entry requirements of any degree.

Glasgow University runs programmes to support [widening access](https://www.gla.ac.uk/study/wp/) and advise pupils interested in applying to these high-demand professions.

Glasgow’s Access to a Career Programmes are an extension to Reach, delivered through a series of in-school workshops and on-campus events at participating partner schools in the west of Scotland.

By completing these programmes, pupils gain an understanding of career pathways, direct experience of university learning and teaching, support with every aspect of the application process and advice from staff and students.

As well as providing valuable and engaging experiences; completing the assessments as part of the requirements of  [Summer School](https://www.gla.ac.uk/study/wp/supportingaccesstogeneralsubjects/summerschool/)s, the [Sutton Trust Summer School](https://www.gla.ac.uk/study/wp/supportingaspirationinschool/suttontrustsummerschool/) , and [Top-Up Programme](https://www.gla.ac.uk/study/wp/supportingaccesstogeneralsubjects/top-up/)  allow students to benefit from [adjusted entry requirements](https://www.gla.ac.uk/study/wp/admissionssummary/ourgradeadjustments/entryrequirementsforapplicantstomedicinevetmedicinelawandeducation/) into degrees at the University of Glasgow.

Access to Career Programmes works with S4-S6 pupils in target schools interested in pursuing a career in:

* Accountancy & Finance
* Teaching.
* Engineering

So, what does this involve?

S4

In-school sessions commence late February and we aim to deliver the S4 school workshop to all schools/clusters by the end of March. These are one-off sessions and last approx. 2hrs. This session introduces the three Access professions and includes information on entry requirements, skills development and career pathways

S5

In school sessions – Late Oct – mid December

In-school sessions are delivered from late October to mid-December. These sessions last approx. 3hrs and are an introduction to the subject-specific research assignments set by the three Professional Subject Schools.

Campus day visit– mid June

Those who successfully complete the written assignment are invited to take part in the S5 campus day which includes subject-specific activities including lectures from academic staff and seminars or workshops with current students and staff.

S6

Support and advice on the UCAS application process including personal statement feedback and Interview workshop.

### Access to a Career in Accountancy & Finance

The Access to a Career in Accountancy & Finance Programme, has been developed to support pupils in preparation for applying to an Accountancy & Finance degree.

Comprising of in-school sessions from S4 onwards, including an on-campus experience for interested pupils at participating partner schools in the west of Scotland. Encompassing study and practical activities, that will cover the range of Accountancy & Finance programmes available to study at the University of Glasgow:

* Accountancy & Finance
* Accounting & Mathematics
* Accounting & Statistics
* Finance & Mathematics
* Finance & Statistics

For additional information please contact [reach@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:reach@glasgow.ac.uk)

### Access to a Career in Teaching (ACT)

If you are interested in studying Education, find out more about the options and the support to help you achieve your goals.

[ACT](https://www.gla.ac.uk/study/wp/professionalsubjects/accesstoacareerprogrammes/accesstoacareerinteaching/) is run in collaboration with the Universities of Strathclyde, West of Scotland and Glasgow City Council for Glasgow school pupils. It is also provided by University of Glasgow at Reach schools across the west of Scotland. ACT has been developed to encourage pupils’ interest in and preparation for applying to any professional teaching degree at Glasgow, UWS and Strathclyde.

For additional information please contact [reach@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:reach@glasgow.ac.uk)

### Access to a Career in Engineering

The Access to a Career in Engineering programme supports pupils in preparation for applying to an Engineering degree. It will comprise of in-school sessions from S4 onwards, including an on-campus experience for interested pupils at participating partner schools in the west of Scotland. Combining study and practical activities, it will cover the range of engineering programmes available to study at the University of Glasgow:

* Aeronautical Engineering
* Aerospace Systems
* Biomedical Engineering
* Civil Engineering
* Civil Engineering with Architecture
* Electronic & Software Engineering
* Electronics & Electrical Engineering
* Electronics with Music
* Mechanical Design Engineering
* Mechanical Engineering
* Mechanical Engineering with Aeronautics
* Mechatronics
* Product Design Engineering

### What can I do to enhance my skillset?

The University of Glasgow works with a range of partners to encourage and facilitate interest in and enthusiasm for Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (STEMM) - please see additional information[here](https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/publicengagementgroupinstemm/)

Who should I contact for further information and support?

email [reach@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:reach@glasgow.ac.uk)



### The Engineering Academy

In addition to The University of Glasgow’s pre-entry programmes, Strathclyde University’s Engineering Academy, offers students an alternative route into university and employment.

[The Engineering Academy](https://www.strath.ac.uk/engineering/studywithus/engineeringacademy/) is a pioneering programme, in collaboration between the University of Strathclyde, partner colleges and the engineering industry; offering students the opportunity to study an enhanced HNC programme with direct transfer into the second year of engineering degrees.

The Academy was established as part of the University’s outreach objective, to increase widening access participation, by delivering various pathways to a range of engineering degrees in the Faculty of Engineering.

#### C:\Users\gcb20101\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.MSO\273E35ED.tmpCollege Partners:

The Engineering Academy currently work in partnership with seven colleges.



\**The course you're planning to study at Strathclyde will determine what college you're able to study at in your first year*.

Typical Entry Requirements to Strathclyde’s Engineering Academy

Highers: BBBB (Maths and Physics/Engineering Science; for progression to Chemical and Process Engineering, Maths, Physics and Chemistry are required; for progression to Biomedical Engineering, Maths, Physics and Biology/Human Biology are required); an Engineering Foundation Apprenticeship will be accepted as one of the non-mandatory Highers. ﻿

How the Academy works?

The first year of the Engineering Academy is taken as an enhanced HNC programme at one of the partner colleges and those students who achieve the required performance are guaranteed transfer to the second year of one of the undergraduate degree programmes offered within the Engineering Academy.

Three separate HNC programmes have been developed to allow pupils to progress to a variety of degree programmes:

* HNC Chemical Engineeringallows progress to BEng Chemical Engineering
* HNC Electronicsallows progress to BEng Electronic & Electrical Engineering
* HNC General Engineeringallows progress to degrees offered by the Departments of Design, Manufacturing & Engineering Management; Civil & Environmental Engineering; Naval Architecture, Ocean & Marine Engineering and BEng Mechanical Engineering; progress to 1st year BEng Biomedical Engineering.

For the Electronics and General Engineering programmes, students will also attend the University of Strathclyde in year one to undertake a practical engineering skills qualification.

Key benefits

* You will be a registered student of the University of Strathclyde while you're completing year 1 in college
* Become familiar with University life
* You will have access to an academic counsellor at Strathclyde
* Electronic access to the University's Virtual Learning Environment
* You will be given your own Strathclyde email address and login
* Become a member of the [Centre for Sports and Recreation](http://www.strath.ac.uk/sport/)
* Full access to the [University Library](http://www.strath.ac.uk/library/)
* Student membership of the [University of Strathclyde Students' Union](https://www.strathunion.com/)
* You're eligible to apply for [accommodation on the University of Strathclyde campus](https://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/accommodation/)

In addition, you will have opportunities to apply for:

Financial support from year 2 onwards via company sponsorships

Specific mentoring and professional development with a sponsoring company

Paid summer placements, allowing you to put your theory into practice, between year 2 and 3, and year 3 and 4

[The Engineering Academy](https://www.strath.ac.uk/engineering/studywithus/engineeringacademy/) offers you the chance to engage with sponsoring companies who will mentor you throughout your studies and support your professional development, whilst providing paid summer placements. This will allow you to put the theory you learn into practice and get hands-on industrial experience.

The placements take place during the summer break between years 2 & 3 and 3 & 4. The continuous contact with your sponsor company ensures you have an enhanced CV, giving you an extra edge in today’s competitive job market.

#### How to apply for the Engineering Academy?

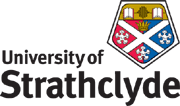
All applications for the Engineering Academy should be made via [UCAS](https://digital.ucas.com/coursedisplay/courses/a7de941e-506b-b108-c8aa-961b5b700520?academicYearId=2020)

There is no need for you to complete a separate application for the HNC programme delivered within the college.

How is my application assessed and when will I know if I’ve been offered a place?

