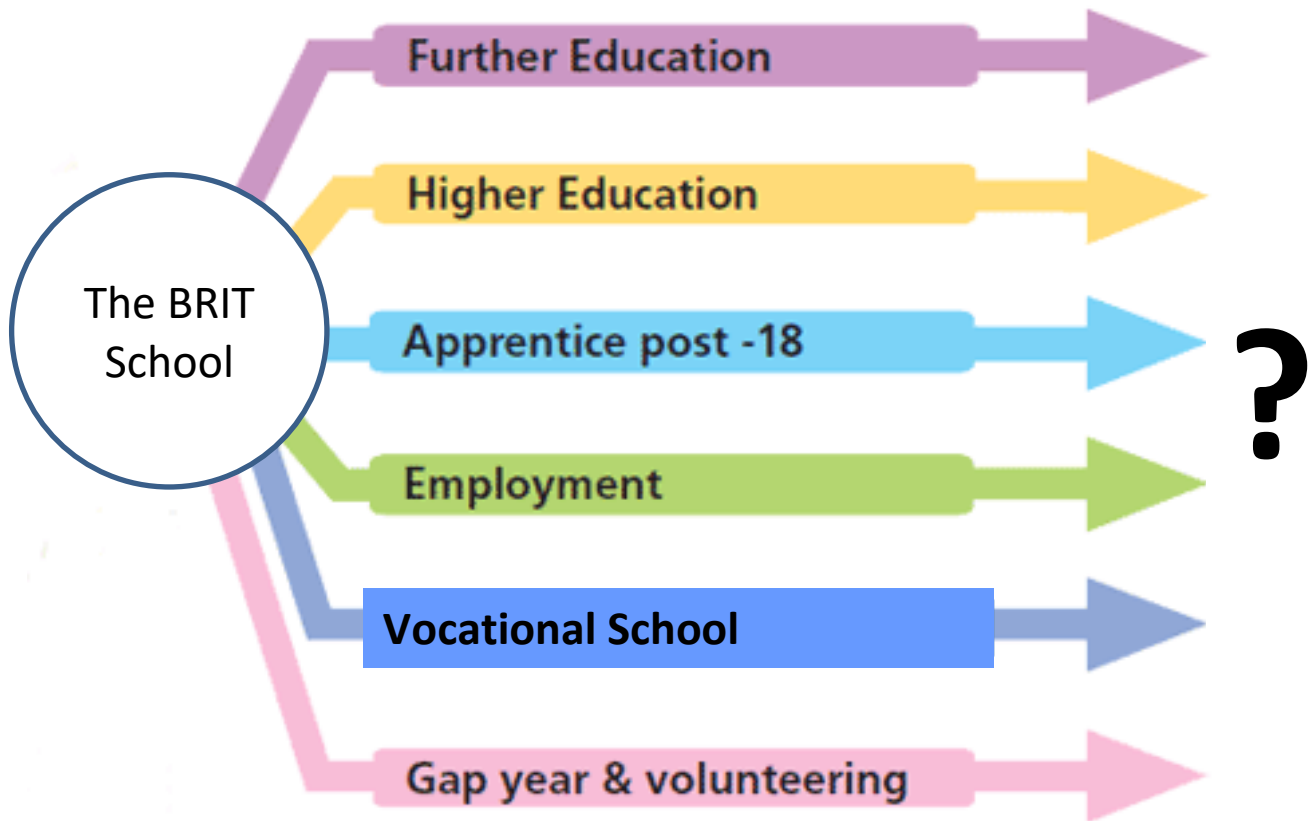




Guide for Parents

2020

Post 18 Options



BRIT School students are in the fortunate position of being able to consider any of the above progression routes once they leave school in 2021. 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 art, drama and music. 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tables	These are useful but can be based on universities as a whole or on individual subjects, and data is sometimes out-of-date.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.thescholarshipclub.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.

Monday 2nd November - latest advisable date for handing in forms.

How The BRIT School Helps Students with Applications

Ongoing	Within the PPD Programme students have started to assess whether Higher Education is right for them. