

Kings Langley Sixth Form

Post-18 Parents' Information Evening
Mr Scott and Miss Bowen

Purpose of this evening

- ☐ To **not** tell us the score in the England match
- ☐ To explore the challenges and opportunities facing young people in the employment market
- ☐ To understand the Post-18 support and guidance offered at KLSix
- ☐ To understand the support and guidance that parents and carers can provide
- ☐ To understand key information about university applications, apprenticeships and gap years

NB: All slides will be shared after the event

Post-18 Options

- ☒ Higher Education (university)
- ☐ Further Education (college)
- ☒ Apprenticeships (degree and higher)
- ☐ Employment
- ☒ Gap Year



Kings Langley Sixth Form

Post-18 Parents' Information Evening
Advice and Guidance

Year 12 Futures Focus 2026: Discovery

February – Post-18 Launch

March – UCAS Discovery Day

May-June – Year 12 Examinations and UCAS predictions

June – Early Applicant Programme

June – CV writing (Unifrog)

1 July – Futures Day

9 July – Guest Speaker – Personal Branding

17 July – Personal statement draft (Unifrog)

20 July – Work Experience



Early Applicant Programme

- ❑ Weekly meetings June – October
- ❑ Students interested in applying to Oxford, Cambridge or courses on medicine, veterinary and dentistry
 - Preparation
 - Admission tests
 - Application
 - Written work
 - Interviews



Year 13 Futures Focus 2026-7: Application

- 1 September – UCAS applications open
- 30 September – Early UCAS applicant internal deadline
- 3 October – Review of UCAS predicted grades
- 15 October – Early applicant UCAS deadline
- September-November – Apprenticeship window 1
- September- December – Admission tests
- 30 November – All UCAS applicant internal deadline
- January – Year 13 Trial Examinations
- 13 January – All UCAS deadline
- January-March – Apprenticeship window 2

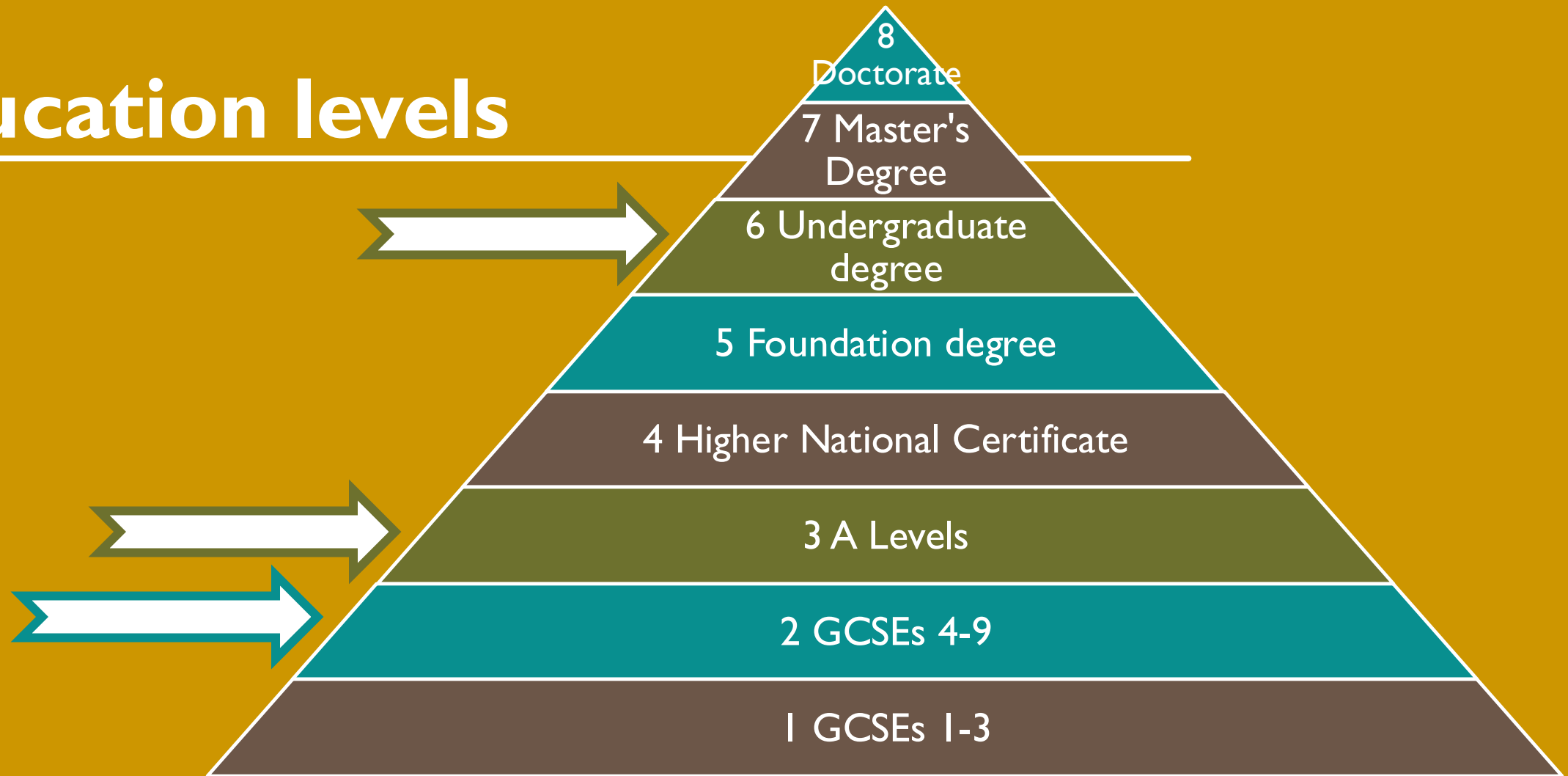


Year 12 Futures Day 2026

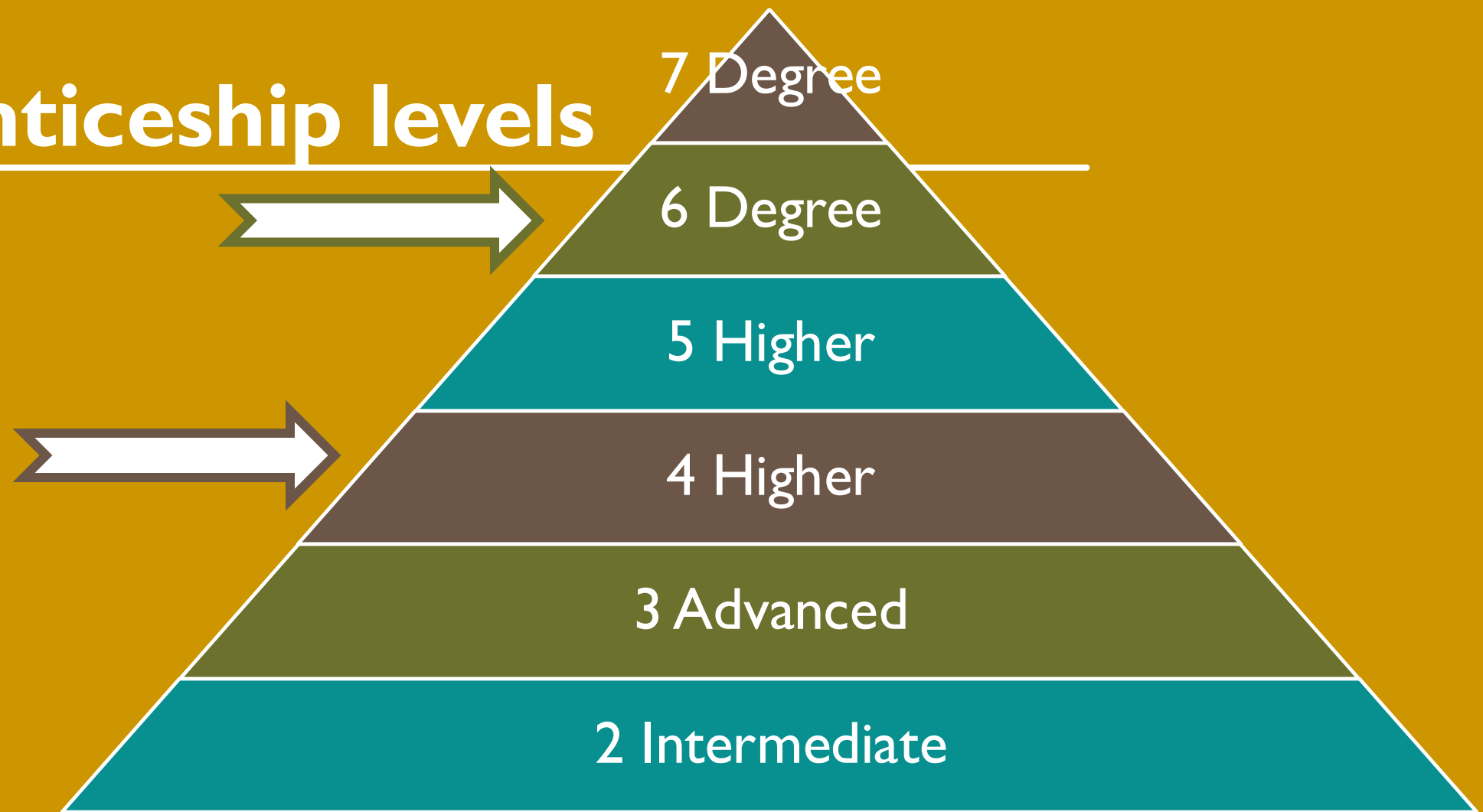
Wednesday, 1 July 2026

- ☐ One-to-one interviews (various guests/volunteers)
- ☐ University and student finance (Bryonny Budd University of Buckinghamshire)
- ☐ Personal statements (Miss Bowen)
- ☐ Apprenticeships (Mr Scott and Stacey Kingshott – World Wide Technology)

Education levels



Apprenticeship levels



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Post-18 Parents' Information Evening
The cost of university

Is university still worth it?

Yes!

