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News updates

World University Rankings 2025



Times Higher Education have released their 2025 World and UK ranking of universities. The University of Oxford remains at No.1, with MIT, Harvard, Princeton and Cambridge ascending to places 2, 3, 4 and 5. Top positions have changed for a second year in a row and LSE is now ranked as the UK's No.1 university. For more information see [here](#).

Smallpeice Trust – Arkwright Engineering Scholarship 2024/2025



For students in Year 11 (S4 Scotland/Year 12 NI) with a passion for engineering, the Arkwright Engineering Scholarship is accepting applications for 2024/25. The award offers young people mentoring by industry professionals at leading organisations. Note: your school must be affiliated to the Arkwright Engineering Scholarships programme before you can apply. To find out more, see: [Scholarships | Smallpeice Trust](#)

Drop in foreign student visas worries for UK universities



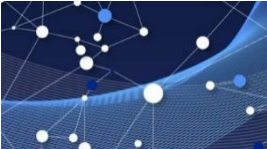
The number of international students applying for visas to study in the UK dropped this summer, according to new figures. Home Office figures showed 16% fewer visa applications were made between July and September than in the same period in 2023. Read more on the BBC website [here](#)

Government urged to overhaul apprenticeships



Baroness Taylor is urging the government to reform the UK's apprenticeship and training system and criticises it as overly complex, short-term and lacking strategic direction. She highlights issues such as the misuse of apprenticeship funding for existing staff rather than young people and calls for a simpler, more focused skills system with long-term funding and greater support for youth training opportunities. Read more [here](#).

Latest research on jobs of tomorrow from World Economic Forum



The ability of workers to transition into new roles is becoming increasingly critical—not only for maintaining employment and advancing social mobility, but also for economic productivity and people's well-being. In their latest research, The World Economic Forum identifies specific job transitions that are feasible and that could lead to higher wages and improved standards of living. Read more [here](#).

UCAS and Knight Frank annual Student Accommodation survey



The UCAS/Knight Frank 2024 Student Accommodation Survey details the latest preferences of students. Their requirements include availability, affordability, fast Wi-Fi, 24-hour security and on-site laundrettes. 78% of current students also noted that their accommodation provider's commitment to supporting mental health was important to their housing choice. Read the findings here: [Student survey reveals evolving preferences - Estate Agent Today](#).

Building Cultural Capital – Arts Emergency Youth Collective



Futurum Careers discusses the importance of “Building Cultural Capital” for students keen to pursue a career in the arts. Read their article Mentoring, the Youth Collective's Manifesto [here](#).

Upcoming Events

University of Cambridge: Subject Masterclasses for 2025 entry applicants



Subject Masterclasses begin this month. Aimed at Year 12 students, the sessions offer students the chance to experience typical undergraduate teaching at the University of Cambridge and learn more about a topic of interest. Cost is £12.50, but funded places are available. Find out more and book online at: [Subject Masterclasses | Cambridge](#).

“Get into” Virtual Conferences – October & November dates



Medic Mentor are running Get into Medicine and Get into Dentistry virtual conferences in late October and mid-November. Students who attend will be eligible to join virtual work experience opportunities within healthcare specialisations. For the **Get into Medicine Conference - Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th October 9:30am-3:30pm** [register here](#). For **Get into Dentistry - Sunday 10th November 9:30am-3:30pm** [register here](#).

Amazing Apprenticeships Green Apprenticeships webinar – 5th November



Amazing Apprenticeships are hosting a live careers webinar - **Time for Change: Powering-up Opportunities through Green Apprenticeships** on the **5th of November at 1pm** to hear from sector experts creating opportunities through growth in green skills. Book your place [here](#).

Law Firm Insight Events for Year 12 & 13 Students



LawCareers.Net has compiled a list of top law firms offering opportunities to students in year 12 & 13- and first-year undergraduates. Providing opportunities to network with legal professionals, gain insights into the profession and identify whether a law career is the right path. Explore the full list of opportunities [here](#).