Once you submit your application to UCAS, it will be forwarded electronically to the University and the Engineering Academy will receive a copy. You’ll be contacted by the Engineering Academy to confirm receipt of your application and we will also ask you at that point for your preferred area of engineering.

No decision will be taken on your application until all of the applications have been received via UCAS and you will be advised via e-mail of when you should expect to receive a decision on your application.

For further information, please contact: [Engineering Academy](mailto:engineering-academy@strath.ac.uk) 

### Alternative Routes in Engineering: College and University

College:

Typical entry requirements minimum of two Highers from English, Mathematics, Physics or another technical or science subject.

University:

Entry requirements range from ABBB to AAAAB, with universities most frequently requiring AABBB, including Science, English, and Maths. Occasionally, universities ask for Advanced Highers to supplement Highers. If Advanced Highers are requested, universities typically ask for AA.

# Considering a Career in the NHS?

Perhaps you may already have an idea of the career you want to do? Maybe you want to find out about the range of NHS careers that are on offer?

The [NHS](https://www.careers.nhs.scot/careers/explore-our-careers/) have profiles for more than 100 different careers from dentists to paramedics and nurses to pharmacists.

The Health Sector plays a vital role in helping patients understand information about their diagnoses and treatment. They also respond to each patient’s physical, clinical and emotional needs.

TASK

Use the box below to explore the career options available @ [NHS Careers Scotland](https://www.careers.nhs.scot/careers/explore-our-careers/): select a career option and consider the skills and qualifications you’ll require and what the working environment will look like

Let’s explore some examples of careers in the Allied Health Sector:

## [Adult Nurse](https://www.careers.nhs.scot/careers/explore-our-careers/nursing/adult-nurse/)

Adult nurses in the NHS help people cope with illness, treatment and recovery by assessing their needs, writing care plans and monitoring progress during medical care.

### Starting your career

Choosing subjects at school to get on a course that could lead to a career in nursing, useful subjects include:

* Biology
* Human Biology
* Chemistry
* Care
* Psychology
* English
* Maths

### College and University Routes

At college, you can do an HNC in Care and Administrative Practice, which could lead to an undergraduate pre-registration nursing degree. Entry requirements: Two relevant Highers or equivalent.

In Scotland, the following universities offer undergraduate programmes in adult nursing, approved by the NMC; entry requirements range from: Scottish Highers, BBC plus SQA National 5 (Grade C, or above).

* Edinburgh Napier University
* Glasgow Caledonian University
* Queen Margaret University
* Robert Gordon University
* The Open University
* University of Dundee
* University of Edinburgh
* University of Glasgow
* University of Stirling
* University of the Highlands and Islands
* University of the West of Scotland

Adult Nursing undergraduate programmes usually take 3 years full-time study to complete.

For more information on related further and higher education courses, search [My World of Work](https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/learn-and-train/course/search). You should check specific entry requirements before applying.

### Foundation Apprenticeships

A [Foundation Apprenticeship in Social Services and Healthcare](https://www.apprenticeships.scot/become-an-apprentice/foundation-apprenticeships/social-services-and-healthcare/) is a good way to start your career in healthcare, and could give you valuable work experience and the skills needed for a career in the NHS.

### How will it work?

You'll complete your [Foundation Apprenticeship](https://www.apprenticeships.scot/become-an-apprentice/foundation-apprenticeships/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIyqOzyMXO6QIVia3tCh3DxQQoEAAYASAAEgLck_D_BwE) at school, alongside your other subjects. You'll spend time learning at a learning provider, such as a college, and with an employer on a practical work placement. It'll give your career a head-start, and look great on your CV.

### Work placement

If you’re at school and thinking of a career in Adult Nursing, doing a work placement could help you when applying to college, university or for a job in healthcare. You’ll learn new skills, improve your knowledge and discover what it’s like to work in the health service. Find out [How to Apply for Work Experience with the NHS?](https://www.careers.nhs.scot/how-to-apply/work-placements-and-job-shadowing/)

### Your Role

You would have a vital role in helping adult patients and their families understand information about their diagnoses, treatment and health more generally. You’ll also learn how to carry out different types of clinical procedures and respond to each patient’s physical, clinical and emotional needs.

### What you’ll do

* Tasks include:
* carrying out physical examinations and clinical assessments
* monitoring patients and recording their clinical condition
* giving medications and injections
* responding quickly to emergencies
* acting as an advocate for patients and their families

### Working Environment

As an adult nurse the NHS, you could work in:

* hospitals
* health centres
* people’s homes
* prisons
* NHS24

### Did you know?

In your first year as a newly qualified nurse, you’ll get extra support and guidance through the [Flying Start Programme](https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/735/flying-start-nhs).

Continued Professional Development

In the NHS, you may choose to be a staff nurse throughout your nursing career, keeping up to date through continuing professional development. However, taking extra courses and workplace learning could lead to progression through the career pathway to senior, advanced or consultant level.

When you’ve qualified and gained experience as a registered adult nurse, there are lots of specialisms to choose from, including:

* district nursing
* general practice nursing
* rehabilitation nursing
* older people’s nursing
* accident and emergency nursing
* intensive care nursing
* theatre nursing
* cancer and palliative care nursing
* community staff nursing
* occupational health nursing

### Revalidation

Revalidation is a process which nurses need to follow to maintain their registration with the NMC every 3 years.

## [Children's Nurse](https://www.careers.nhs.scot/careers/explore-our-careers/nursing/childrens-nurse/)

Children’s nurses care for sick, injured or disabled children and young people. They provide comfort and reassurance to patients and their parents or carers in difficult or stressful circumstances.

### Starting your career

Choosing subjects at school to get on a course that could lead to a career in nursing, useful subjects include:

* Biology
* Human Biology
* Chemistry
* Care
* Psychology
* English
* Maths

### College and University Routes

At College, you can do an HNC in Care and Administrative Practice, which could lead to an undergraduate nursing degree. Entry requirements are likely to be two Scottish Highers.

There are 4 universities in Scotland offering undergraduate programmes in children’s nursing, approved by the NMC:

* Edinburgh Napier University
* Glasgow Caledonian University
* Robert Gordon University
* University of Dundee

Child Nurse undergraduate programmes usually take 3 years full-time study to complete.

### Revalidation

Revalidation is a process which nurses need to follow to maintain their registration with the NMC every 3 years.

For more information on related further and higher education courses, search [My World of Work](https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/learn-and-train/course/search). You should check specific entry requirements before applying.

### Foundation Apprenticeships

A [Foundation Apprenticeship Social Service and Healthcare](https://www.apprenticeships.scot/become-an-apprentice/foundation-apprenticeships/social-services-and-healthcare/)  is a good way to start your career in healthcare and could give you valuable work experience and the skills needed for a career in the NHS.

### Work placement

If you’re at school and thinking of a career as a Children’s Nurse, doing a work placement could help you when applying to college, university or for a job in healthcare. You’ll learn new skills, improve your knowledge and discover what it’s like to work in the health service. Find out [How to Apply for Work Experience with the NHS?](https://www.careers.nhs.scot/how-to-apply/work-placements-and-job-shadowing/)

### Your Role

Caring for babies, children and young people is different from adult nursing. You would use your specialist skills, knowledge and experience to recognise any changes in health, so you can respond to their needs.

### What you’ll do?

Tasks include:

* carrying out physical examinations and clinical assessments
* monitoring patients and recording their clinical condition
* giving medications and injections
* responding quickly to emergencies

You would also support parents and carers who have an ill child in hospital or at home.

### Working environment

As a children’s nurse the NHS, you could work in:

* hospitals
* health centres
* hospices
* NHS24

### Learning and Development

Once registered as a children’s nurse, there are ongoing requirements for education and skills development. You’ll also have lots of opportunities to go further and learn more.

In the NHS, you may choose to be a staff nurse throughout your nursing career, keeping up to date through continuing professional development. Taking extra courses and workplace learning could lead to progression through the career pathway to senior, advanced or consultant level.

When you’ve qualified and gained experience as a registered children’s nurse, there are lots of specialisms to choose from, including:

* neonatal
* accident and emergency nursing
* intensive care nursing
* theatre nursing
* cancer and palliative care nursing
* community staff nursing

### Revalidation

Revalidation is a process which nurses need to follow to maintain their registration with the NMC every 3 years.

