

POST-18 STUDY PATHWAYS

Planning any journey is always going to be difficult if you're not sure of the destination. The same can be said when planning for the future. For the few young people who know where they want to end up, the planning is logical; for those that don't it's more difficult.

When it comes to making big decisions, such as choosing GCSEs, A-levels, or whether to take the route of an apprenticeship or a degree, offering guidance can be difficult.

Higher education qualifications can help young people progress into successful careers and stable jobs in East Anglia and beyond. The different paths fall into three broad categories – academic, vocational and work-based.

What is right for one person isn't always the best option for another. It is important to find the path that best suits you - it is a good idea to start considering the options well in advance.



Qualifications at the same level are of a similar difficulty, but vary in content, learning style and assessment.

ACADEMIC PATHWAYS

Academic pathways are the most common route to university. Most students take this pathway via A-levels, to an undergraduate degree and sometimes a Masters or PHD.

Foundation degrees suit students who are unsure about their final destination, those who wish to study as they work and those who want more work experience as they study.

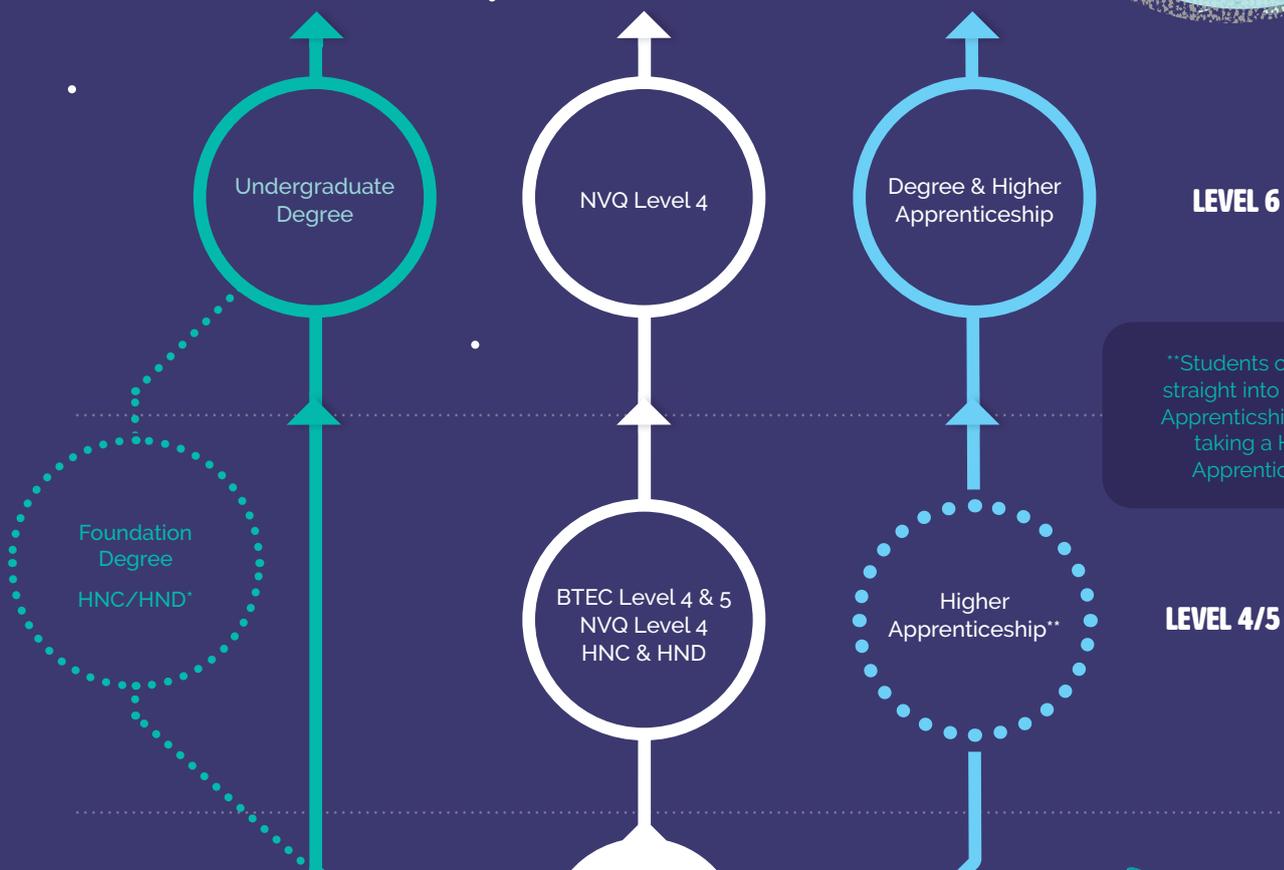
VOCATIONAL PATHWAYS

Vocational pathways are focused on developing work-based skills while studying. Vocational qualifications can offer a pathway to a full-time degree course in the same way that A-levels do. See page 8.

