

Going to University...

What can you study?

At university students study towards a degree which takes on average 3 to 4 years.

How do you get in to University?

To go to university you have to obtain the "Entry Requirements". You may be able to get these whilst at school allowing you to go to university as soon as you leave.

Entry requirements vary depending on the course and university, so it is vital to check these before making your choice. It is important that you know what these requirements are before making your Higher choices as you may need to have qualifications in a specific subject.

All applications for university courses are made via UCAS, to find out more visit www.ucas.com

Choosing to go to College or University

Colleges and universities produce an annual book called a 'Prospectus' which contains up-to-date information such as: courses, entry requirements and life on campus.

A prospectus is a great source of information to help you to decide on your chosen course and whether a college or university is right for you.

Do you have to go straight from school to College or University?

NO! You can choose to go to college or university at any stage of your life. The large number of courses available means that there is a course that will suit you at any stage .

A greater number of employers are realising the benefit from staff continuing to learn whilst in employment, employers may offer to pay or subsidise any costs that might be incurred (e.g. modern apprenticeship employers allow apprentices to go to College on day release (or part time) to allow them to get professional qualifications).

We understand that you may be keen to start working but remember if you leave school at 16 you are unlikely to be able to retire until you are 67 which means you will be working for over 50 YEARS!!! You may choose to study just a bit longer to help you get a job that you will really enjoy, studies have also shown that the average salary of a person that went to college/university is higher when compared to someone that left school and got a job.

And remember it's never too late to learn something new!

Good luck with your future career choice.

Information and Contacts:

- **Websites** - this includes college/university websites, UCAS etc.
- **Talking** - friends and family can offer great advice and support to help you make your decision about going to college to college or university.
- **Careers adviser** - Find out which day the Careers adviser is in your school or drop in to your local Careers Scotland centre.
- **Careers fairs** - this is where you usually find a large number of colleges and universities all in one place, there to provide you with information.
- **Open days** - these are days that allow people that are thinking of going to college/university to walk around the college/university, get guided tours, see the facilities and talk to students doing the subject they are interested in.

For more detailed information about the choosing and applying process please go to,

www.routes2success.org.uk

Routes 2 Success

Project Manager: Gayle Henderson

Telephone: 0131 535 4826

E-mail: ghenderson@stevenson.ac.uk

Useful Contacts:

Planit Plus - www.planitplus.net

Careers Scotland - www.careers-scotland.org.uk

The Virtual Work Experience - www.ltscotland.org.uk/virtualworkexperience/virtualworlds/index.asp

All about U - www.allaboutu.org.uk

Aim Higher - www.aimhigher.ac.uk

Education Maintenance Award Scotland - www.emascotland.com

Student awards agency for Scotland (SAAS) - www.saas.gov.uk



School and beyond

So you're leaving school and want to know what's next...

www.routes2success.org.uk

What happens when I leave school?

When the time comes for you to leave school you will be faced with making a number of important decisions about your future. This may be the first time you have had to seriously think about this but **DO NOT PANIC!** Take your time and consider all your options carefully.



What do people do when they leave school?

Well, there are **3 main options available:**

- **Going to College –**

to study a range of subjects, including: SVQs, Intermediates, Highers, Higher National Certificates (HNC) and Higher National Diplomas (HND)

- **Going to University –**

people go to university to study towards a degree in a range of subjects, this usually takes 3 or 4 years.

For more information on courses available visit, www.ucas.com

- **Getting a full time job –**

there are a number of different jobs and opportunities available to school leavers. Visit the Careers Scotland website for more information:

www.careers-scotland.org.uk

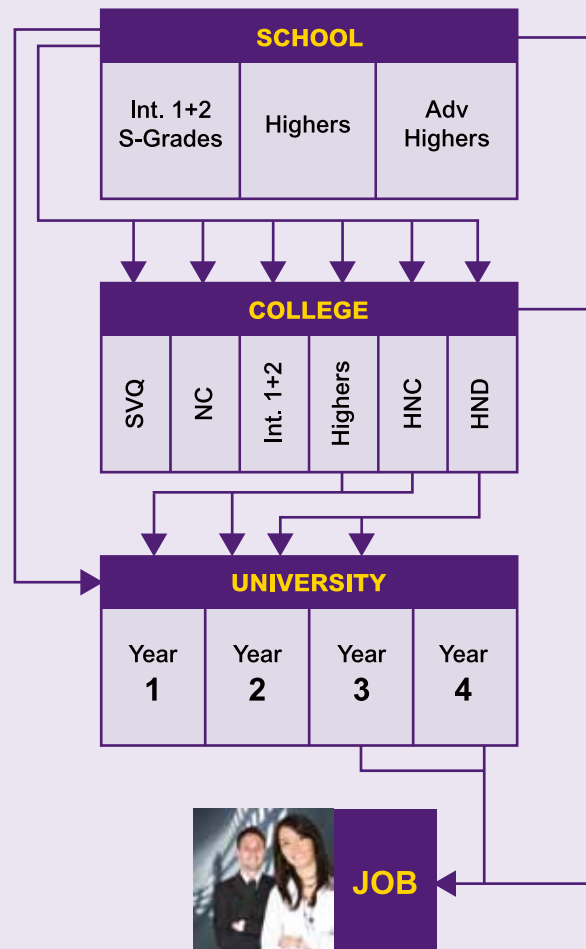
Why would you want to go to College or University after school?

There are a number of different reasons why people decide to continue with their studies after school:

- To get the job you really want
- Faster Career progression
- Earn more money

Depending on your birthday you can go to college from age 16 and university from age 17. There are many ways to move from school to employment as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. 'From school to employment'



Going to College...

What can you study?

Colleges are a lot larger than schools, and offer a wider range of subjects and courses.

Vocational courses can equip you with practical skills to do a particular job. For example, you can study to be a joiner, a chef, motor mechanic or beautician as part of your on-going training.

You can also study subjects that are classroom based and may lead on to university. For example, Business Administration, Social Sciences and Computing. Another good thing about college is that you can decide to work full time but when you want to learn something new, you can do Leisure Courses in the evenings or at weekends.

How do you get in to College?

There are many courses to suit your abilities and interests. Some courses have little or no entry requirements, but look at your experience and personal qualities as well. You can also study in a variety of ways at college. Some people go to college to gain the qualifications required to progress to university. College offers greater flexibility to study around your current commitments. All applications for college courses are made direct to the college itself.

Progression

As seen from the diagram (figure 1) you can study at many different levels at college from SVQs though to HNDs. You can progress through each stage or alternatively enter at a higher level depending on your current Qualifications/Experience.

If you decide to go to university after college you may not have to start in year 1 of your degree. Some college courses offer qualifications that may allow you to start university in year 2 or year 3 (this is depends on your performance at college and doesn't apply to all university courses).