## [Mental Health Nurse](https://www.careers.nhs.scot/careers/explore-our-careers/nursing/mental-health-nurse/)

Mental health nurses help people improve their wellbeing and recovery from mental health problems. They work in hospitals, in the community and in people’s homes.

### Starting your career

Choosing subjects at school to get on a course that could lead to a career in nursing, useful subjects include:

* Biology
* Human Biology
* Chemistry
* Care
* Psychology
* English
* Maths

### College and University Routes

At college, you can do an HNC in Care and Administrative Practice, which could lead to an undergraduate pre-registration nursing degree**.** Entry requirements likely to be two Scottish Highers.

The following universities in Scotland offer undergraduate programmes in mental health nursing, approved by the NMC:

* Abertay University
* Edinburgh Napier University
* Glasgow Caledonian University
* Robert Gordon University
* The Open University
* University of Dundee
* University of Stirling
* University of the Highlands and Islands
* University of the West of Scotland
* Mental Health Nursing undergraduate programmes usually take 3 years full-time study to complete.

For more information on related further and higher education courses, search[**My World of Work**](https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/learn-and-train/course/search)**.** You should check specific entry requirements before applying.

A [Foundation Apprenticeship Social Services and Healthcare](https://www.apprenticeships.scot/become-an-apprentice/foundation-apprenticeships/social-services-and-healthcare/)is a good way to start your career in healthcare could give you valuable work experience and the skills needed for a career in the NHS.

### Work Placement

If you’re at school and are thinking of a career as a Mental Health Nurse, doing a work placement could help you when applying to college, university or for a job in healthcare. You’ll learn new skills, improve your knowledge and discover what it’s like to work in the health service. Find out[How to Apply for Work Experience with the NHS?](https://www.careers.nhs.scot/how-to-apply/work-placements-and-job-shadowing/)

### Your Role

As a mental health nurse, you would deliver a range of different therapies to support patient recovery and help them stay well. Often, you’d work with people over long periods, helping them understand the nature of their illness and how to cope in a crisis.

Being able to understand things from each person’s point of view is a key skill, no matter what their background, or the problems they face. This includes being aware of and being able to challenge the stigma around mental health. Discrimination can affect people and hinder their recovery from mental illness.

### What you’ll do

Tasks include:

* making sure people get the help and support they need
* encouraging people to take part in art, music or dramatherapy sessions
* providing physical support where needed
* assessing people who may be at risk of self-harm or harming others
* making sure people take their medications correctly

### Working Environment

As a mental health nurse, working in the NHS, you could work in:

* mental health hospitals
* GP practices
* health centres
* prisons
* residential homes
* a person’s own home

### Learning and Development

Once registered as a mental health nurse, there are ongoing requirements for education and skills development. You’ll also have lots of opportunities to go further and learn more.

In your first year as a newly qualified nurse, you’ll get extra support and guidance through the [Flying Start Programme](https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/735/flying-start-nhs).

In the NHS, you may choose to be a staff nurse throughout your nursing career, keeping up to date through continuing professional development. Taking extra courses and workplace learning could lead to progression through the career pathway to senior, advanced or consultant level.

When you've qualified and gained experience as a registered mental health nurse, there are a wide variety of specialisms to choose from including:

* substance misuse
* forensic mental health
* early intervention
* dementia care
* children and young peoples’ mental health
* community mental health

### Revalidation

Revalidation is a process which nurses need to follow to maintain their registration with the NMC every 3 years.

## [Midwife](https://careers.nhs.scot/careers/explore-our-careers/midwifery/midwife/)

Midwives provide support to women before, during and after childbirth, making sure babies receive the care they need at the earliest stages of life.

As experts in childbirth, the role of a midwife can be demanding and carries plenty of responsibility.

To work in the NHS, midwives must be registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

### Starting your career

Choosing subjects at school to get on a course that could lead to a career as a midwife, useful subjects include:

* Human Biology
* Chemistry
* Psychology
* English
* Maths

A, [Foundation Apprenticeship Social Services and Healthcare](https://www.apprenticeships.scot/become-an-apprentice/foundation-apprenticeships/social-services-and-healthcare/) taken in S5 or S6, could help you gain new skills and valuable work experience.

Find out more about Foundation Apprenticeships at[apprenticeships.scot](https://www.apprenticeships.scot/)

### Work Placement

If you’re at school and thinking of a career in midwifery, doing a work placement could help you when applying to college, university or for a job in healthcare. You’ll learn new skills, improve your knowledge and discover what it’s like to work in the health service. Find out how to[apply for work experience with the NHS](https://www.careers.nhs.scot/how-to-apply/work-placements-and-job-shadowing/)

### College and University

At college, you can do an HNC in Care and Administrative Practice, which could lead to an undergraduate pre-registration midwifery degree. Entry Requirement vary, but likely to be two Scottish Highers.

In Scotland, the following universities offer undergraduate programmes in midwifery, approved by the NMC:

* Edinburgh Napier University
* Robert Gordon University
* University of the West of Scotland

Entry Requirements Scottish Highers: BBBC including English and preferably a science, plus SQA National 5 (Grade C, or above).

Competition for places varies from year to year and you aren't guaranteed a place if you meet the minimum qualifications.

Pre-registration undergraduate programmes usually take 3 years of full-time study.

Search for related further and higher education courseson[My World of Work](https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/learn-and-train/course/search). It’s always good practice to check specific entry requirements before applying.

### Your Role

One of the most important aspects of the job is making sure mothers and their babies have a positive experience. You’ll care for women from lots of different backgrounds, with different needs.

You would help women and their families learn about pregnancy and the processes of childbirth. You’d also explain what will happen and discuss any choices that need to be made.

As a midwife, you’ll need to be able to review clinical information and make decisions about care. This could include providing support and advice about:

* miscarriage
* stillbirth
* terminations
* neonatal abnormalities or death

### What you’ll do

Tasks include:

* giving pregnant women advice on lifestyle choices, such as healthy eating or help to stop smoking
* planning, delivering and reviewing midwifery care during pregnancy and childbirth
* running antenatal classes
* monitoring the baby during labour and birth
* providing postnatal care for women and new-born

Working Environment

As a midwife the NHS, you could work in:

* antenatal, labour and postnatal wards
* neonatal units
* health centres
* people’s homes

Midwives also work in midwife-led units providing antenatal, labour and postnatal care to women and their new-borns.

### Learning and Development

Healthcare is constantly improving and technology evolving. The needs of the population are changing, so you’ll be up to date with health care issues and practice.

Once registered as a midwife, there are ongoing requirements for education and skills, you’ll also have lots of opportunities to go further and learn more.

In your first year as a newly qualified midwife, you’ll get extra support and guidance through the[Flying Start Programme](https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/735/flying-start-nhs).

### Revalidation

Revalidation is a process which nurses need to follow to maintain their registration with the NMC every 3 years.

## [Learning Disability Nurse](https://www.careers.nhs.scot/careers/explore-our-careers/nursing/learning-disability-nurse/)

Learning Disability Nurses support people of all ages with learning disabilities to help them lead active, independent and healthier lives.

To work in the NHS, nurses must be registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

### Starting your career

Choosing subjects at school. To get on a course that could lead to a career in nursing, useful subjects include:

* Biology
* Human Biology
* Chemistry
* Care
* Psychology
* English
* Maths

### College and University Routes

At college, you can do an HNC in Care and Administrative Practice, which could lead to an undergraduate pre-registration nursing degree. Entry requirements are likely to be two Scottish Highers.

In Scotland, the following universities offer undergraduate programmes in Learning Disability Nursing, approved by the NMC:

* Edinburgh Napier University
* Glasgow Caledonian University
* The Open University

Learning Development Nursing usually take 3 years full-time study to complete.

For more information on related further and higher education courses, search[MY World of Work](https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/learn-and-train/course/search). You should always check specific entry requirements before applying.