Study in Australia or New Zealand Fair – Saturday 16th November



The annual Study Options Fair will be held at Australia House, The Strand, London [Study Options | Study in Australia or New Zealand](#) on **16th November**. An opportunity to meet with representatives from top universities in Australia and New Zealand, the event will have sessions at 12-2pm or 2-4pm and representatives from 15 of the universities in attendance. To book free tickets see: [Eventbrite](#).

PwC: Flying Start 2025 - virtual events in November



PwC's Flying Start programme provides students with integrated paid placements in Accounting or Business Management while studying. Students will build their creative thinking skills and have the possibility of a role with PwC after graduation. Virtual events for parents/carers, teachers and students to find out more are on **21st and 28th November**. Sign-up at: [School and College PwC Flying Start events](#).

Creative Careers Week 18th - 22nd November



Discover Creative Careers Week 2024 18th - 22nd November aims to inspire the future creative industries workforce by providing insight into real job roles and pathways from employers through online and in-person events. Find out more at [discovercreative.careers](#)

Recommended Websites & Resources

Bi-Annual Higher and Degree Apprenticeship Listing out now



Students can explore 2,300 Higher and Degree Apprenticeship vacancies in the **October edition of the Higher & Degree listing 2024**. View vacancy locations, salary information and get links to applications. The listing can be downloaded from [here](#). The next release is planned for **January 2025**.

Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF) – Gap Year Work Experience



Students aged 18+ can stay for up to 3 months at farms worldwide. WWOOFers learn to grow their own food, help on the farm, experience a new culture and develop language skills while helping build an ecologically conscious global community. Find out more at: wwof.net.

University of Oxford – Guide for applicants 2024/2025



For students new to the University of Oxford application process, this useful [Guide for applicants | University of Oxford](#) will aid in finalising applications to the various colleges. Includes guidance on written work submissions for the November deadline and December interviews for shortlisted applicants.

Spotlight on Russell Group Universities



The Russell Group's website has resources where students can find out more about the group's approach to blending learning and use of digital technology, undergraduate study at their chosen universities and use the interactive 'Subject Choice at School or College' tool. [Russell Group | For students](#)

FutureSmart Careers - October Blog



This month's FutureSmart Careers blog provides a "Career starter guide to Art & Design". Including sections on Portfolios, Art Foundation Diplomas, Work Experience and Employers, there are also discussions of the pros and cons of Degrees versus Apprenticeships and Career Paths and Progression. View our blog at: [Art & Design - FutureSmart Careers](#)

Planning your Day – University of Oxford Open Day Top 10 tips!



For Year 11 and 12 students considering applications to the University of Oxford in September 2026 and beyond, read "Top 10 Tips" for Open Days. Recommendations include - completing some research before attending, visiting subject departments first, then the Colleges you are interested in and asking about Financial and Careers support. For more details see: [Planning your day | University of Oxford](#)

Apprenticeship Opportunities

GSK Science Apprenticeship VIRTUAL event – Tuesday 29th October 3-4pm



Learn about the [Science Apprenticeships](#) at biopharma company GSK. Hear from current trainees and gain insight into work at a global company by signing up to join the session on 29th October 3-4pm [here](#).

Chemical Engineering Degree Apprenticeship with Unilever



Rotating through Unilever's process engineering teams, you will learn about developing new formulation technologies, scaling manufacturing processes, supply chain, helping embed digital technologies and aiding the Home and Personal Care programmes to deliver superior products to market, while studying a BEng Chemical Engineering degree. Benefits include a competitive salary, pension scheme and shares in Unilever. For information and to apply, see: [Chemical Engineering Degree Apprenticeship at Unilever](#)

Airbus - Business Degree Apprenticeship



The Airbus Business Degree Apprenticeship allows apprentices to work in areas such as planning, health & safety, facilities management, procurement, logistics and contract management. Work is on-site at Broughton (North Wales), with a degree in Applied Business Management delivered by Swansea University and Coleg Cambria Northop (North Wales). Further opportunity to work towards ILM Diplomas in Management [Business Degree Apprenticeship at Airbus](#).

