
Career Kickstart

Alternatives to university

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Explore the alternative

University isn't for everyone, but you may still want to get some more qualifications whilst you decide on your career path.

Apprenticeships, distance learning and management traineeships are some alternative options for you to explore.

1. Learn about earning while you learn on an apprenticeship
2. Discover what distance learning actually is
3. Find out what a traineeship or internship could mean for you
4. Get food for thought on gap years

Apprenticeships

There are a wide range of apprenticeships and modern apprenticeship programmes (for students in Scotland). Wherever they may be located, apprenticeships offer the chance to earn money and gain industry recognised qualifications at the same time. They range from one to five years in length, depending on the qualification you're working towards. And you don't have to stop there. With careful planning, you can work in the career of your choice and gain degree-level qualifications, with no university debt.

You can find out more about apprenticeships and search for online vacancies at these websites:

England <https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/>

Wales www.careerswales.com

Scotland www.myworldofwork.co.uk

Northern Ireland <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/apprenticeships>

Distance Learning

Distance Learning means studying with web-enabled virtual schools and universities. So you learn over the internet and, with flexible lecture times, pretty much anyone can squeeze it in. Many universities now offer distance learning versions of degrees and you can download the materials you need. Assignments are usually submitted by email and you can even discuss the course with other students over the internet.

Management Traineeships & Internships

As a trainee or intern, you'll get practical work experience and a clear insight into a chosen career path. You'll also be equipped with the skills, knowledge and confidence to make more informed decisions about what you do next – careers or learning-wise. And with the chance to network and show off your talents to an employer, there's no saying where an internship could end up.

What else?

If you're not going to uni, you might want to think about taking a gap year, studying for qualifications at college or going straight into work. To help you consider these options and decide which one is right for you, visit: <http://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk>

And remember, just because you don't want to go to uni now doesn't mean you won't want to later. So be sure to explore all your options and – you never know – you might end up with a degree after all