

Lower Sixth Parents' Progression Evening: Thursday 14th May 2026



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY



Welcome! We will begin the webinar at 5:30pm
Please ask any questions in the chat box



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Event Schedule

Time (pm)	Content	Presenters
5.30 - 5.50	Welcome Progression support UCAS process Alternatives to University	Helen Pattison - Head of Students Helen Collins - Careers and Employability Manager
5.50 - 6.05	Student finance	Ian Freedman – Leeds Beckett University
6.05 - 6.20	Apprenticeships	Apprenticeship Information by Careers team
6.20 - 6.45	Live Q&A	Helen Pattison - Head of Students, Helen Collins - Careers and Employability Manager Anna Dickinson - Careers Advisor



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Support available at Notre Dame

There is a wide range of help and support available for your child as they decide whether university is right for them.

We provide information, advice and guidance to all of our students regarding alternatives to higher education such as apprenticeships and employment.

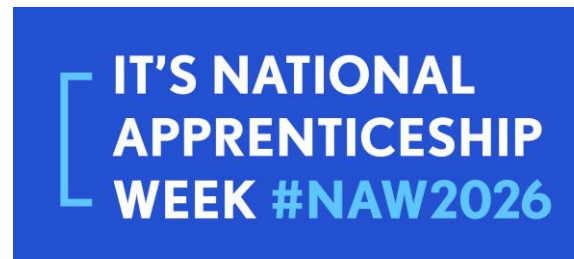


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Support available at Notre Dame

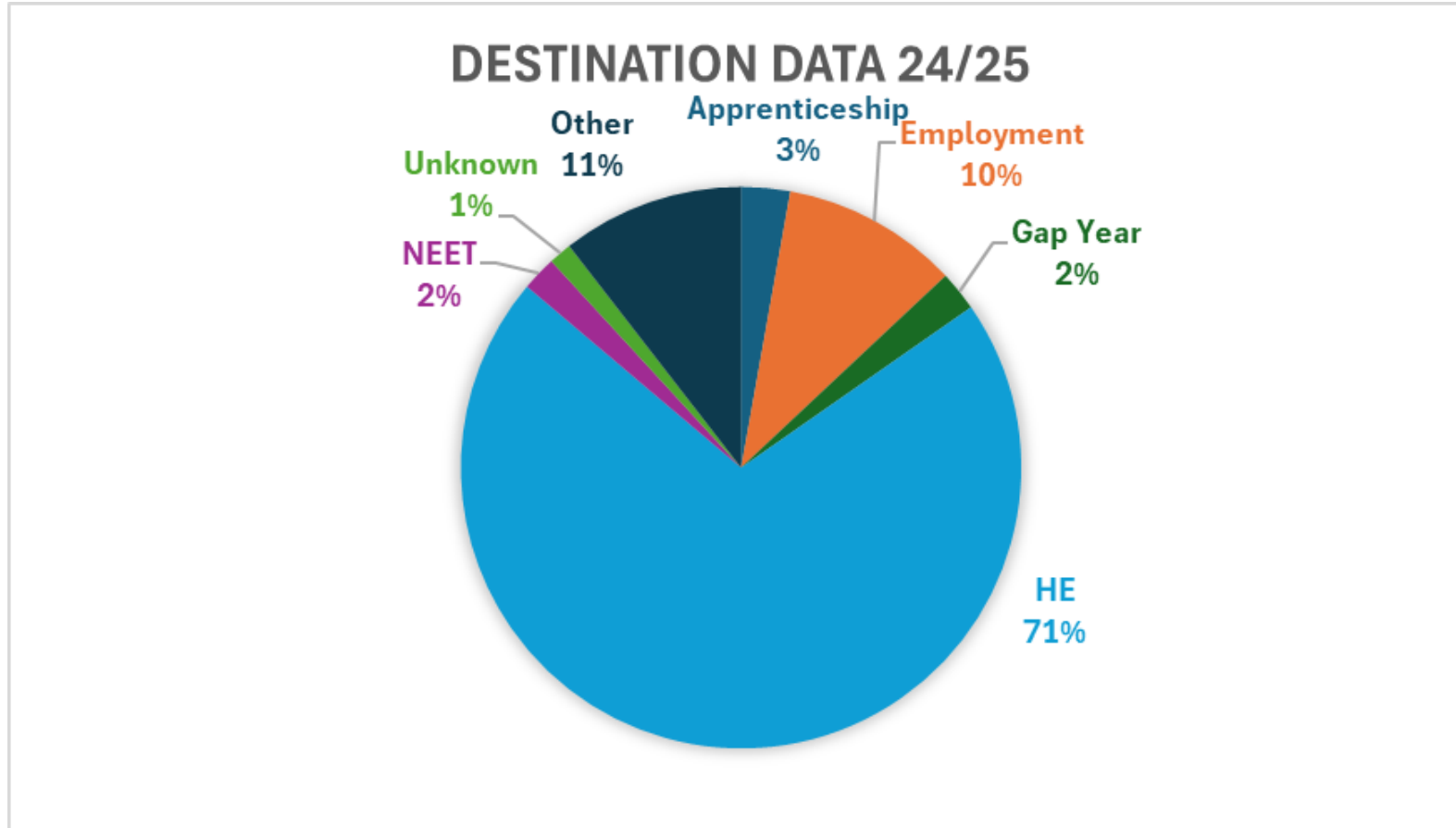
- Achievement Tutor
- Tutorial programme
- Specialist Careers staff and signposting
- Teaching staff
- Learning support
- Careers Fair
- Higher Education Day



