



In the newsletter this month



UCAS Covid-19 Updates



SATs and ACTs postponed



University Virtual Tours



Advice from FutureSmart Careers in response to Covid-19 (p4)

University reply deadlines extended for applicants



UCAS are providing [regular updates](#) about COVID-19 and the impact on this year's admissions cycle on their website. The government has now asked universities to stop making unconditional offers or amending existing offers for two weeks. In response, UCAS have extended May's decision and reply deadlines for undergraduate applications by two weeks and will email applicants to let them know. **It is important for students to check that their contact details on Track are correct.** FutureSmart Careers advise that students should wait until the deadline before making their choices, especially for unconditional offers, as more information could be coming over next few weeks.

Disruption to SATS, ACTS and VISA applications



The SATs due to take place on 2nd of May have been cancelled with no news yet of a new date. ACT tests arranged for 4th April have been rescheduled to take place on **13th June**. Students affected should regularly visit the exam websites.

The USA has also suspended all routine consular services in London, Edinburgh and Belfast including visa applications services. As a result, there may be issues for students needing a study visa for courses starting in the autumn of 2020. Students are advised to check regularly [here](#).

Virtual Events replace Open Days and Offer Holder Days.



While universities have cancelled their open days and offer-holder days, many are providing extra content on virtual tours and some are creating new online offer holder events. Students can find a list of over 100 virtual tours in the UCAS website or on university websites. Some universities also include virtual city tours, the opportunity to chat to current students and a look at the accommodation on offer. For the list click [here](#).

Chat to students online about prospective university courses



With university campuses out of bounds, prospective students can still chat to current undergraduates online through **Unibuddy** which is now hosted by UCAS. The chat facility aims to help students find out what life is really like at uni. Options include the ability to search by university, degree subject or by selecting a home country to gain international perspectives. Find unibuddy here: www.ucas.com/chat-to-students

Broaden Horizons with Virtual Tours of Museums, Zoos, Aquariums and even Theme Parks



With a huge range of virtual experiences online, there is no need to miss out on a dose of culture or even a trip to the zoo! Good Housekeeping has compiled a list including some of the world's most famous art galleries, museums, zoos, aquariums, research institutes and even theme parks.

www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/travel/a31784720/best-virtual-tours/.

InvestIn move career insight programmes online



As a response to COVID-19, InvestIn will now run a selection of their career insight events online. These include the Investment Banker, Engineer, Doctor and Psychologist programmes due to take place in April, with more event announcements expected shortly. The online programmes will give students the opportunity to gain career coaching and insights from sector professionals in a live and interactive environment. Details can be found [here](#).

Volunteering in the UK for Gap Year Students



In light of Covid-19, students considering a gap year may now want to look more closely at the wealth of volunteering opportunities in the UK instead heading overseas. **DO it** is one of the UK's leading volunteering organisations and lists opportunities in every sector across the UK. Volunteering carries great benefits for young volunteers by helping to build a range of soft skills and providing evidence on CVs and in job applications. For more information go to www.doit.org.

Last minute research into viability of T-Level work placements



With fewer than six months until the first T-Levels are offered to students, the DfE has launched last minute research into whether employers can deliver the mandatory 315-hour industry placement. Three T-levels – in the digital, construction and education routes – will start in September 2020, with more being rolled out every year until 2023. The evaluation is required by October 31, so the DfE will not know what further support will be required until learners are already working towards the qualifications. [Read the full article on FEWEEK.](#)

Internships more important for Non-Russell Group Students according to new research



In a recent study by Milkround with 2000 new graduates, 83% of non-Russell Group graduates under the age of 26 said that an internship was vital to securing their first job compared to just 14% of Russell Group counterparts. However, overall, two-thirds of those under 26 said they would not have been able to secure a graduate job without previous work experience, compared with just a third of those aged between 55 and 73.

Read more [here](#).

Bristol University expand Innovation undergraduate programme



Bristol university are expanding their innovation degree programme with three new 4 year MSci courses being offered for entry in 2021: **Economics with Innovation, Social Policy with Innovation and Childhood Studies with Innovation.** The innovation courses allow students to pursue their academic specialism, while working in transdisciplinary teams with other students from 14 academic departments. Students also work with external clients on real-world projects to develop ideas, evaluate innovative solutions and create new plans.

For more information from the Innovation department see [here](#).

Students overlook university scholarships on offer in UK



Students applying for UK degrees often overlook applying for scholarships with many organisations offering scholarships saying they often struggle to get enough applicants. Student misconceptions include that scholarships are only for the very academically gifted or that grants and bursaries are only for those in financial need and anyone in between will not be eligible. The Scholarship Hub hosts a long list of scholarships available in the UK and students should also check university and course web pages. Scholarships and Bursaries include those for Academic Excellence, Music, Personal Circumstances, Financial Need, Sporting Achievement and Industry Led (some of these offer work placements too).

www.thescholarshiphub.org.uk.

Student interests and the job market



Schools and careers advisers can see how well student interests match demand in the labour market by seeing which career paths students and recent graduates are most attracted to. Prospects have produced a video showing the top 10 most searched for job profiles on their careers database. The top five jobs were: Social Worker, Chartered Accountant, Clinical Psychologist, Police Officer and Detective. See the findings [here](#).

Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge (ASK) programme for schools



The Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge for Schools and Colleges programme (ASK) is funded by the Department for Education. The programme provides support to all schools, including independents, to transform how students think about apprenticeships. Support can be tailored to each school's requirements to include: workshops, careers fair attendance, free resources, a teacher CPD session among other options. ASK also connects schools with a delivery partner organisation in their area. The delivery partner will assess requirements and can deliver a bespoke support package. For more information click [here](#).

Degree Apprenticeships Recruiting now for September 2020



Amazon, BDO, Savills, PWC, EY, Land Rover Jaguar and a number of **regional Police Constabularies** are among a list of organisations who are now recruiting for degree apprentices for September starts. As yet, in light of Covid-19, most application deadlines remain unchanged, but interview schedules may not run on scheduled dates. Applicants are advised to enquire with employers.

For a full list of opportunities students should go to [Rate My Apprenticeship](#) or the [Government's Find an Apprenticeship website](#).

The Royal Academy of Culinary Arts Chefs' Apprenticeship



This three-year vocational course has been designed by the [Royal Academy of Culinary Arts](#) and offers young chefs on-site training in some of the finest dining establishments in the UK. Apprentices are employed by Academy members or recognised operators of the same standard throughout their training and work towards nationally recognised qualifications as well as the Royal Academy of Culinary Arts Diploma exam at the end of the third year. Apprentices can study with one of five providers across the UK including University of West London, University College Birmingham and Bournemouth and Poole College. For more information follow the link [here](#).

EDF Energy Early Careers in Sustainability



EDF is one of the UK's largest producers of low-carbon electricity and is aiming for a cleaner, low-carbon future. Around a fifth of the UK's electricity is generated by one of their eight nuclear power stations and the organisation invests in low-carbon nuclear solutions alongside wind and solar power. The early careers programme includes work experience and career insight days and a range of craft technician and degree apprenticeships. EDF also offer a summer internship (3-month placement) which runs from June to September which is open to A Level and first/2nd year undergraduates. For more information click [here](#)

Careers in Architectural Technology



Architectural Technologists use creativity, problem-solving and skills in IT, drawing and design. Chartered Architectural Technologists (MCIAT) can lead a practice, provide a full architectural design service and lead projects of all sizes from building new homes to football stadiums. To gain Chartered status students need to enroll on a CIAT accredited Honours degree in Architectural Technology. CIAT have produced a YouTube video providing insight into progression routes and the type of work Architectural Technologists undertake: www.youtube.com/ciatechnologist

University College of Football



[The University Campus of Football Business](http://www.ucfb.ac.uk) (UCFB) was created in 2011 to train and prepare the next generation for a range of roles across the £20 billion sports industry. UCFB has two UK campuses based at Wembley and Etihad Stadiums and also offers online and blended degrees with the optional opportunity of attending annual summits at UCFB's global study hubs at four locations around the world. Three-year undergraduate degrees are offered in Football Business and Finance, Football Coaching and Management, Physical Education, Sports Psychology, Stadium Events & Management to name a few. Students are also encouraged to participate in an extensive programme of personal development and employability. www.ucfb.ac.uk

More advice from FutureSmart Careers in response to Covid-19



Although it can be very hard not to, our best advice is to try not to worry too much and for those students leaving school this year not to feel under pressure to make any snap decisions about university offers, gap year plans or apprenticeship applications. Every sector is gaining new situational awareness by the day, therefore we expect more information will be forthcoming to base decisions on.

For students considering a gap year this might be the time to consider UK options more closely or to consider taking a gap after university or doing an international study year as part of a degree instead. Student finance re-payments do not start until earnings of £25,000 are reached, so plenty of time to fit in other experiences beforehand.

Pupils intending to take work-based training options, including degree apprenticeships, should research these carefully and if applications are underway contact individual employers about possible new interview dates. There will be some sectors that will have lots of new recruitment needs and others where it may be more difficult to predict the demand. Having a back up plan which could be university or a gap year might be worth considering but again, do not rush to make decisions. The UCAS application process is open over the next few months with many universities still recruiting students.

For pupils intending to take up international university places where the country has closed its borders to non-nationals you will need to keep in contact with the admissions teams for any updates. With exams including SATs and ACTs cancelled across the world, individual universities will be contacting prospective students and putting information on their websites. For example, Harvard updates can be found [here](#):

For Lower Sixth Students, you now have lots of time to do the research about leaving school and to look at opportunities in greater detail. Start to draw up some shortlists and follow university and other organisations on social media for more information. See previous information in this newsletter about virtual tours and open days. Take time to think about what you want to do and where. Most organisations including universities are moving toward flexible work and study practice which may benefit you. The universities who adapt the most during Covid-19 to offer online and blended learning solutions could be the ones that survive best and thrive in the future.

If any student or parent has concerns or questions our helpline is open as always at helpline@futuresmartcareers.co.uk

Hoping that you and your families stay well.

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