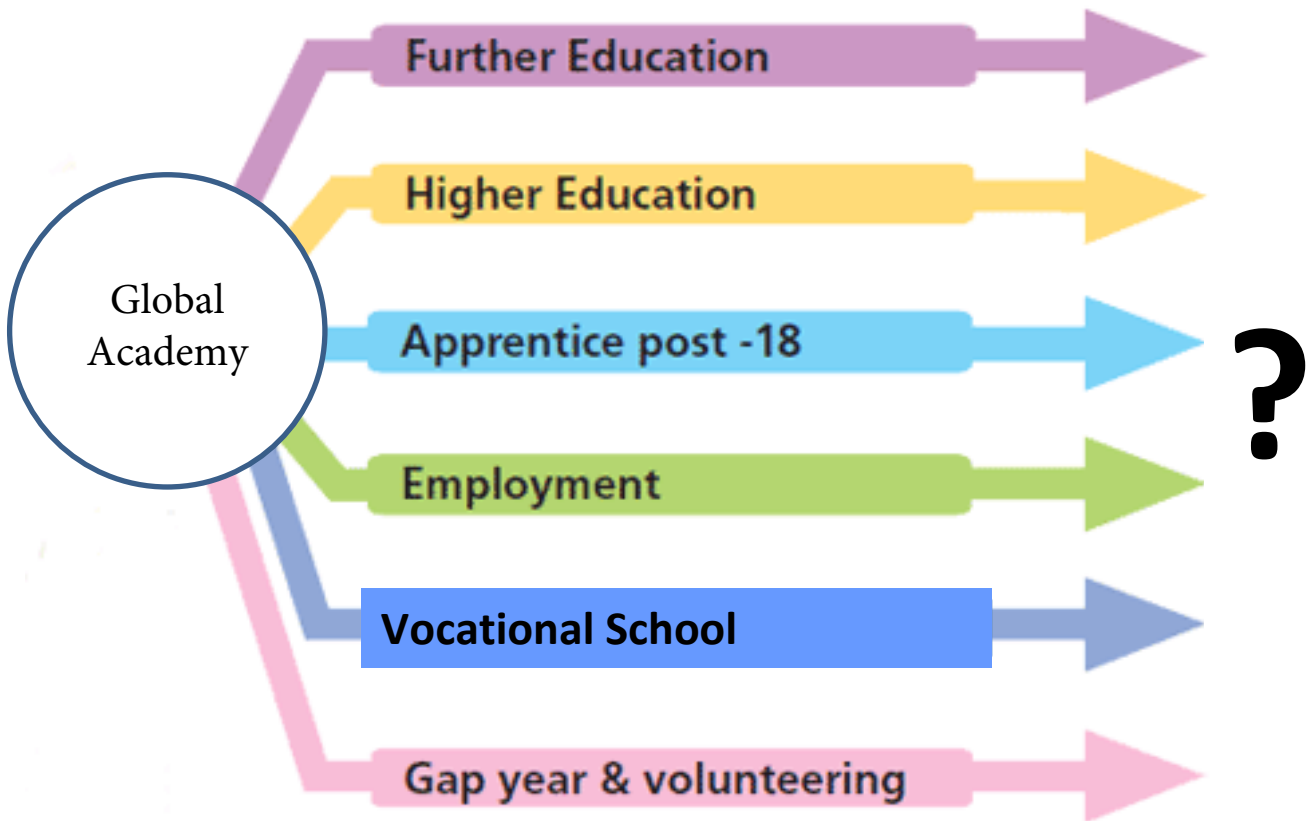




Guide for Parents

2022/2023

Post 18 Options



Global Academy students are in the fortunate position of being able to consider any of the above progression routes once they leave school in 2023. Students need to start considering which is the right path for them. Do they want to continue to Higher Education or is there another route into their chosen career? This booklet will give you an insight into how to apply for Higher Education, Vocational Training, Apprenticeships, and employment and will also provide useful sources of information.

