

Navigating Journeys to Higher Education

School & College Programme
2023



Next Steps
South West

ABOUT US



Next Steps South West (NSSW) is a collaboration of 14 partner universities and colleges throughout Cornwall, Devon, and Somerset, funded by the Office for Students (OfS).

As the region's Uni Connect programme, we help young people navigate their own personal journey to higher education (HE). Throughout the region, we hold events and activities designed to inspire students aged 14-19 years old to fulfil their potential. Together we raise aspirations and awareness, while improving access to HE, helping students make informed decisions about their future.

To ensure that students receive the right information at the right time, we've created a programme of interventions aimed at developing soft skills and knowledge of educational pathways. Our work is entirely impartial, so students can decide what suits their individual needs.



What is Uni Connect?

The Uni Connect Programme brings together 29 partnerships of universities, further education colleges, and other local partners. To find out more visit:

<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/promoting-equal-opportunities/uni-connect/>

NSSW OFFER

Progressive and engaging, our core activities are designed in stages that address the NSSW-identified barriers to HE progression.

Introduction Stage - Year 9

- Provide opportunities to explore the career benefits of HE.
- Introduce HE pathways.
- Inform on local HE provision.
- Explore local labour market information.

Development Stage - Year 10 & 11

- Develop aspirations through interactions with HE role models.
- Use research skills to identify personal interests and possibilities.
- Increase awareness of HE pathways and how HE differs from school.
- Encourage discussion around concerns relating to student fees and finance.

Consolidation Stage - Year 12/13, Post-16

- Raise aspirations within subject areas and HE progression routes.
- Develop confidence and ability to make informed HE choices.
- Spend time on HE campuses with student ambassadors and lecturers.
- Understand that finance and geographical location are not barriers to HE progression.

BARRIERS

Many factors may prevent a young person from fulfilling their future potential. Our events and resources are designed to address the following themes:

SOFT SKILLS

Building self-belief and transferable skills, including resilience, motivation, team work, research and communication.

SOCIOECONOMICS

Providing cultural capital and role models, whilst improving attitudes and aspirations

INFLUENCERS

Informing the perceptions of parents and carers

KNOWLEDGE

Promoting understanding of HE benefits and career prospects, study options, applications, qualification levels and student life.

FINANCE AND COST

Developing knowledge of fees and finance, support available and budget management.

GEOGRAPHY



Overcoming perceived or physical challenges and broadening horizons.

ACTIVITIES











See icons in the tables below for information on alternative formats. We have suggested where the session may align with Gatsby Benchmarks in the GB column.

YEAR 9 - Introduction Stage

 Recorded online session available  Live online session available








Session	Format	Summary	Alt formats	Notes	GB
Jobs and Job Sectors, using Careerpivot or Unifrog	Workshop: 60 - 75 mins	Explores job sectors & jobs including salaries and labour market information.	 	*PCs required.	2 & 3

YEAR 10 - Development Stage

Session	Format	Summary	Alt formats	Notes	GB
Introduction to HE	Talk: 20 mins	Shows students how to separate the facts from the fiction in relation to HE.			7
Student Life & Budgeting	Workshop: 60 - 75 mins	An introduction to student life. Includes an interactive budgeting activity.	 		3
Level 3 Options	Talk: 20 mins or Workshop: 60 - 75 mins	Develops knowledge and understanding of level 3 pathways and relevant options.	 	*PCs required for workshop.	4
Campus Visit	Off-site visit: whole day	A visit to a local university or college for a tour of the campus and HE facilities.			4 & 7
Higher and Degree Apprenticeships	Workshop: 45 - 60 mins	Discover information about higher and degree apprenticeships as an alternative route into HE.	 	*PCs required.	2 & 4
My Skills Profile using Careerpivot or Unifrog	Workshop: 60 - 75 mins	Identify experiences and transferable skills and how they align with those required by a range of different jobs.	 	*PCs required.	2 & 3
"Why Would You?"	Film	An opportunity for students to discuss some of their barriers to HE, including finance.	 	Teachers Pack or NSSW Delivery	3 & 7