- ☐ Graduates earn more over a career (between £200k-£400k)
- ☐ Some jobs require degrees
- ☐ Promotion often favours graduates
- ☐ Uni offers lots of life experiences
- ☐ Financial help for some

No!

- ☐ High costs (c. £45k)
- ☐ Alternatives (Apprenticeships)
- ☐ Not necessary for some jobs

'Like throwing myself at a wall': UK graduates struggle in 'insane' job market

'Hostile and impersonal' process to find first job after university leads many to work for minimum wage



More than 30% of graduates aged 21-30 were in non-graduate work or unemployed last year.
Photograph: Chris Radburn/PA

Financial Costs

Things to consider:

□ Uni costs -

- £9,790 per year **tuition fees**
- £5,000-£9,000 per year **accommodation**
- 4-6 weeks rent as **deposit**



TUITION LOAN

- Full time fees are £9,790 per academic year.
- This is paid directly to your university NOT into your bank account.
- All eligible students will qualify for the full amount.



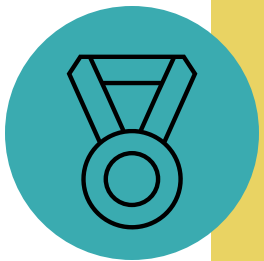
MAINTENANCE LOAN

- Up to £10,830 (£14,135 – London) to help with living costs per academic year.
- This amount depends on household income and where living.
- This is paid into student bank account.



Bursaries are usually awarded to students based on their personal circumstances or if they come from a low-income family.

Bursaries can help students who may face more barriers to attending full-time education, enabling them to access university.



Scholarships usually reward students who are outstanding in their subject, often sport or music. They generally need to be applied for and are quite competitive.

How much do you repay?

Salary	Repayment	Equivalent To
£25,000	£0 per month	
£27,000	£15 per month	Netflix Subscription
£30,000	£37 per month	Phone Contract

HOW DOES PAYING IT BACK WORK?

- For repayment, both loans are combined
- Repayment starts the April AFTER the course ends
- You only start repaying when you earn £25,000 a year





IT ISN'T A NORMAL LOAN.

Any remaining loan will be **CANCELLED** after 40 years

And if you aren't working or your earnings drop below £25,000 you don't pay back during that period

This amount will only continue to rise with inflation which is currently at 3%

Part time jobs

- Many students supplement their income with part time roles
- The University itself may offer roles to students
- Lots of entry-level opportunities available in the town/city you're based in
- Keep an eye out for jobs related to your specialism



Financial Support

Things to consider:

- ☐ **Council tax** – exempt if everyone in household is full-time student
- ☐ **Utility bills** – may be included in uni accommodation but need to check with private
- ☐ **TV licence** – required if watching any live TV
- ☐ **Insurance** – check small print of contents insurance
- ☐ **Budget** – simple weekly expenditure plan, bank account,
- ☐ **Support** – scholarships, bursaries, grants [More Info](#)

How can parents/carers help?

- ❑ Help your son/daughter understand the financial implications of going to university
 - Fixed costs (e.g. tuition fees)
 - Variable costs (e.g. halls of residence)
 - Loan repayments
 - Graduate prospects
- ❑ Help them plan a budget and consider ways of generating income (e.g. part-time work) while studying



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Making a university application

Key Information

- ☐ Students should use a **personal email** when applying
- ☐ Students have **5 choices** for applications
- ☐ Students can apply for **different courses** at the same university
- ☐ Students cannot apply to both Oxford and Cambridge
- ☐ Cost - £34.50



How many universities can they apply for?

- ☐ You can apply to 5 different universities as part of the standard UCAS application (4 medical schools and a 5th 'back up')
- ☐ There is no guarantee you will receive offers from all 5, so you need to be happy with all your choices
- ☐ Recommend – 2 aspirational, 2 sound and 1 contingency



What research should they carry out?

- ☐ Open Days – WhatUni guide, UCAS, CompleteUniGuide
 - In person
 - Virtual
- ☐ Social media
- ☐ Quality of course – League Tables
- ☐ Career considerations – Graduate prospects
- ☐ Local environment and safety



What research should they carry out?

- ☐ Facilities – WhatUni guide
- ☐ Budget considerations - UKDebt
- ☐ Support
- ☐ Diversity
- ☐ Accommodation - UniCompare
- ☐ Insight from current students - UniBuddy
- ☐ Distance from home
- ☐ Opportunities
- ☐ Transport links



Open Days

- ❑ One of the best ways to research universities is to attend a university open day
- ❑ You can search them all [here](#)
- ❑ Most Open Days are June/July and/or September/October
- ❑ The school will authorise these absences, but try to be careful about the number of school days missed
- ❑ Virtual Open Days are also an option



Campus Universities

All (or most) of the university-owned buildings and spaces, such as lecture theatres, student bars and halls of residence, are situated in one place

Best Campus Universities in UK



Nottingham University

Campus Universities



Loughborough University

City Universities

A city university is usually located within a city or town centre, enabling students to live and work around the centre.

Some city universities are also campus universities (Birmingham, Sheffield, Leeds, Northumbria, Liverpool)

Top university cities in UK



University College London

City Universities



Russell Group Universities

- A self-selected association of twenty-four public research universities.
- The group is headquartered in Cambridge and was established in 1994 to represent its members' interests
- Its members are often perceived as being the UK's best universities, which has been widely disputed.

**RUSSELL
GROUP**

Russell Group Universities

- ❑ **London:** Imperial College London, King's College London, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), Queen Mary University of London, University College London (UCL).
- ❑ **England (Outside London):** University of Birmingham, University of Bristol, University of Cambridge, Durham University, University of Exeter, University of Leeds, University of Liverpool, University of Manchester, Newcastle University, University of Nottingham, University of Oxford, University of Sheffield, University of Southampton, University of Warwick, University of York.
- ❑ **Scotland:** University of Edinburgh, University of Glasgow.
- ❑ **Wales:** Cardiff University.
- ❑ **Northern Ireland:** Queen's University Belfast

Ancient Universities

- ❑ Founded before 1800
- ❑ Oxford University (1096)
- ❑ Cambridge University (1209)



Red Brick Universities

- ❑ Founded in 19th and 20th centuries
- ❑ Met needs of industrial towns
- ❑ Manchester University (1824)
- ❑ UCL (1826)



Plate Glass Universities

- ❑ Founded in 1960s or expanded existing universities
- ❑ Met growing demand for university places
- ❑ University of York (estd in 1963)
- ❑ University of Warwick (estd in 1965)



University of York, Central Hall

New Universities

- ❑ Former polytechnics or HE colleges
- ❑ Amalgamated into universities in 1992
- ❑ Brighton University, formerly Brighton Polytechnic



How can parents help?

- ☐ Help with research and shortlisting universities
- ☐ Help with university open days and town/city visits
- ☐ UCAS Parent/Carer Guide



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The Personal Statement

University Applications

How many applications did Imperial College London receive in 2024?

- a) Approx. 12,000
- b) Approx. 22,000
- c) Approx. 32,000

How many places were confirmed?

- a) Approx. 2,400
- b) Approx. 3,400
- c) Approx. 4,400



What is the Personal Statement?

The Personal Statement is the written component of a student's university application. It is their opportunity to explain why they are the **ideal candidate** for the course and why **they stand out** from the rest.



What is the Personal Statement?

All A-Level students at KLS will be asked to write a personal statement, regardless of their plans next year, as personal statements are a useful starting point for **cover letters**.



What is the Personal Statement?

- ❑ 4,000 characters
- ❑ 3 questions but read as one document



Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

- **Your motivations**
- **Your knowledge**
- **Your future plans**



Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

- **Your studies**
- **Your transferable skills**
- **Your educational achievements**



Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

- **Your work experience**
- **Your personal experiences**
- **Your hobbies and achievements**



What makes an effective Personal Statement?

- ❑ Formal vs informal writing
- ❑ Convincing vs unconvincing writing



Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

I have absolutely loved Spanish and French from a very young age when my family and I used to go on European holidays. I used to enjoy chatting with the locals and I would now like the opportunity to study both languages further. Nelson Mandela once said 'if you talk to a man in a language that he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart'. I believe this quote to be true, and this is why I want a career in translation or interpreting.



Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

Aside from developing a deeper understanding of social and historical issues pertaining to French and Spanish-speaking countries, the most rewarding aspect of studying A-Level French and Spanish has been the progress I have seen in my own language skills and my ability to communicate more confidently with native speakers. Experimenting with humour in a second language has been particularly enjoyable and has sparked an interest in the theory behind the translation of wordplay and other comedic styles. Watching 'Bienvenue chez les ch'tis' with subtitles has given me valuable insight into the challenges posed by humour that is conveyed simultaneously through multiple mediums, and I would be delighted to pursue a career in translation and interpreting on completion of my Bachelor's degree.