Higher Education

Choosing the right course and university

With nearly 50,000 courses at more than 300 universities and colleges the choice can be overwhelming! There are also specialist colleges in media, film and art .etc. With tuition fees and student loans making dropping-out an expensive option, helping your son or daughter to make the right choice is vital. Encourage them to consider the factors outlined below, by carrying out research and thinking about what would suit them.

Course content	Check prospectuses and websites.
Entry requirements	Check on www.ucas.com and on the individual university websites
Teaching & assessment	Do they suit the student's learning style?
Location	Distance from home, travel costs.
Layout	City centre, campus, large or small.
Accommodation	Cost, catered or self-catering, guaranteed in 1 st year?
League tables	These are useful but can be based on universities as a whole or on individual subjects, and data is sometimes out-of-date.
Financial help	Check the bursaries & scholarships available at each university. www.thescholarshipub.org.uk allows you to search for additional bursaries and scholarships.

UCAS

Applications for higher education courses are made through the **UCAS** (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) online system.

Students can apply for up to **five** courses. Universities do not see the students' other university choices.

All applications are made on-line through 'UCAS Apply'. Students pay the £25 fee on line with a credit or debit card. The School checks each student's application, adds the reference and predicted grades and sends it to UCAS, where it is processed and sent to each university applied to.

Responses could include offers of a place, interviews, auditions, or rejections. UCAS will confirm all offers and students are asked to choose two: a firm choice and an insurance choice, this has to be done by the beginning of May. On results day, if students have the grades for their first choice, they go there; if not, they go to their second choice university (their insurance choice). If they have missed the grades completely they can enter Clearing.

What are the entry requirements?

All universities and departments have differing entry requirements: students must make sure they meet them. These might be specific predicted grades, e.g. Distinction or specific UCAS points (see attached UCAS tariff). Some courses ask for relevant experience, a particular combination of subjects and, in some cases, specific GCSE requirements – prospectuses and websites provide details. If you are in any doubt that your son/daughter will have the right qualifications, we advise a phone call to the relevant admissions department to check.

Entry requirements listed by universities on UCAS are advisory and the actual offer a student receives may vary, taking into account the individual's application.

The Personal Statement

Only 47 lines long, this is the difficult bit of the application, as applicants must really market themselves – many drafts are often needed. Universities want to know **why** they have applied for that course. Have they researched it properly? Do they know what it involves? Can they demonstrate that they have the right skill set?

They look for evidence that the student enjoys studying, can manage their time effectively, and will be mature enough to cope with the freedom of university life.

Part-time jobs, voluntary work, involvement with clubs, sports and other extra-curricular activities should be mentioned. The student should try to reflect on the skills and personal qualities they have gained from this.

For some courses relevant work experience is essential and should be mentioned in the personal statement, analysing the skills they have developed.

As a general rule 70% of the personal statement should focus on the applicant's academic interests and abilities, and 30% on their extra-curricular activities and achievements.

Important Deadline Date

The School deadline is set deliberately early to ensure that we have ample time to approve applications and to prepare, attach and send the references to UCAS. Due to the large number of applications that we receive in a short space of time, it can take up to 14 working days for the application to be checked, the reference written and attached and it to be sent to UCAS. Students are advised to meet our school deadlines in order to ensure that their application reaches UCAS before Christmas.

Friday 11th November- latest advisable date for submitted personal statements/applications.

UNIVERSITY



While many students get excited about moving to a new city, gaining independence and making new friends (which can all be big perks of going to university), the main advantage of university is that - all being well - you come out the other side with a degree.

A degree is a globally recognised certification that demonstrates a commitment to academic success and represents a set of skills which are usually highly transferable, and a real asset when it comes to looking for a job.

What are the advantages & disadvantages?

Degrees are still one of the most common pathways for students leaving school for this reason, but it's not for everyone. The tuition fees are on average around £9,000 per year (and most degrees take a minimum of three years to complete), with living costs added on top of that. While student loans cover your tuition fees and offer maintenance support to help with living costs, there's no getting away from the fact that university is expensive. However, if you get a student loan to cover your costs, you don't repay them until you're earning a decent salary, which the degree will help you to get. Nevertheless, the cost is worth factoring into your decision making.