### Foundation Apprenticeships

A[Foundation Apprenticeships in Social Services and Healthcare](https://www.apprenticeships.scot/become-an-apprentice/foundation-apprenticeships/social-services-and-healthcare/)isa good way to start your career in healthcare and could give you valuable work experience and the skills needed for a career in the NHS.

### Work placement

If you’re at school and thinking of a career as a Learning Development Nurse, doing a work placement could help you when applying to college, university or for a job in healthcare. You’ll learn new skills, improve your knowledge and discover what it’s like to work in the health service. Find out[How to Apply for Work Experience with the NHS?](https://www.careers.nhs.scot/how-to-apply/work-placements-and-job-shadowing/)

### Your Role

As a Learning Disability Nurse, you would work to improve the wellbeing and social inclusion of people in your care.

You’ll use a variety of skills and techniques to communicate with individuals in your care. Helping people express their needs, integrate and engage with the wider world is also part of the job.

### What you’ll do

Tasks include:

* assessing a person’s health and social care needs
* providing access to healthcare and other therapies
* teaching people every day practical and personal skills
* supporting people to lead a fulfilling life
* reducing barriers and challenging negative attitudes

### Working Environment

As a Learning Disability Nurse in the NHS, you could work in:

* hospitals
* residential homes
* community centres
* people’s homes
* education

### Learning and Development

Once registered as a learning disability nurse, there are ongoing requirements for education and skills development. You’ll also have lots of opportunities to go further and learn more.

In your first year as a newly qualified nurse, you’ll get extra support and guidance through the[Flying Start Programme](https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/735/flying-start-nhs).

In the NHS, you may choose to be a staff nurse throughout your nursing career, keeping up to date through continuing professional development. However, taking extra courses and workplace learning could lead to progression through the career pathway.

When you’ve qualified and gained experience as a registered learning disability nurse, there are lots of specialisms to choose from, including:

* sensory disabilities
* autism
* epilepsy
* special needs education

You could also combine your nursing training with social care work. There are also opportunities to move into:

* service management
* public health
* voluntary or private sector organisations
* research and education

You could combine these roles with ongoing clinical practice**.**

### Revalidation

Revalidation is a process which nurses need to follow to maintain their registration with the NMC every 3 years.

## [Diagnostic Radiographer](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/diagnostic-radiographer)

Diagnostic Radiographers play a key role in medical teams, helping the NHS to provide a healthcare service that meets patients' needs.

Using the latest imaging technology, diagnostic radiographers take high-quality images of the inside of the body. These images are used to diagnose and monitor illnesses or injuries, so patients receive the correct treatment.

To work in the NHS, therapists must be registered with the Health and Care Professions Council.

### Starting your career

Choosing subjects at school to get on a course that could lead to a career as a diagnostic radiographer, useful subjects include:

* Human Biology
* Chemistry
* Physics
* Maths
* English

A [Foundation Apprenticeship in Social Services and Healthcare](https://www.apprenticeships.scot/become-an-apprentice/foundation-apprenticeships/social-services-and-healthcare/), taken in S5 or S6, could help you gain new skills and valuable work experience.

### College and University Routes

Most universities accept a wide range of qualifications, giving you the option of applying directly from school or going to college first.

At college, you could do an HNC in a science-based subject before applying to university to do an undergraduate programme.

Entry requirements vary according to the college course applied. Please check entry requirements with each college institution.

3 universities in Scotland offer degree courses in Diagnostic Radiography or Diagnostic Imaging approved by the HCPC:

* Glasgow Caledonian University
* Queen Margaret University
* Robert Gordon University

Diagnostic Radiographer take 4 years full-time to complete.

Entry Requirements:

Scottish Higher: Standard entry requirement: BBBB (including English and two Sciences) Nat 5: B (Maths)

Minimum entry requirement for Widening Access eligibility: BBCC (including English and two Sciences) Nat 5: B (Maths)

College HNC: Science-based HNC - graded unit B accepted for year 1 entry.

### Your Role

As a diagnostic radiographer, you’ll take images using different imaging techniques, such as:

* X-rays
* ultrasound
* fluoroscopy
* CT (computed tomography)
* MRI (magnetic resonance imaging)
* nuclear medicine
* angiography
* mammography

Your expert knowledge and skills would be used to identify injuries and illnesses, including cancers or coronary artery disease.

### Who you’ll work with?

Diagnostic radiographers usually work in a team with other healthcare professionals, including:

* doctors
* surgeons
* nurses
* healthcare support workers
* porters
* Working Environment
* You could work in:
* hospital radiography departments
* outpatient clinics
* accident and emergency departments
* wards
* operating theatres

### Career Progression

You may choose to specialise in a particular type of imaging, such as MRI or sonography. Some diagnostic radiographers work with specific patient groups, such as breast screening, children, stroke patients or cancer patients.

### Revalidation

Revalidation is a process which nurses and health care professions need to follow to maintain their registration with the NMC every 3 years.

## [Paramedic](https://www.careers.nhs.scot/careers/explore-our-careers/ambulance-services/paramedic/)

Paramedics provide an immediate response to accidents and medical emergencies. These situations are likely to involve people who are badly hurt, severely traumatised and seriously ill.

Paramedics have the skills and knowledge to assess and manage a range of less serious illness or injuries, and provide care for people in their own homes to help reduce avoidable hospital admissions.

To work in the NHS, paramedics must be registered with the Health and Care Professions Council

### Starting your career

Choosing subjects at school to get on a course that could lead to a career as a paramedic, useful subjects include:

* Human Biology
* Biology
* Psychology
* Care
* Maths
* English

A[Foundation Apprenticeships in Social Services and Healthcare](https://www.apprenticeships.scot/become-an-apprentice/foundation-apprenticeships/social-services-and-healthcare/) taken in S5 or S6, could help you gain new skills and valuable work experience.

Find out more about apprenticeships at [apprenticeships.scot](https://www.apprenticeships.scot/)

### College and University Routes

Most universities accept a wide range of qualifications, giving you the option of applying directly from school or going to college first. At college, you could do an HNC in a health or science-based subject before applying to university to do an undergraduate programme.

Entry requirements vary according to the college course applied, please check with college institutions.

In Scotland, 5 universities offer undergraduate programmes in Paramedic Science or Paramedic Practice:

* Glasgow Caledonian University
* Queen Margaret University
* Robert Gordon University
* University of Stirling
* University of the West of Scotland

Paramedic Science undergraduate programmes take 4 years full-time to complete.

Entry requirements: Scottish Higher: Standard entry requirement: BBBB (including English and Biology/Human Biology) Nat 5: C (Maths)

College HNC: Relevant health-related subject (including Human Physiology) or a Science-based HNC Nat 5: C (Maths and English)

All entry requirements listed here should be used as a guide and represent the minimum required to be considered for entry. Applicants who are made a conditional offer of a place may be asked to achieve more than is stated.

### Additional requirements

Applicants will be required to attend interview as part of the admissions process.

Acceptance to this programme is subject to a satisfactory occupational health screening and PVG clearance. You must be physically fit and have the strength to lift and carry patients and equipment.

### Your Role

As a paramedic, you would provide a high level of care to patients involved in an accident or emergency, such as:

* victims of a road traffic accident who have multiple or severe injuries
* a person who has suffered a stroke or heart attack
* an elderly person who has fallen down the stairs
* a sick or ill child or young person
* a very sick baby being moved to a specialist centre
* a pregnant woman

Sometimes you would work independently and use an emergency response car, a motorbike or bicycle to reach the patient. Depending on the nature of the emergency, you may need to call for backup from an ambulance crew or other emergency services.