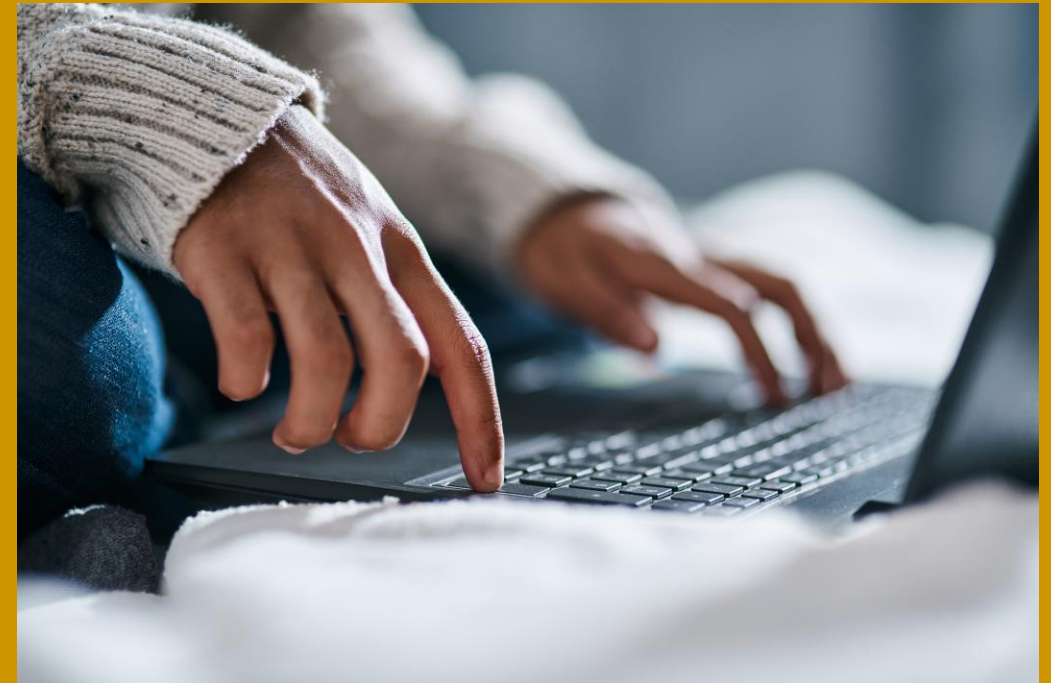
UCAS Unibuddy

- ☐ UCAS Unibuddy
- ☐ Chat to current undergraduates
- ☐ Automatically connects prospective students with current students who are studying their desired course, at a university or college they are interested in or at their preferred location



UCAS Springpod

- ❑ Springpod
- ❑ Subject spotlights – try before you buy degree style learning – can help with personal statements/interview
- ❑ Or do some MOOCs (Unifrog, OpenLearn)



UCAS Virtual Work Experience

- ☐ Virtual Work Experience
- ☐ Consider doing some of these, as well as your in-person work experience



What grades will I need?

- ☐ Historic grades search
- ☐ Search to see the most common grade offers for courses and institutions you are interested in
- ☐ Early Applicants – mostly grades 8-9 at GCSE and predicted AAA+ at A Level



What grades will I need?

- ☐ All degree-level courses publish **Entry Requirements**
- ☐ Expressed as:
 - Grades e.g. AAA, ABB, CCD
 - UCAS tariff points e.g. 120
- ☐ UCAS predicted grades are **aspirational** but **realistic**

A-Level Grade	Points
A*	56
A	48
B	40
C	32
D	24
E	16

Links

- ❑ Unifrog – [UK Universities, Courses](#)
- ❑ Complete University Guide – [Uniselect](#)
- ❑ UCAS – [choose your future, video](#)
- ❑ Careers - [Milkround](#), [National Careers Service](#), [Prospects](#)



How can parents/carers help?

- ☐ Encourage activities that may support the personal statement e.g. reading, listening to podcasts, watching documentaries, completing MOOCs.
- ☐ Ask to see a personal statement.
- ☐ Reiterate key messages around formal vs informal and convincing vs unconvincing.
- ☐ Proofread.



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*Post-18 Parents' Information Evening
Apprenticeships*

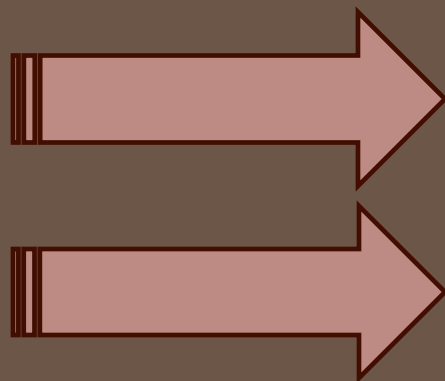
Apprenticeships

- ❑ A system of training new practitioners in a trade or profession often with accompanied study
- ❑ Existed since the late middle ages
- ❑ Formalised in 1964
- ❑ Low point in 1980s - YTS
- ❑ Modern Apprenticeships 1994
- ❑ Reformed in 2013
- ❑ Apprenticeship Levy since 2017



Levels

Name	Level	Equivalent educational level
Intermediate	2	5 GCSE passes at grade 4-9 (A*-C)
Advanced	3	2 A Levels / Level 3 diploma / International Baccalaureate
Higher	4,5,6 & 7	Foundation degree and above
Degree	6 & 7	Bachelor's or master's degree



Best of both worlds?

- ❑ Combination of professional work (80%) and academic study (20%)
- ❑ Working, earning and learning
- ❑ Three to six years of work experience alongside a degree
- ❑ BUT – hard work – balancing academic study and paid employment



Pros of higher/degree apprenticeships

- ☐ Real-life work experience
- ☐ No degree costs
- ☐ Salary
- ☐ Headstart in job market
- ☐ Degree meets national expected standards
- ☐ Integrated learning
- ☐ Employability