WORK-BASED PATHWAYS

Higher level apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships suit students who want to be employed while studying. They are open to anyone over the age of 16 and can take anything from one to four years to complete. With both higher and degree apprenticeship routes you can achieve a full degree qualification. See page 10.

PLOT A STUDY PATH



**Students can move straight into a Degree Apprenticeship without taking a Higher Apprenticeship.

*Some students take a Foundation Degree/ HNC/HND in preparation for Level 6 study.



! STUDENTS CAN MOVE BETWEEN PATHWAYS

POST-18

PLOT A STUDY PATH

POST-16

A Levels
BTEC Level 3
NVQ Level 3
T-Levels

LEVEL 3

PRE-16

GCSE exams (Level 1/2)
BTEC Level 2
NVQ Level 2

LEVEL 1/2

Choose GCSE Subjects

WHAT ARE A LEVELS?

- 'A Level' is short for '**Advanced Level**'.
- More complex and harder to achieve than GCSE subjects
- **Great preparation for all universities and courses - a good way to keep future options open.**
- 3 or 4 A-Levels.



DO I HAVE AN 5-9 AT GCSE?

Some degree courses require certain A-Level subjects. For example, you will usually need A-Level Maths to study a degree in Engineering. You can find A-Level requirements for courses on University websites.



WHAT IT IS LIKE TO STUDY AT A-LEVEL?

For a student perspective on what A-Level is like check out:
www.takeyourplace.ac.uk/resources/pages/what-is-a-level-like/



“*Pick subjects you love and you won't find the work a chore! If you find yourself on a route to studying something you don't enjoy you'll be more likely to feel unmotivated and find yourself struggling to keep up”*

Olivia – Student

VOCATIONAL PATHWAYS

Vocational qualifications offer practical learning programmes that relate to specific job roles or employment sectors.

They are designed to help young people get the skills they need to start a job, progress in a career or go on to higher levels of education.

Subjects with vocational and work based pathways

- Media and publishing
 - Law
 - Accountancy
 - Aerospace
 - Banking
 - Recruitment
 - High performance engineering
 - Life sciences
 - Cyber security
 - Ambulance services
 - Aviation
 - Quantity and chartered surveying
 - Civil engineering
 - Human resources
 - Chartered management
 - Nuclear engineering
 - Outside broadcast engineering
 - Veterinary nursing
 - Music production
 - Games design
 - Business
 - Agriculture
 - Food technology
- And many more...

Qualifications explained

BTEC

- Wide choice offered at school and college and through apprenticeships
- Earn UCAS Tariff points on BTEC Level 3 towards higher education

Higher National Certificate (HNC)

- Takes a year to complete
- Equivalent to the first year of an Undergraduate Degree.
- Leads to a Higher National Diploma

Higher National Diploma (HND)

- Takes two years to complete (or one with a Higher National Certificate)
- Roughly equivalent to second year of undergraduate degree course
- Work-place based style of learning
- A route to university (can be the first two years of a degree)

National Vocational Qualification (NVQ)

- Test abilities in the workplace
- Students complete training and are then assessed on work related tasks:
 - **Portfolio assessment** – build up evidence of what you've done at work.
 - **Observation** - an assessor watches and checks that required tasks can be done.
- Levels are based on national standards of the job and each unit is signed off as and when standards are met.
- Doesn't have to be completed in a specific amount of time

NEW option ALERT!

T Levels are 2 year courses that mix classroom learning with practical experience in a real workplace. They have been developed with employers to prepare students for a particular type of work. They are equivalent to 3 A Levels.

APPRENTICESHIPS PATHWAYS

For information on higher and degree apprenticeships check out our podcast series at: www.takeyourplace.ac.uk/resource/222

Work and study Higher and degree apprenticeships combine work with study at a higher level. The apprentice gains hands-on experience and qualifications while getting paid. One of the benefits of this pathway is that there are no university fees – these are co-funded by the government and employer.

When studying a Degree Apprenticeship, students study part-time, usually based on an 80/20 split for example, with four days a week at work and one studying with the degree provider.

There are lots of different apprenticeships available across a wide range of industries and for a wide variety of job roles.

For information on higher and degree apprenticeships visit university.which.co.uk
For current opportunities visit gov.uk

Apprenticeships
Higher and Degree Apprenticeships have three elements:



Students gain valuable **transferable skills that employers look for in the work place** such as problem solving, team work, initiative and communication.

91%

of apprentices stay employed after completing their apprenticeship*

68%

with the same employer

Qualifications explained

Higher and Degree Apprenticeships

- Combine work with study – apprentices are employed and paid a wage
- Involves study part-time at college, university or with a training provider
- Can include work-based, academic or combined qualifications or professional qualifications relevant to the industry
- Obtain a full Bachelor's or Master's degree with a Degree Apprenticeship
- No university fees - training costs are co-funded by the government and the employer
- Earn a wage and gain experience - higher and degree apprentices are paid employees with a contract of employment and holiday entitlement