Paramedics also work in a two-person ambulance crew, with an ambulance technician. You would assess and provide essential treatment to resuscitate and stabilise the patient, so they can be transferred safely to hospital. This could include:

* cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)
* using a defibrillator
* chest decompression
* controlling bleeding
* giving oxygen and pain relief medication
* spinal immobilisation and splinting limbs
* setting up intravenous drips

### What you’ll do?

Some of the typical tasks you would carry out as a paramedic include:

responding to 999 medical emergency calls

providing an immediate course of treatment in a pre-hospital environment, such as the scene of an accident

using equipment such as defibrillators and ventilators to resuscitate and stabilise patients

providing care to patients with non-life-threatening illness or injury in their own home, sometimes referring them on to other healthcare professionals for follow-up care

cleaning, decontaminating and checking ambulance vehicles and equipment to ensure operational readiness and adherence to Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI) protocols

assessing and monitoring the patient’s condition

making clinical decisions about the appropriate treatment options for patients with long-term medical conditions who present with urgent medical needs

dressing wounds, applying splints, administering pain relief and carrying out some surgical procedures in emergency and urgent situations

### Who you’ll work with?

Paramedics work with other healthcare professionals and emergency services, including**:**

* [Ambulance Technician](https://www.careers.nhs.scot/careers/explore-our-careers/ambulance-services/ambulance-technician/)
* doctors
* nurses
* police
* fire service
* coast guard

You could work in:

* GP practices
* minor injury units
* ambulance stations

### Revalidation

Revalidation is a process which nurse and health care professions need to follow to maintain their registration with the NMC every 3 years.

## [Physiotherapist](https://www.careers.nhs.scot/careers/explore-our-careers/allied-health-professions/physiotherapist/)

Physiotherapists care for people of all ages, helping them to recover their range of movement following an injury or illness. They also help disabled people improve their health and quality of life through exercise and manual therapy.

To work in the NHS, physiotherapists must be registered with the Health and Care Professions Council

### Starting your career

Choosing subjects at school to get on a course that could lead to a career as a physiotherapist, useful subjects include:

* Human Biology
* Physical Education
* Care
* Physics
* Chemistry
* Maths
* English

A[Foundation Apprenticeships Social Services and Healthcare](https://www.apprenticeships.scot/become-an-apprentice/foundation-apprenticeships/social-services-and-healthcare/), taken in S5 or S6, could help you gain new skills and valuable work experience.

Find out more about apprenticeships at[apprenticeships.scot](https://www.apprenticeships.scot/become-an-apprentice/foundation-apprenticeships/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIzrSp0sfO6QIV1-vtCh1QhwsjEAAYASAAEgJBe_D_BwE)

### College and University Route

Most universities accept a wide range of qualifications, giving you the option of applying directly from school or going to college first.

At college, you can complete an HND in Sports Therapy or an HND in Applied Sport Science. Entry requirements vary, please contact college to confirm.

3 universities in Scotland offer undergraduate programmes in Physiotherapy, approved by the HCPC:

* Glasgow Caledonian University
* Queen Margaret University
* Robert Gordon University

Scottish Higher: Standard entry requirement: AABBB (including English and two Sciences) a third Science at Nat 5: B

Minimum entry requirement: ABBBC (including English and two Sciences) a third Science at Nat 5: B

College HND: Sports Therapy/Applied Sports and Exercise Science/Sports Science/Science-based HND - graded units AA Scottish Higher: C (English and a Science)

\*All entry requirements listed here should be used as a guide and represent the minimum required to be considered for entry. Applicants who are made a conditional offer of a place may be asked to achieve more than is stated.

Physiotherapy undergraduate programmes take 4 years full-time study to complete.

### Your Role

Functional movement is a key part of what it means to be healthy. This means that physiotherapy plays a significant role in enabling people to improve their health, wellbeing and quality of life.

As a physiotherapist, you'll care for people who have many different types of conditions such as:

* multiple sclerosis
* back pain
* neck injuries
* sports injuries
* arthritis
* stroke
* mental health problems

### What you’ll do?

Some of the typical tasks of a physiotherapist include:

* caring for children and young people with cerebral palsy, helping them to increase their muscle strength and activation
* helping the rehabilitation of people who are recovering from a heart attack, stroke, injury or surgery
* helping older people to improve their mobility
* using therapeutic ultrasound to reduce pain or increase circulation
* using hydrotherapy to strengthen weak muscles

You could use a range of equipment such as:

* cross-trainers
* treadmills
* exercise bikes
* parallel walking bars
* walking aids
* dumbbells
* gym balls
* high-tech equipment for specialist therapy

### Working Environment

You could work in:

* health centres
* a person’s own home
* nursing homes
* day centres
* schools
* outpatient departments

### Learning and Development

The professional body for physiotherapists in the UK is the

[The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy](https://www.csp.org.uk/) (CPS).You can become a member once you’ve qualified as a physiotherapist.

### Career Progression

With training and experience, you may choose to specialise in a particular area of practice such as:

* sports injuries
* critical care
* care of the elderly
* working with children
* caring for cancer patients

### Revalidation

Revalidation is a process which nurses and health care professions need to follow to maintain their registration with the NMC every 3 years.

## [Optometry](https://digital.ucas.com/coursedisplay/courses/bd94ad09-764e-0c4a-eebe-0f0a54d11596?academicYearId=2019)

Optometry is a regulated healthcare profession concerned with eyecare, vision and visual systems. Optometrists are primary healthcare practitioners trained to prescribe and fit glasses, contact lenses and other visual aids to improve vision. They also diagnose and treat diseases of the eye.

Some Optometrists choose to specialise in a specific area of eye care. Examples include:

* sports vision, working with sports professionals to improve performance
* low vision, which affects nearly 2 million people in the UK
* contact lenses including fitting children and adults where these are required for managing or treating an eye disease

As an Optometrist, you will need to be:

* patient and understanding
* able to make patients feel at ease
* compassionate and sensitive
* able to concentrate when carrying out repetitive tasks
* remain calm under pressure
* able to work accurately and precisely, with attention to detail

**I**n Scotland, Glasgow Caledonian University offers a [4 Year Optometry Degree](https://www.gcu.ac.uk/study/courses/details/index.php/P00305)

The entry requirements include SQA Highers at AABBB grade, including English, Maths and two sciences plus SQA National 5 Physics at A if not taken at Higher level.

More information about the entry requirements for this degree course is available on the university’s website.

Minimum entry requirement: ABBBC (including English, Maths and two Sciences)

College HNC: Science-based HNC (including Maths) - graded unit A; HNC that includes Physics recommended.

### Your personal statement

In your personal statement you should include your intent to study optometry. Some work experience is always useful.

When you graduate, you’ll[request a Certificate of Clinical Competency](https://www.optical.org/en/Education/What_to_study_and_where/) .This is needed before you can start your pre-registration training with a registered Optometrist.

Graduates become qualified optometrists after one year's supervised clinical practice and successful completion of the Scheme for Registration run by The College of Optometrists.

To practice as a hospital optometrist, it is recommended that you apply for pre-registration placement in a hospital setting. You will need to pass a work-based assessment and supervision by a registered optometrist as well as a practical examination during your placement. Following your pre-registration period, you can register with the General Optical Council.

# How Do I Submit Applications to College and University?

## Applying to College

[The College Application Process](https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/applying-courses-0) is pretty straight-forward but there’s a few things you’ll need to bear in mind. There is no set deadline for college applications. Instead, places are offered on a ‘first come, first served’ basis. Once a college has filled all the places on a particular course, it will be full for that year. That means you must submit your application form as soon as possible.

Most colleges start accepting applications around 15th January each year for courses that will start in August of that year. Remember, there’s a lot of competition for college places. So, get your application in as soon as possible.

### How many college applications can I submit?

You can apply to as many college courses as you like, its free and there’s no limit. We recommend that you submit at least 3 or 4 applications so that you have a back-up plan in case you don’t get accepted for your first choice.

### Where will I find the application forms for colleges?

Most applications are now completed online. You’ll find the forms on the relevant college websites.

### What are college application forms like?

Application forms vary a bit between different colleges so make sure you read the requirements of each college carefully. Generally, though, you’ll be asked to enter:

* Your Course Choices
* Mode of Study - Full time or part time
* Personal Details
* Qualifications
* Employment History
* Reference
* Personal Statement or 'further information'

For most courses, if you meet the entry requirements, you'll be invited to attend an interview.

Following your interview, you'll usually be contacted with one of four responses:

Unconditional Offer - This means you’ve already met all the entry requirements so the place is yours if you want it!

Conditional Offer - This means you'll get a place if you meet certain conditions. Usually that means waiting until the summer to see if you get the exam results you need to meet the entry requirements.

Course is Full - If all the places on a course have been filled by the time the college processes your application, you may be put on a waiting list or you may be advised to reapply next year.