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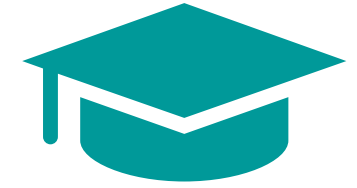


Notre Dame Destination Data 2025



University 71%
Employment 10%

Higher Education – why go?



Opportunities while studying:

- Chance to study a subject about which they are passionate.
- Achieve a qualification that could lead to their chosen career.
- Grow in confidence, gain independence and make lifelong friends.
- Be challenged, widen perspective and choices.

With a degree, they will have:

- The opportunity to follow their career path.
- Improved job prospects, as many employers target graduates.
- Higher long-term earning potential.



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Completing the UCAS application process

From January 2026	Lower sixth students complete Higher Education prep and research in tutorials	July-Aug 2026	Students attend open days, taster events or summer schools. Students complete work experience.
From April 2026	Students research degree subjects and universities, checking entry requirements. Students write the first draft of their personal statement. Students check predicted grades with teachers.	Sept 2026 onwards	Students complete UCAS application during tutorials. <u>5 choices</u> (1 subject, 5 universities). Opportunity to have Personal Statement checked by a visiting Uni. Students are updated via UCAS Track. Students choose their firm and insurance offers.
From May 12th 2026	Full 'how to' UCAS application guide provided (available to parents on our website)	August 2027	A-level results day – place confirmed!



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Completing the UCAS application process

Student registers at UCAS.com

APR 28

UCAS' search tool displays 2027 courses

MAY 12

Undergraduate applications open for 2027 entry

SEP 01

Completed undergraduate applications can be submitted to UCAS

Sections to complete:
Personal details
Finance and funding
Diversity and inclusion
More about you
Education
Employment
Extra activities
Personal statement
Course choices

Teacher references and additional information added by Achievement Tutor

Application sent to UCAS

Universities / Colleges make their decisions

Important Deadlines



14th September 2026

Internal deadline for applications to Oxford & Cambridge, medicine, dentistry and veterinary science courses.

12th October 2026

Internal deadline for competitive courses (those requiring A/B grades, health, teaching, social work, Russell group Universities).

20th November 2026

Internal deadline for all UCAS applications to be submitted.

13th January 2027

Final UCAS deadline.



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Predicted Grades

- These are set by subject teachers and are aspirational: they reflect the highest grade a teacher believes the student could achieve for their subject.
- It is important that students check that their predicted grades are in line with the entry requirements for their chosen courses.



UCAS Tariff Points

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)	A-level / LIBF / WJEC Diploma	Tariff points	T Level	BTEC / CTEC Diploma	BTEC / CTEC Extended Certificate etc.
		168	D*		
		144	D		
		120	M		
		112		D*D*	
		104		D*D	
		96	P (C+)	DD	
		80		DM	
		72	P (D or E)		
		64		MM	
	A*	56			D*
	A	48		MP	D
	B	40			
	C	32		PP	M
A*		28			
A	D	24			
B		20			
C	E	16			P
D		12			
E		8			

The Personal Statement

Question 1:

Why do you want to study this course or subject?

