

GOING TO COLLEGE? OPTIONS

- Register with colleges and apply online – keep track of your application on email/MyCollege. Apply to more than one college.
- Be ready to apply by January to start in August. For (very limited) courses starting in January, apply in October/November.
- Our nearest campuses (reachable from Armadale within 90 minutes by public transport) are
 - Livingston (www.west-lothian.ac.uk); Oatridge (www.sruc.ac.uk); Coatbridge (www.nclanarkshire.ac.uk);
 - Sighthill (www.edinburghcollege.ac.uk); Falkirk (www.forthvalley.ac.uk); Glasgow City (www.cityofglasgowcollege.ac.uk);
 - Anniesland & Cardonald (www.glasgowclyde.ac.uk) & Easterhouse (www.glasgowkelvin.ac.uk)
 - You will often be eligible for travel expenses and for EMA or bursary (if below HNC level) or SAAS loan (HNC+) – travel expenses vary from college to college, eg City of Glasgow are the most generous.
- Attend college Open Days (these may be online) to learn more about courses
- Research and understand different levels of course/entry points. (for example: you may leave school to start NC Social Science (SCQF6) and then progress to the HNC Social Sciences (SCQF7) the following year, alternatively, you may apply directly to the HNC level course from school if you achieve 2 relevant Highers). Foundation Apprenticeships usually allow direct entry to HNC.
- Use www.myworldofwork.co.uk and www.planitplus.net to research all your course options and how they fit with job profiles.

What to include in a College Application Statement:	Some Things to Remember:
<p>Colleges are looking for you to answer four simple questions in your supporting statement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Why Do You Want to Study this Subject? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Here you need to talk about the passion you have for the course subject. • Are you hoping to build a career in the subject area? • Show that you have an interest, using examples from your life. <i>eg If you are applying for vehicle maintenance talk about when you fixed a bike at home and what this experience taught you.</i> • The college do not want you to drop out of the course half-way through, show them that you won't. What Makes You a Good Candidate For The Course? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think hard about your strengths and how these suit the course (or the job that your course might lead to). • Show commitment to and interest in the subject. What Relevant Experience Do You Have? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss anything you have done that relates to the course topic. • Volunteering, hobbies, school work experience, courses or subjects that are relevant are all good to mention. • This does not need to be paid experience! Why Do You Want to Study at That Particular College? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They don't want to hear that you are only interested because they are the closest college. • Look at the course page on the website: what about it specifically appeals to you? this shows that you have researched the course. • If you have had any good feedback on the college from parents or siblings or friends that has helped form your opinion, mention this. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try to keep it to 3-6 sentences. • You are trying to impress the college. It should take you 45-90 minutes to complete the application. • Make sure that you write in full sentences, with correct spelling, grammar and punctuation. • Avoid waffling! If you are struggling, structure your answer with the 4 questions (on the left) to keep it focused. • If you aren't confident with paragraphs, try using bullet points to make yourself understood. • Always make sure that somebody else has read your statement before you send it. This will catch any silly mistakes.

Other websites to help:

Know what skills you've built in your best school subjects:

Nationals in a Nutshell <https://www.npfs.org.uk/downloads/category/revision-guides/higher/>

Figure out your skills & find language to talk about them:

MWOW Skills Explorer Tool: <https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/tools/skills/start>

Find out what skills are needed for a job you're working towards: <https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/my-career-options/job-profiles>

Look at a real vacancy for the job you aspire to: <http://www.armadaleacademy.co.uk/article/34268/Latest-Career-Opportunities>

Or www.indeed.com What skills do they ask for?

Find out how a college course leads on to university: <https://www.pathways.ac.uk/About>