Unsuccessful - This means the college has decided not to offer you a place.

If you’ve been offered a place, you’ll then be expected to contact the college to accept (or reject) the offer.

## Applying to University

[The University Application Process](https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/advice-parents-and-guardians/ucas-undergraduate-application-process) is actually quite a straight-forward process. Unlike college applications, you don’t need to apply to each university individually. Instead, you’ll use an online system called UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) to apply to all your chosen courses at once.

### How does UCAS work?

The [UCAS website](http://www.ucas.com/) *allows you to:*

[Search](http://search.ucas.com/) for courses

Apply for up to **FIVE** courses

Track your application and receive offers from universities

UCAS has detailed information on every course you can study at university in the UK.

#### What about my qualifications?

I haven’t sat my final exams yet! as well as entering all the qualifications you’ve gained so far, you’ll enter all the Highers/Nationals that you’ll be taking exams in.

Once you’ve submitted your application, a university may give you something called a ‘conditional offer’. That means they agree to give you a place on their course if you gain the grades required in your final exam results. That’s why they need to know in advance what exams you’ll be taking.

When you’ve decided on the courses you’re interested in applying, you can register an account on UCAS and begin completing an online application form.

#### What is a Personal Statement?

You must write a short (but very important) statement, explaining why you're interested in the courses you’ve applied to and why you think you're well suited to studying them. You’ll need to talk about your interests, your skills, and your experience, both in and outside school. This is the part of the form where you get to sell yourself so you want it to be good.

Personal statements are used to compare different applicants and their suitability on the course, so make sure you check out UCAS tips on writing personal statements: [UCAS Personal Statement Tips](https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/how-write-ucas-undergraduate-personal-statement)

If you're thinking of applying to university or college you’ll need to talk about why you want to study your selected course. Make a list of bullet point notes of your hobbies and any other relevant experience you may have. Think about any particular skills or experience that would make your personal statement stand out from all the other applicants!

Your UCAS Personal Statement is an opportunity to tell colleges and universities why they should offer you a place on their course.

Personal statements must be unique and personal to you…but we can help you think about the content you should be including, and the way it should be written to demonstrate that you:

Meet the entry requirements for the course

Are enthusiastic about studying the course and will be well suited to the work it involves.

This information will be passed on to the universities you apply to via your UCAS application form.

#### Task

Write down some bullet points in the boxes below to make a start on pulling information together for your personal statement:

|  |
| --- |
| Why do you want to apply to this course? |

|  |
| --- |
| What skills and experience do you have? |

|  |
| --- |
| What do you hope to achieve by completing this course? |

### Points to Remember!

Nobody can rattle off a great personal statement at the first attempt. It will take a few drafts before you arrive at the final version.

So, make sure you start working on it early and get help from your teachers and advisers.

You can redraft your statement as many times as you like before you send it, but once your application is submitted it can’t be changed. So, take time to get it right!

There’s a word limit

Or, to be precise, a character limit. Your statement must be no more than 4000 characters long (or 47 lines of text) including spaces. That’s roughly 600 words.

That’s not very much so the trick is to use the space well – include the most important points and make them as succinctly as you can.

Make sure it’s well written

A badly written statement will not go down well. Structure your statement clearly and check your spelling and grammar.

Give Examples

Don’t just mention the skills you have. Give examples of how you have developed and used them.

For example, you might have demonstrated your communication skills by taking part in a debating competition, or your interpersonal skills by acting as a mentor for younger pupils…

Be Honest

You want to sell yourself, demonstrating all your skills and achievements. But that doesn’t mean making stuff up. Don’t pretend you’ve worked as a lion tamer if you haven’t. You might be asked about it down the line – especially if your course requires an interview.

So be honest! Write about the great skills and experience you do have!

Don’t Copy

Don’t be tempted to copy someone else’s statement or one posted online. It must be your own work. UCAS will scan them all to check for any similarities…so don’t risk it!

Avoid mentioning universities and colleges by name:

Remember, it’s the same personal statement for every course you’re applying to. So, don’t write about why you want to go to one particular uni. Keep it general. Talk about why you want to study the subject. If you’re applying to different subjects, write about skills and themes that are common to them both e.g. problem solving or creativity.

#### Further Advice

* Download Focus West’s [**'UCAS Preparation Booklet**](https://www.focuspoint.org.uk/media/13108/he-guidance-booklet-2020.pdf)**'** for tips and advice on how to write an excellent personal statement.
* UCAS have good advice articles and videos on writing your personal statement [here](http://www.ucas.com/how-it-all-works/undergraduate/filling-your-application/your-personal-statement). Their [Personal Statement Worksheet](https://www.focuspoint.org.uk/media/1065/ucas-personal-statement-worksheet.pdf)will help you plan what you want to include.
* My World of Workhave some useful [Top Tips](https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/learn-and-train/tutorial-writing-personal-statement-ucas-or-college-application)

#### Why do I need a ‘reference’?

You must ask one of your teachers to write a short reference to be added to your form. These references are like recommendations – whoever writes it will provide a statement about your suitability for university.

Your teachers should be on top of this, but if they haven't mentioned it yet, ask them. They might want to look at guidance on Writing UCAS References. UCAS offer clear advice for referees in their [**Reference Guide**](http://www.ucas.com/how-it-all-works/advisers-and-referees/referees/undergraduate).

References provide universities and colleges with 'an informed and academic assessment of an applicant's suitability for further study' and gives teachers the opportunity to:

* flag up any circumstances that may have affected the applicant's attainment. For example, illness may have affected their exam performance or their subject choices may have been restricted by your school curriculum.
* offer an insight into the applicant's attitude and performance in class. Referees may wish, for example, to highlight pupil’s enthusiasm and aptitude for a subject related to their application.

#### What’s the deadline for submitting UCAS applications?

* The deadline for most courses is January 15th in the year you would be starting university.
* If you’re applying to do medicine, Dentistry, or Vet Medicine (or a course at Oxford or Cambridge, the deadline is earlier: October 15th in the year of applying.

# What are the performing and production arts?

The Performing Arts such as, music, drama, dance, and film have a reputation for being hard to get into. It's true that applying to study in these fields involves a bit more than a standard college or university application. But there's plenty of advice out there to help you pursue your dream career.

Dance

Theatre

Music

Acting

Entry Requirements:

At the RCS, strong academic qualifications are less important than practical talent, ability and potential.

For every course except Modern Ballet, you need a minimum of three passes at Higher level (grade C or above).

For Modern Ballet, you need five passes at National 5 level (or equivalent).

If you're applying for a Music degree, it's expected that your playing will be at a standard at least equivalent to Grade 8 in your chosen instrument.

Visit the [RCS website](http://www.rcs.ac.uk/undergraduate-courses/) for specific details.

Where can I get advice and support in applying to the Performing Arts?

|  |
| --- |
| FOCUS West runs a programme for school pupils interested in pursuing a career in the performing and production arts. If you're a pupil at one of the many schools we work with, you can take part in the Entry to the Creative Industries programme.  Run by the [RCS Entry to the Creative Industries programme](https://portal.rcs.ac.uk/waci/)(ETTCI) offers:   * Practical workshops * Open Days and Family Days at the RCS * School talks * Theatre and film trips * Audition and interview preparation courses * Individual mentoring   We understand that schools are busy places and that teachers have a lot on their plate! Therefore, if you haven’t been told about the opportunities available to you via Entry to the Creative Industries, just get in contact with us on the link below, as we’d be delighted to work with you.  [Contact Focus West](https://www.focuswest.org.uk/)  [focuswest@strath.ac.uk](mailto:focuswest@strath.ac.uk) |

### How do I apply to the Preforming Arts?

The application process varies depending on the type of course you want to study: For example, applying to the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland:

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (RCS) in Glasgow is the only specialist performing arts university in Scotland. It offers highly prestigious degrees in dance, acting, music, production arts, film and television.

The application process for the RCS is a bit different to other universities. If you want to apply to the RCS or one of the other eight 'conservatoires' in the UK, you must apply via [UCAS Conservatoires](https://www.ucas.com/students)

\*If you're applying to study a Music course, the closing date for UCAS Conservatoire applications is *OCTOBER 1st* (in the year before you would be starting the course).