On the other hand, it's also worth bearing in mind that a lot of careers consider a degree a necessity for any applicants, so it's important to start thinking about the kind of careers you want to pursue, and look up whether or not a degree is important to getting those jobs. For instance, if you want to go into teaching, it's essential that you get a degree before doing teaching qualifications.

That doesn't necessarily mean that your degree has to match perfectly with the job you want after university. For instance, if you want to go into marketing or advertising, many professionals in that field do degrees like English or Graphic Design, which teach skills that are transferable across lots of different jobs and sectors.

However, the other big draw to university, is that it offers a few years to 'adjust' to life away from school and home. While some students choose to live in their childhood home whilst studying, the majority use this as an opportunity to taste independent living and meet new people, with the added support of student finance and university to help adjust to life away from home.

There are also many degrees which last 4 years, with your 3rd year being based in industry. During this time you can be earning a decent salary, while gaining invaluable work experience.

It's also a great way of meeting like-minded people who share the same interests as you, not only through your course, but through various clubs and societies at your university.

Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is a job with training. Being an apprentice means having a job that includes gaining recognised qualifications (in *further education colleges* or private *training companies*) and essential skills whilst working and earning a wage. The average apprenticeship weekly wage for a Level 3 apprentice is £282 (BEIS Apprenticeship Pay Survey 2016: England)

Apprenticeships are available in a vast range of employment sectors across the country and are a viable alternative to university.

There are different levels of apprenticeship that students can apply for:

Type	Level	Equivalent Educational Level
Intermediate	2	5 GCSE passes at grades A-C/9-4
Advanced	3	2 A Level passes
Higher	4, 5, 6	Foundation degrees and above
Degree	6	Undergraduate Degree

Competition for apprenticeships will be fierce, but previous Global Academy School students have been successful in securing some highly competitive apprenticeship places.

The key to success is completing an excellent application form, demonstrating real enthusiasm, commitment to the role and a willingness to learn. We will also likely be running an Apprenticeship programme with our sponsor - Global - more details will be provided in the New Year.

Apprenticeship vacancies are generally listed on the National Apprenticeship website www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch . Students can sign up and receive alerts when relevant vacancies arise. Students will need to be pro-active when seeking vacancies but the careers department and pathway teachers are happy to support students with applications.

Students should also contact Training Providers who provide the learning element of an apprenticeship, as they can help students' source vacancies. Examples of some training providers are given below.

Apprenticeships

www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk

National Apprenticeship website

www.creativepioneers.co.uk

Advertising, Creative & Digital Media apprenticeships

www.divaapprenticeships.com

Creative & Digital apprenticeships

www.prca.org.uk/pr-apprenticeships

Public Relations apprenticeships

www.nextgenskillsacademy.com

Visual effects and animation apprenticeships

www.multiverse.com

Diverse but includes Digital, marketing

USEFUL WEBSITES

University or College

www.ucas.com

Advice on applications and a course-search facility.

www.university.which.co.uk

Includes a search engine to search for courses by predicted grades and tariff points.

www.skill.org.uk

National Bureau for students with disabilities.

www.opendays.com

Lists all university open days.

Student Finance

www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance Register and apply for student finance

www.scholarship-search.org.uk

Helpful funding and budgeting advice.

www.thescholarshiphub.org.uk

Graduate Information

www.prospect.ac.uk

Excellent information on graduate employment and information on what jobs specific degrees lead to.

Gap Year

www.yearoutgroup.org

Comprehensive information on gap years. All companies on this website adhere to an International Citizen Service, worldwide volunteering opportunities Code of Practice.

www.volunteerics.org

Summer Camps Abroad.

www.bunac.org

US Summer Camps

www.campamerica.co.uk

Careers

www.discovercreative.careers

Brings together careers information from creative organisations in one directory – excellent source of information

www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk Insights to thousands of careers