Rail Engineering Level 3 Apprenticeship – Siemens Mobility Ltd



The Siemens Level 3 Apprenticeship offers the opportunity to learn how code evolves into solutions used worldwide, application and mobile platform development, mechanical and electrical fault finding and developing and how to provide sustainable solutions in all areas of rail transportation. Southampton based, with a salary of £16,000 and closing date of 30th November, you can apply [here](#).

For Careers Leaders/Heads of Careers Department

Animation Nation: Stop Motion workshops for Schools and Colleges



Animation Nation: Stop Motion Animation Workshops for Schools – Animation Nation can deliver half day, one day and two-day animation workshops in schools and colleges for groups of up to 32 students. Find out more at [Stop-motion animation filmmaking workshops](#). All materials and equipment are provided. Schools can book a workshop [here](#)

West of England Combined Authority (WECA) Careers Hub – upcoming CPD events



West of England Combined Authority (WECA) Careers Hub has a useful timetable of CPD events for Careers Leads in the area: [West of England Careers Hub - CPD](#). Interesting upcoming events include: the Introduction to Compass+ and FSQ for Governors on 28th November and the NEET online seminars with Alison Douthwaite and Ceri Brown from the University of Bath on 12th and 25th November.

University of Cambridge: Teachers and Advisers webinar series



The University of Cambridge Teachers and Advisers webinar series features Student Life at Cambridge 4:30-5:30pm on Tuesday 19th November. For full details and to register, see: [Teachers and Advisers' Webinars](#).

Connected Belonging: Tackling the risks to NEETHood



Tackling NEET Toolkit – Connected Belonging provides resources to help schools to understand and intervene on early school leaving. The toolkit includes frameworks for understanding risks and planning interventions, CPD support for schools and research publications. Find out more at [Connected Belonging](#).

Schools & Colleges: Planning for National Apprenticeship Week 2025 – 11th November.



Save the Date! To help Schools and Colleges plan for National Apprenticeship Week, 10th-16th February 2025, Amazing Apprenticeships are inviting staff to join this early planning webinar on **Monday 11th November at 3:30pm**. With information and advice on daily themes, available resources and ideas for activities and events, this proves to be a useful start point for preparations. Book your place [here](#).

Russell Group for Teachers and Careers Advisers



Russell Group universities are working with schools and colleges across the UK to help raise attainment. Free resources are provided with answers to a range of FAQs. Schools can book schools' liaison or outreach representative to visit and speak to students. Find out more at [Russell Group For teachers and career advisers](#).

Exeter College – Key Dates 2024/2025



For Careers Leaders working in or near to Exeter, Exeter College is providing events including Academic Insights Day for Year 10s, Apprenticeship Expo in February, a Level 1 update in March and their Curriculum update on 17th June 2025, you can find out more by contacting the College Advice Team on: cat@exe-coll.ac.uk.

FutureSmart Essentials for schools

FutureSmart Careers offers a range of well-loved packages for schools but can also tailor a plan to fit schools' needs exactly.

FutureSmart Essentials is our essential package for schools and includes



- Suite of downloadable resources
- 9-5 careers advice helpline
- Monthly newsletters with news, events and opportunities

Many schools upgrade to **FutureSmart Pro** which includes all of the benefits of Essentials plus additional in-school support from our team of qualified advisers for workshops, personal guidance sessions, talks and other activities tailored to the schools' exact requirements.

To find out about FutureSmart Essentials and how else we can support schools, please don't hesitate to contact us on **0330 311 9509**

ASK Programme for Devon and Oxfordshire



If you are school or college in Devon or Oxfordshire, please free to contact us for assemblies, application workshops, webinars and resources.

For Devon schools contact us at askdevon@futuresmartcareers.co.uk

For Oxfordshire schools contact us at askoxfordshire@futuresmartcareers.co.uk

Contact Us

Other Enquiries



For all other enquiries, please contact our team at enquiries@futuresmartcareers.co.uk or give us a call on Tel: **0330 311 9509**

We'd love to hear from you!

No responsibility can be taken for the content of external websites mentioned in this newsletter