If you're applying for any other course (acting, dance, etc.), the closing date is the same as for other UCAS applications: January 15th.

# Art & Design

If you'd like to pursue a career in Art or Design. Fine Art, Graphic Design, Fashion & Textiles, Jewellery Design, courses are offered at university and college level.

Entry can be competitive and you will need to be ready to submit a high-quality portfolio of relevant work.

Where can I study?

In Scotland, there are several institutions where you can study courses in art and design, it’s always good practice to search UCAS course [Search](http://search.ucas.com/) for latest information.

In the west of Scotland, the [Glasgow School of Art](http://www.gsa.ac.uk/) offers degrees in several subjects, from Fashion & Textiles to Sculpture. The art schools at the [University of Edinburgh](https://www.eca.ed.ac.uk/), [University of Dundee](https://www.dundee.ac.uk/djcad/) , and [Robert Gordon University](https://www.rgu.ac.uk/study/academic-schools/gray-s-school-of-art) in Aberdeen all offer similar degrees.

Several colleges in Scotland offer qualifications in [art and design courses](https://www.planitplus.net/Courses/View/7150/4/20). Many people complete one of these courses before applying to a university, like the Glasgow School of Art.

For others though, a college qualification is sometimes sufficient to get them started in a related career

### How do I apply to Art School?

|  |
| --- |
| Bullet 1 (small)If you’re applying to a university, you’ll begin by completing an application through UCAS. If you’re applying to college, you’ll apply directly to all the colleges you’re interested in.  Bullet 2 (small)for some courses, you’ll be asked to submit a portfolio with examples of your own art and design work. This is the case for all courses at Glasgow School of Art who require an e-folio and physical folio of your work You will also be asked to submit a written statement, explaining the artwork in your portfolio. Bullet 3 (small)Depending on the institution and course you’ve applied to, you may be asked to attend an interview to discuss your portfolio and the reasons for your application. All applicants who pass the portfolio stage of the application process to Glasgow School of Art will be required to attend an interview. |

### Can I get help with preparing my portfolio?

|  |
| --- |
| Applying to art and design courses, particularly at a specialist institution like the Glasgow School of Art, is very competitive. If you’re required to submit a portfolio of artwork, it must be of a high standard. The good news is that there’s a lot of help and advice available to you:If you’re a pupil at a FOCUS West school and are interested in applying to an art, design or architecture course, you’ll be able to get help and advice through the Widening Participation Programme at the Glasgow School of Art.Widening Participation staff and GSA students offer activity both in schools and on campus to assist pupils with their application to the next stage of their creative education.The GSA also runs a programme called ACES (Access to Creative Education in Scotland) which offers advice and practical workshops for S4-S6 pupils interested in applying to degree courses in Art & Design and Architecture. |

### What happens once I’ve submitted my application?

### After submitting your UCAS application, you'll be able to track its progress on [UCAS Track](http://www.ucas.com/how-it-all-works/undergraduate/tracking-your-application).

### Universities will look at your application and decide whether to offer you a place on their course. Usually you'll hear back from universities within 3 months of submitting your application but don't worry if some take longer than others! That's normal.

### There are three types of response you could receive:

### Unconditional offer**:**This means you've already met all the entry requirements so the place is yours if you want it!

### Conditional offer**:** This means you'll get a place if you meet certain conditions. Usually that means waiting until the summer to see if you get the exam results you need to meet the entry requirements.

### Unsuccessful**:** This means the university has decided not to offer you a place.

### UCAS has lots of clear information on the types of offer you will receive [here](http://www.ucas.com/how-it-all-works/undergraduate/tracking-your-application/types-offer).

### How do I accept an offer?

### You have to wait until you've received all your offers before you can reply.

### If you've been offered a place on your first-choice course, you can reply with a *firm acceptance:*

### If it's an unconditional offer, the place is yours.

### If it's a conditional offer, you'll also be able to select a second choice that has lower entry requirements. This is your **insurance acceptance**. In other words, this is a back-up plan in case you don't get the exam results you need for your first choice.

### Have a look at the UCAS information on [Replying to your Offers](http://www.ucas.com/how-it-all-works/undergraduate/tracking-your-application/replying-your-offers).

# What’s it like to be a student?

It’s quite different to being a school pupil. You’re a young adult and your lecturers and tutors will treat you as one. With more independence in the way you learn and study, you’ll have much more freedom to enjoy all the different opportunities that are open to you as a student. There’s a lot more to college and university than the work, there’s a flood of opportunities open to you!

you get the opportunity to meet people who are just like you - choosing a course that suits your interests means you’re likely to be surrounded by a lot of like-minded people. And that’s just in your classes. You’ll have the chance to meet lots of new people through student clubs, activities, and events as well. The result? You’ll make a lot of new friends – friends that you’ll probably have for the rest of your life.

 Fancy a game of American Football? Or a discussion with members of the Harry Potter Appreciation Society? There’s just about no limit to the kind of clubs and societies you could join at university or college. Get enough people together and you could even start a new one.

 you’ll have more time as a student than you’ll have been used to at school. It’s up to you to make sure you get the necessary study done between classes, and you’ll have a lot of time to enjoy yourself.

 as a student, you’re exposed to so many opportunities that can develop you as a person!

 When it comes to applying for jobs later on, employers will love all the experience you’ve gained. For you, these years will have left you with a much better understanding of who you are and what you want.

### What to Expect?

Perhaps the biggest difference between higher education and school is that, at college and university, you have far more independence.

Your timetable will vary depending what course you’re studying – some involve more class time than others – but in most cases you’ll have far fewer classes than at school.

it’s up to you how you choose to spend this time. In other words, it’s your responsibility to manage your time wisely. Your tutors will guide and support you but they probably won’t chase you up for coursework. It’s up to you to complete your work in your own time, in the library or at home.

At college and university; you have to take responsibility and be self-disciplined enough to do the work. But you’ll have the time to balance this with social activities too. Most people really enjoy this sense of freedom…..[student life](https://targetcareers.co.uk/uni/choices-about-uni/1013955-going-to-university-in-scotland)

### What are classes like in college?

College teaching might feel quite similar to school – you’ll have one ‘lecturer’ or teacher for each subject you are taking and they’ll normally guide you through the coursework in a classroom-setting. You’ll be encouraged to do more work for yourself though and to discuss topics with other students. If you’re doing a practical subject, much of your time will be spent in practical workshops or on placement in the workplace.

### What’s it like at university?

University teaching will feel less familiar. Most courses are taught through lectures, seminars, and tutorials:

Lecturers - as a student it’s your job to listen to the lecture and take notes on the information you consider most important. You may have the chance to ask questions, but mostly it’s about listening, note-taking, and reflecting later on what you’ve learned.

Seminars - Seminars give you the opportunity to look at an aspect of the course in greater depth. In a group of around 10-15 students, a tutor will lead you in a discussion of a particular topic.

Tutorials - many courses may also involve practical tutorials or workshops. You’ll watch demonstrations, learn new skills and techniques, and practice them with other students.

### What about the Workload?

People often expect a big jump when they move from school into higher education. They worry that the workload will be huge and the standard expected will be very high. However, although you’ll be studying at a higher level, the work won’t be as intimidating as you might think. The real difference is you are expected to be more independent.

If this sounds like a big task, expert at these skills from the start but you’ll develop them quickly. In fact, a lot of people find this way of learning a lot more engaging and liberating don’t worry! Your lecturers will help you, especially in your first year. Nobody expects you to be an than sitting in a school classroom…

### Time management skills……

### Good time management skills help students prioritize tasks so they are able to complete school work and assignments on time. Students are able to plan ahead, set aside the time they need for projects and make better use of their time.

### Have a go now at prioritising tasks on the template below:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** | **Saturday** | **Sunday** |
| **09:00** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **10:00** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **11:00** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **12:00** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| **18:00** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **19:00** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **20:00** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **21:00** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

### How much does it cost to go to college or university?

### Can I get help with my living expenses?

Although you don’t need to pay fees in Scotland, you might need some help to cover your living expenses, especially if you are moving into student accommodation. SAAS offers two possible sources of funding:

Bullet 1 (small) [SAAS Bursaries](https://www.saas.gov.uk/full-time) provides some extra money to students who come from a household with a low income. This payment is called a bursary and, unlike a loan, does not need to be paid back. SAAS bursaries vary depending on your household income. There’s a chance you could also be eligible for a bursary from the college or university you’re applying to, too. Check their website or get in touch with them.