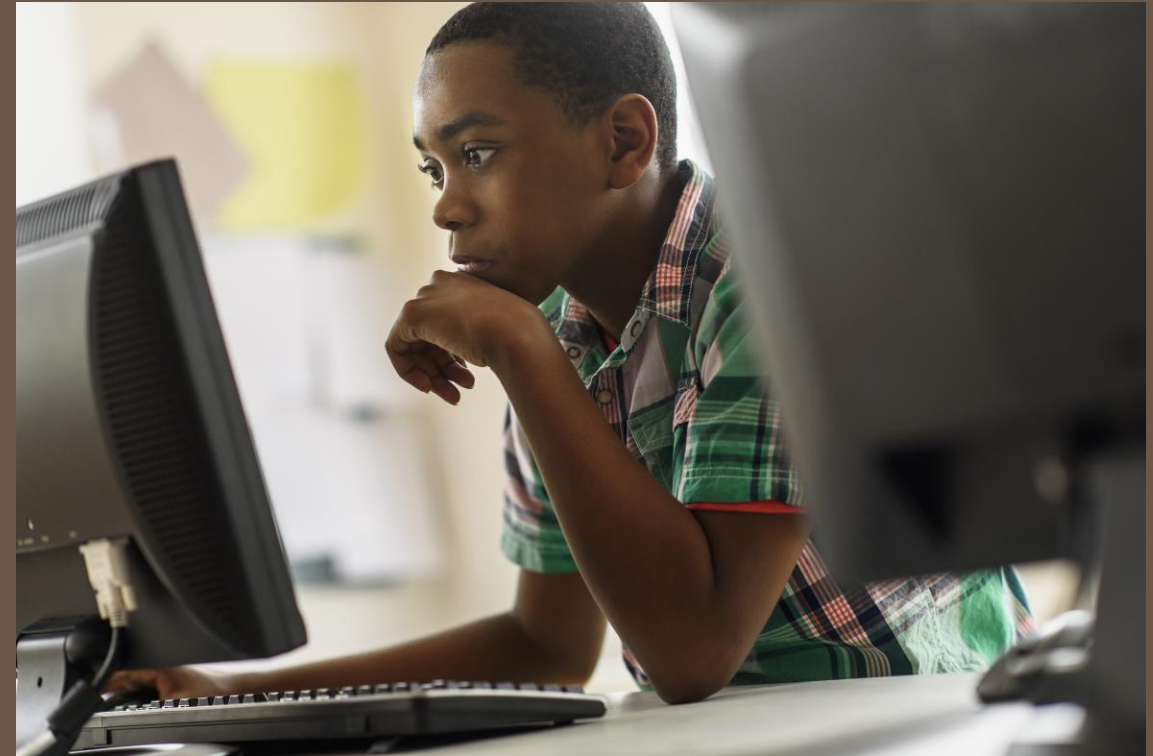
Cons of higher/degree apprenticeships

- ☐ Balance working and studying
- ☐ No student loans
- ☐ No traditional 'university experience'
- ☐ Extremely competitive market
- ☐ High drop-out rates
- ☐ Workplace dependency
- ☐ Lower course satisfaction
- ☐ Social mobility gaps



What grades do you need?

- ☐ Each vacancy will be different.
- ☐ You might need specific grades (BBB), but employers are looking for other skills you can bring to the role, like communication, leadership and passion.



Assessment

- ❑ You will complete an assessment at the end of the apprenticeship which is called an end-point assessment.
- ❑ It tests your ability to do the job as well as your academic learning.
- ❑ You might also have assignments throughout the course.



Applying

- ❑ Employers advertise degree/higher apprenticeships throughout the year and there is no application cycle like there is with university.
- ❑ The vacancy will state when the application deadline is, and when the apprenticeship is due to start.



Active filters

[Clear filters](#)

Where

Kings Langley, Hertfordshire ×
(within 10 miles)

Apprenticeship level

Level 6 ×

[🔔 Create an alert for this search](#)

Apply filters

What

Enter a job or company

Where

Enter a city or postcode

Kings Langley, Hertfordsh

Within

10 miles ✓

Closing soon

Supply Chain Apprentice

HENKEL LIMITED
Hemel Hempstead (HP2 4RQ)

Distance 3.4 miles

Start date 1 September 2026

Training course Supply chain leadership professional (integrated degree)
(level 6)

Wage £19,000 a year

Closes in 2 days (Friday 3 July 2026)

Posted 24 June 2026

Hospitality Degree Apprentice

HOLLYWOOD BOWL GROUP PLC
Recruiting nationally

Start date 1 September 2026

Training course Chartered manager (degree) (level 6)

Wage £16,640 a year

Closes on Monday 31 August 2026

Before applying

- ☐ Research the company
- ☐ Understand the role
- ☐ Amend your CV
- ☐ Check application carefully
- ☐ Identify relevant employability skills



Employability Skills

- ☐ Interpersonal skills
- ☐ Communication skills
- ☐ Professional presentation
- ☐ Problem-solving
- ☐ Teamwork
- ☐ Adaptability
- ☐ Critical thinking
- ☐ Self-management
- ☐ Initiative



Links

- ☐ [UCAS](#)
- ☐ [Government](#)
- ☐ [Amazing Apprenticeships](#)
- ☐ [RateMyApprenticeship](#)
- ☐ [NotGoingToUni](#)
- ☐ [Unifrog](#)



How can parents help?