Question 2:

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

Question 3:

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



The same for all of your choices



A maximum of 4,000 characters, or 47 lines (Including spaces)



A minimum of 1,000 characters



There isn't a spelling or grammar check



No formatting is allowed



26th June 2026

Full draft personal statement to Achievement Tutor



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Work Experience

Essential for degrees in:

- Healthcare
- Social work
- Teaching



- ✓ Must be completed before applying to UCAS
- ✓ Make the most of Virtual WEX opportunities
- ✓ Work Experience is open to all students but compulsory for those students on a T Level course who attend an extended industry placement.



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University Access Schemes

- For students who meet certain criteria.
e.g. first generation to progress to HE,
postcode, household income
- Students participate in a programme of
activities (can include workshops, visits on
campus, e-mentoring and summer school)
- May result in a reduced grade offer



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Foundation year/degree



- A foundation year helps your child to develop the skills needed for higher education study. For example, if they haven't studied the subjects required for a particular career.
- A foundation degree is equivalent to the first two years of an undergraduate degree and can be 'topped up' with another year of study.

Support for Students

Make sure any personal circumstance that may need support is declared on the UCAS form.

Universities can provide:

- Academic support
- Special arrangements in exams
- Accommodation
- Financial allowance

Every year, over 60,000 students with a physical and/or mental health condition, long-term illness, or learning difference apply through UCAS to study at a university or college in the UK, and access a range of support available to help with their studies, day-to-day activities, travel, or lifestyle. Would you consider yourself as living with any of the following: *

No disability

You have a social/communication impairment such as Asperger's syndrome/other autistic spectrum disorder

You are blind or have a serious visual impairment uncorrected by glasses

You are deaf or have a serious hearing impairment

You have a long standing illness or health condition such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, or epilepsy

You have a mental health condition, such as depression, schizophrenia or anxiety disorder

You have a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia, dyspraxia or AD(H)D

You have physical impairment or mobility issues, such as difficulty using your arms or using a wheelchair or crutches

You have a disability, impairment or medical condition that is not listed above

You have two or more impairments and/or disabling medical conditions



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What should students be doing now?

- Research
- Extracurricular activities in/out of College – open days
- Work experience
- Go beyond the syllabus
- Focus on this year's studies



How you can help

Research

- Use the parents/guardian section on the UCAS website

Sign up

- Sign up for updates from UCAS and get everything you need to know about the application process direct to your inbox.

Open Days

- Attend virtual events and open days – you may have a different perspective.



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Alternatives to University

Higher or degree apprenticeship / school leaver programme

- In work full-time, paid a wage, and studying for a qualification equivalent to year one, year two or year three of a degree.
- The employer usually pays for your child's qualification.
- These are competitive and students must start looking now if this is a possible pathway for them.

Employment

- We can support your child to look for full-time work after college.

For both options, gaining work experience while still at Notre Dame is essential.



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Alternatives to University

Gap year: a year out to work, volunteer or travel before attending university.

- Your child should plan their gap year during upper sixth.
- They may want to take part in activities that enhance their university application.
- Travel and volunteering could help your child to become more confident and enable them to experience other cultures.
- Students can either apply in Sept 2027 for deferred entry (start in Sept 2028) or apply in Sept 2027 (externally) for Sept 2028 entry.





Help

Support

Alternatives to University

How we support non-UCAS students

We identify all lower sixth who don't make an application to university through UCAS, or who want to consider alternative options, and offer them the following support:

- A careers appointment with one of the team.
- Regular bulletins regarding employment and apprenticeship opportunities etc. All available online via Careers Sharepoint.
- Workshops covering how to plan a gap year, write a CV, and search for job or apprenticeship vacancies.
- Ongoing follow up communication from the Careers Team once they have left to check each student's progress.



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Student Finance



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Apprenticeships



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Live Q&A



Please ask any questions in the chat box



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Thank you for attending

We will circulate a recording of this event to everyone who signed up for it, using the email address provided when booking your place.

We will email you regarding any questions submitted through the live chat that have not been answered during the event.

If you have any further queries, please contact your child's Achievement Tutor directly.



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