Bullet 2 (small) [SAAS Living Cost Loan](https://www.saas.gov.uk/full-time) most students apply to SAAS for a student loan to help cover their living expenses. Every student, regardless of their household income, is able to apply for a loan of some sort. Although you are required to pay back student loans, you don’t need to start paying anything until you have completed your course and are working in a job that pays more than £19,390 a year.

As a Scottish school leaver, if you go to college or university in Scotland you won’t need to pay any tuition fees. The Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) will pay the cost of your course in full. You just need to complete an application form through the SAAS website before you begin your course.

That means your only expenses will be living costs, such as accommodation (if you move away from home), food, and travel.

Please see SAAS funding link for more info: [SAAS Funding](https://www.saas.gov.uk/full-time/funding-information-undergraduate)

### Care Experience

### Additional support available for anyone who has been or is currently in care or from a looked after background at any stage of their life, no matter how short, including adopted children who were previously looked after. Care may have been provided in one of many different settings, such as in residential care, foster care, kinship care or through being looked after at home with a supervision requirement.

### [Support for Care Experienced Students](https://www.saas.gov.uk/full-time/support-for-care-experienced-students)

### Care Experienced students apply directly to SAAS for their funding. The Care Experienced Bursary for 2020/21 is £8,100 which does not have to be paid back!

### Support for Care Experience at university

### Support for Care Experience students will be ongoing once you’re at university. Most universities will have a student learning services where you can get help and advice on study skills. The majority of institutions will also guarantee accommodation for 52 weeks of the year.

### [Support for Estranged Students](https://www.saas.gov.uk/guides/estranged-students)

### If you are estranged from your family, and you are thinking of applying to college or university, there is a range of support and provision available. So, if you have any questions about entry requirements, SAAS funding, additional bursaries, or further support institutions can offer; please contact colleges and universities directly.

### Uni Glasgow 2017 arms.png

# University of Glasgow

### Supporting Access to General Subjects

As you progress through secondary school the support becomes more focused on supporting your application and admission into university or college.

The Senior Phase of the curriculum in S4-S6 can be a busy and challenging time, however by successfully completing some extra work, you can benefit from adjusted entry requirements which reduce the grades universities and colleges would normally ask for in making offers.

The University of Glasgow provide support for entry into general degree programmes in Arts, Social Sciences, Science and Engineering as well as Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences.

Top-Up and Summer School Programmes are two of the longest running, well established and respected pre-entry programmes in Scotland, recognised by every other Scottish University, who may consider your participation when they look at your application.

Successful completion of a pre-entry programme, such as Summer School or Top Up will ensure that you're well prepared to start University, continue and succeed.

### Focus West To-Up Programme

Are you taking FOCUS West [TOP-UP PROGRAMME](https://www.gla.ac.uk/study/wp/supportingaccesstogeneralsubjects/top-up/) as a qualification?

FOCUS West is funded by the Scottish Funding Council and is part of the national Schools for Higher Education Programme. It works in schools in the West of Scotland and is delivered by staff and students from universities and colleges in the region. The Top-Up programme is the element of FOCUS West delivered to senior pupils who intend to progress directly to university.

If pupils complete Top Up, they are advised to record this on UCAS applications, so they're deemed eligible for an offer, this will be reduced by one grade in a non-named subject, conditional on their gaining a FOCUS West Top-Up profile of BBB or above.

If pupils also eligible for consideration on the basis of Minimum Entry Requirements, the reduction will be one further grade on the published Minimum Entry Requirements for that course; [Find out more info on Focus West](https://www.focuswest.org.uk/)

Top-Up takes place in select West of Scotland secondary schools: 

S5 and S6 pupils take part in 3 block or 5 double in-school sessions between November and March, helping pupils develop essential study skills. Pupils will also attend a campus visit during February or March and take part in a lecture, seminar and workshop. Pupils also complete a written assignment from a choice of five academic subjects.

### What skills will Top-Up help me to develop?

* Time management
* Critical thinking and debating
* Critical reading and effective note taking
* Taking part in a lecture and note-taking
* Preparing and participating in debate
* Preparing for and participating in a seminar
* Planning, researching and completing a written assignment

Top-Up prepares pupils for making the transition to university study, research indicates that students perform to a higher standard in their first year and are more likely to complete their degree than comparable students who don't do Top-Up.

To find out more, please email [topup@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:topup@glasgow.ac.uk)

### Summer School

Each year a number of pupils complete Summer School to benefit from an adjusted offer of entry and to help prepare for university life. Summer School forms an integral part of some applicants' conditional offer of entry to the university.

This can apply to pupils if they are a school applicant living in a, [priority postcode area](https://www.gla.ac.uk/study/wp/postcode/) or have applied to The University of Glasgow with a HNC or HND qualification, are an applicant that is care experienced, estranged or living without family support, a carer or have asylum seeker status or are a refugee.

Pupils may also be given a conditional offer of entry to the university including the Summer School if they are not living in a priority postcode area but have not met the standard SQA entry requirements.  If the Summer School is included in a pupil’s offer of entry, then it is important that they complete the programme.

Summer School will prepare pupils for making the transition to university study; research indicates that students should perform to a higher standard in your first year and be more likely to complete their degree at Glasgow than comparable students who don't do it.

### Who is Summer School for?

Applicants to the University of Glasgow whose offer includes the completion of the Summer School

For school leavers, this offer is adjusted from the standard entry requirements with the condition that you attend and pass the Summer School.

For college students, this is to support your transition to your undergraduate studies.

### Why should I do Summer School?

Summer School will:

Improve your Study Skills

Give you an insight into the campus

Help you (virtually!) meet classmates before Freshers' Week

Introduce you to the library, your School and staff

Prepare you for lectures and seminars

Familiarise you with IT systems and the Virtual Learning Environment

Develop your academic writing

Improve your presentation skills

### What can I study at the Summer School?

In addition to the academic skills course, you may study two subjects. These may include:

* Biology
* Business and Management
* Chemistry
* Computing Science
* Economics
* Education
* Engineering
* English Literature
* Film and TV Studies
* French
* Geography and Earth Science
* German
* History
* Mathematics
* Philosophy
* Physics
* Politics
* Psychology
* Sociology
* Spanish

### How do I register?

Application for Summer School is via online application form, you can find more information [here](https://www.gla.ac.uk/study/wp/supportingaccesstogeneralsubjects/summerschool/)

# Contacts

Have a look at FOCUS West's Website for up to date information on all aspects of Higher Education Guidance [Focus West](https://www.focuswest.org.uk/). Please feel free to contact us at any time, as we’re more than happy to answer any questions you might have.

[Focus West Contact Us](https://www.focuswest.org.uk/contact/)

[](https://www.focuswest.org.uk/?wvideo=a41wmdgtli)

[Home - FocusWest](https://www.focuswest.org.uk?wvideo=a41wmdgtli)

# Plan for Success



What Next……. What are you planning to do?

Now it is down to you to explore your options further and consider College or University courses that you are interested in.

Remember you should:

* Be prepared and explore all options.
* Make a note of application opening and deadline dates.
* Submit more than one application to maximise your options.
* Have a back-up plan!
* Make sure your application and personal statement are good! This is the first interaction the College and University have with you and first impressions count!
* If you are invited for an interview? Prepare to Impress!

The Focus West Team are scheduled to work with you again in S5, sometime in January 2021 to explore your options in more depth; delivering HE Guidance to enhance your learning journey and support you in achieving your true potential.

### Feedback

We hope that you have found this workshop to be useful. We are always looking of ways to improve and would really appreciate if you could spare 2 minutes to provide us with some feedback. Please use the link or scan the QR code below.



<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2C2SWPR>

Thanks for Taking Part

in the

S4 Workshop!

More Information: [Focus Point](http://www.focuspoint.org.uk/)



The HE Guidance materials are produced for FOCUS West on behalf of the Scottish Funding Council.