- ☐ Help with research and shortlisting companies
- ☐ Help with company 'Insight Days'
- ☐ Apprenticeship Parent Guide and here



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*Post-18 Parents' Information Evening
Gap Years*

Gap Year

- ❑ A gap year is a chance for you to see the world, visit other countries, learn new skills, or do voluntary work
- ❑ Gap years can be taken between school and university/apprenticeships or between university and work
- ❑ Gap years are sometimes necessary for raising money for higher education



Gap Year Options

There are lots of options open to you:

- ☐ Volunteering in the UK or abroad (e.g. Do It)
- ☐ Living abroad as part of a cultural exchange (e.g. Projects Abroad)
- ☐ Travel (e.g. Gap360)
- ☐ Joining a work experience programme (e.g. The Intern Group)
- ☐ Applying for paid work all over the world (e.g. BUNAC)

Doit

Find your perfect volunteering role on **Doit Life**

Find your opportunity

Your **FREE Doit Life** account connects you to the UK's biggest database of volunteer opportunities. We've helped over 1 million Brits find a way to volunteer, making us the #1 service for finding volunteer activities!

Browse thousands of volunteer opportunities from the UK's best loved national charities or find a way to lend a hand with inspiring community groups in your area!

Doit

Volunteers

Charities

About

Join as a volunteer

Scouts

Changing childhoods.
Changing lives.

rspb

RSPCA

TCV
The
Conservation
Volunteers



Canal &
River Trust
Making life better by water

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



OXFAM



SHELTER



BritishRedCross



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



Alzheimer's Society

Projects Abroad

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141370 volunteers since 1992

Excellent  1,366 reviews on  Trustpilot

 [Risk-free Booking Guarantee](#)



Overseas Cultural Exchange Programmes

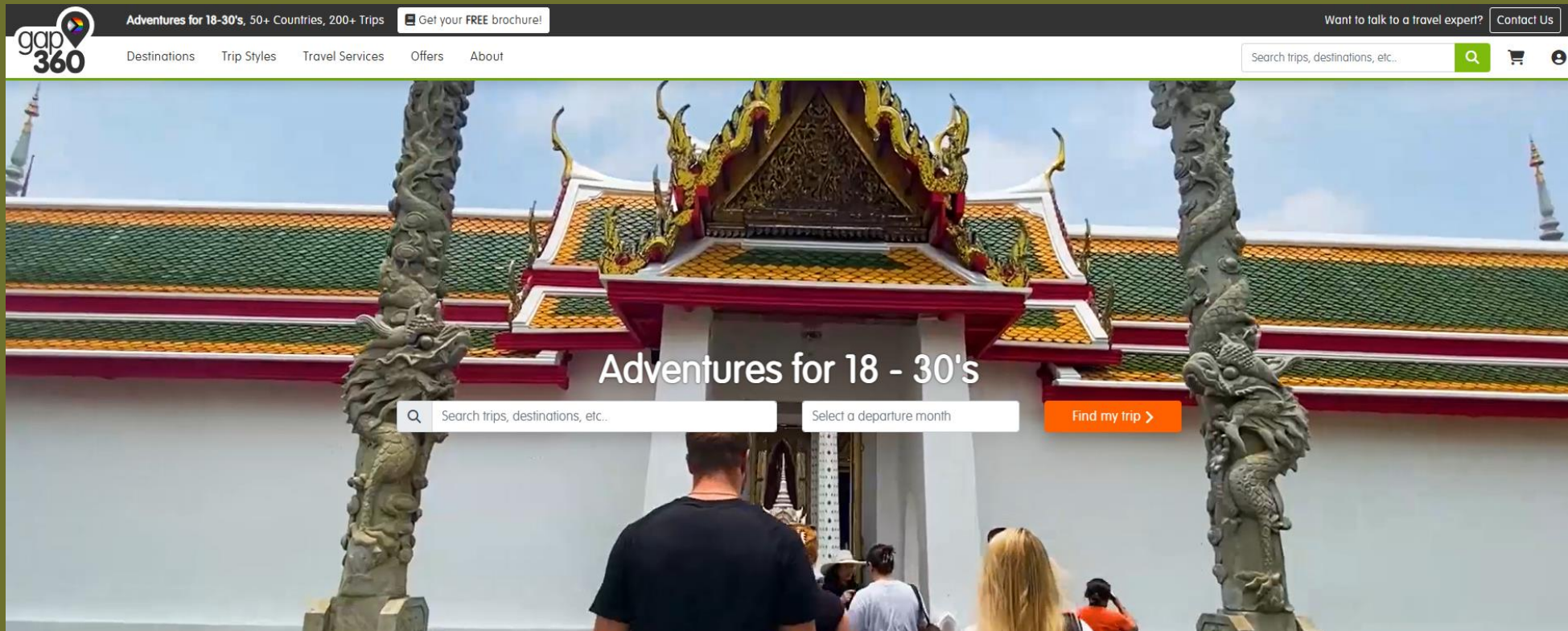
Discover cultural immersion trips designed to help develop your global perspective and skillset



Hi! Welcome to Projects Abroad



Gap 360



The screenshot displays the Gap 360 website interface. At the top, a dark navigation bar contains the Gap 360 logo, the text "Adventures for 18-30's, 50+ Countries, 200+ Trips", a button to "Get your FREE brochure!", and a link to "Contact Us" for travel experts. Below this is a white navigation bar with links for "Destinations", "Trip Styles", "Travel Services", "Offers", and "About". A search bar is positioned on the right side of this bar. The main banner features a photograph of a traditional Thai temple entrance with ornate golden roofs and stone pillars. Overlaid on the banner is the text "Adventures for 18 - 30's" and a search bar with the placeholder text "Search trips, destinations, etc...". To the right of the search bar is a button labeled "Find my trip >".