YEAR 11 - Development Stage

 Recorded online session available  Live online session available

Session	Format	Summary	Alt formats	Notes	GB
Student Life & Budgeting	Workshop: 60 - 75 mins	An introduction to student life. Includes an interactive budgeting activity.	 		3
Level 3 Options	Talk: 20 mins or Workshop: 60 - 75 mins	Develops knowledge and understanding of level 3 pathways and relevant options.	 	*PCs required for workshop.	4
Higher and Degree Apprenticeships	Workshop: 45 - 60 mins	Discover information about higher and degree apprenticeships as an alternative route into HE.	 	*PCs required.	2 & 4
Study Skills	Workshop:	Develops revision skills in preparation for GCSEs			3
"Why Would You?"	Film	An opportunity for students to discuss some of their barriers to HE, including finance.		Teachers Pack or NSSW Delivery	3 & 7

SUPPORTING HE PROGRESSION

In addition to our activities, schools and colleges can support HE progression in the following ways:

- Include an HE policy statement in your school/college's Careers Policy and publish on your website.
- Encourage progression to HE through your School Development Plan.
- Nominate an HE Advisor, most probably your Careers Leader, who reports to SLT.
- Monitor progression rates to HE at Governing Body level.
- Continue to engage with the NSSW institutional outreach programmes to achieve GB7.

NSSW funding is confirmed until July 2023, but we hope to continue to July 2025. We look forward to continuing to working with you.

YEAR 12/13/POST-16 - Consolidation Stage



Recorded online session available



Live online session available

Session	Format	Summary	Alt formats	Notes	GB
Student Finance & Budgeting	Workshop: 60 - 75 mins	Explores student finance, how student loan repayments work and how students can afford to live at university.			3
Student Life	Talk: 20 mins or Workshop: 60 mins	Provides an insight into what life is like for HE students, while increasing understanding of the wider benefits of HE study.			7
Post 18 Options	Workshop: 60 mins	Develops knowledge of post-18 pathways and options.			4
Choosing a Degree Course	Workshop: 60 mins	Provides students with the tools to choose the right course and institution for them.		*PCs required	3 & 4
My Skills Profile Review, using Careerpilot	Workshop: 60 mins	Builds on identifying transferable skills to help develop personal statements for a range of applications. Ideally followed up the personal statement workshop.		*PCs required	3
Higher and Degree Apprenticeships	Workshop: 45 - 60 mins	Informs about higher and degree apprenticeships as an alternative route into HE.		*PCs required	2 & 4
The Pay Index	Workshop: 60 mins	Uses LMI to investigate how pay and living costs vary. A tool to compare future earnings after gaining a degree or apprenticeship?			2, 3, 7 & 8
UCAS Exhibition Preparation	Talk: 30 mins or Workshop: 60 mins	Prepares students for how to make the most of UCAS exhibitions. Workshop includes pre-event research.			2 & 4
HE Interviews & Applicant Days	Workshop: 60 mins	Promotes understanding and preparation for Applicant Days and different formats of HE course interview.			3
Pre & Post Campus Visit Workshops	Workshop: 60 mins	Helps prepare students for visiting an HE institution, and summarise findings after a visit, plus further signposting.			4 & 7
Campus Visit	Off-site visit whole day	A visit to a local university or college for a tour of the campus and HE facilities.			4 & 7
Virtual HE Events	Workshop: 45 - 60 mins	Shows students how to get to get the most out of virtual HE events.			2 & 4
Personal Statements	Workshop: 60 mins	Highlights the role of personal statements in UCAS applications, provides examples and supports students with planning and drafting their own.			3
UCAS Applications	Workshop: 60 mins	Help students understand and navigate the UCAS application process.			3 & 4

OUR PARTNERS

Next Steps South West proudly represents the following colleges and universities:



I am impressed by the amount of engagement we have managed to get delivered to a large number of students and the positive relationships which are developing with staff as a result.

T Chedzoy
In-school Coordinator
Bridgwater & Taunton College

For more information or to arrange a booking please contact:



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