The Intern Group

[Our programs](#) [Career fields](#) [Destinations](#) [Alumni stories](#)[Learn More](#) [Apply now](#)[Login](#)

Gap year internships



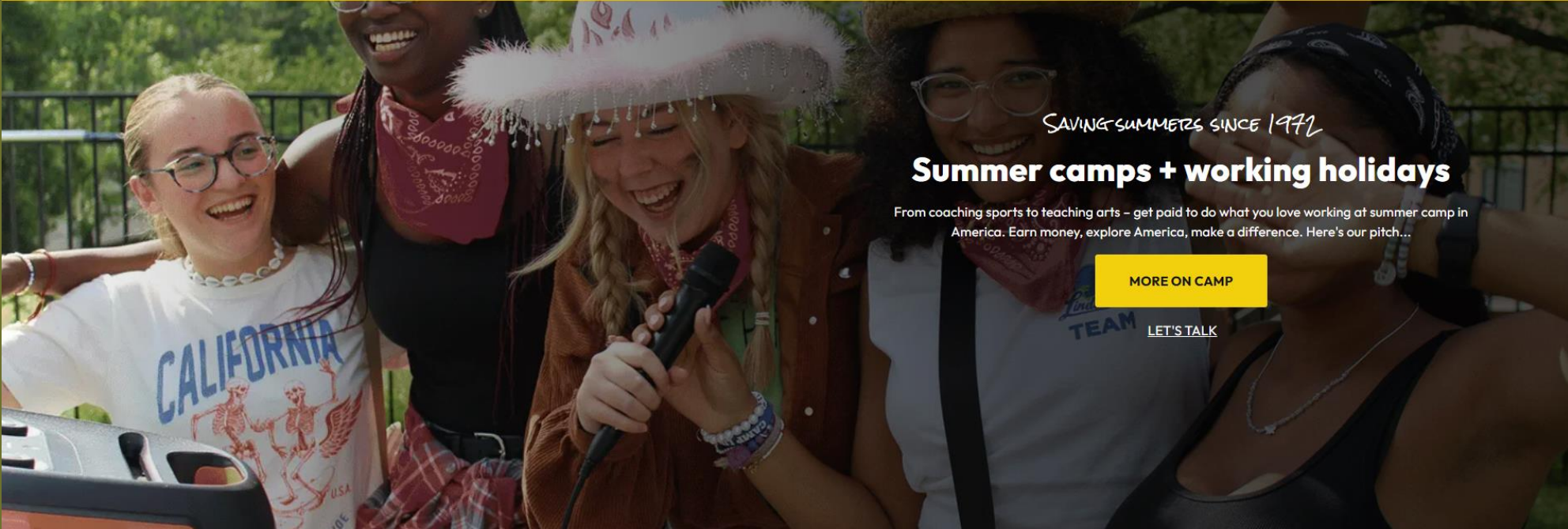
Gap year internships abroad

BUNAC

[Contact](#)

BUNAC
SUMMER CAMP USA

[Experiences](#) [More](#)

Camp not your bag? Check out our [JENZA](#) site for working holidays and internships abroad.

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From coaching sports to teaching arts – get paid to do what you love working at summer camp in America. Earn money, explore America, make a difference. Here's our pitch...

[MORE ON CAMP](#)

Gap Year Considerations

Things to consider:

- ❑ Plan your path - determine exactly what you want to do with your gap year, whether it is travelling, working or gaining experiences. Many young people are able to achieve a combination of these.
- ❑ Manage the logistics - gap years require careful budgeting, especially if your plans involve international travel. You will also need to have plans for the end of the gap year, for example securing a deferred university place.
- ❑ Seek guidance—there are lots of companies who can assist with your plans such as those listed above as well as GoOverseas and Gap Year Association

How can parents help?

- ☐ Help them research what they might do with their time
- ☐ Remember that this is their adventure – not yours!
- ☐ Help them plan their itinerary
- ☐ Gap Year parent advice



Key Dates

- ☐ June-September – book admission tests (if necessary)
- ☐ 17 July – draft personal statement
- ☐ 20 July – work experience
- ☐ 1 September – UCAS applications open
- ☐ 30 September – internal early applicant deadline
- ☐ 3 October – review of UCAS predicted grades
- ☐ 15 October – UCAS early applicant deadline
- ☐ September-November – Apprenticeship window 1
- ☐ September-December – Admission tests
- ☐ 30 November – internal applicant deadline
- ☐ January – Year 13 Trial Exams
- ☐ 13 January – UCAS applicant deadline
- ☐ January-March – Apprenticeship window 2

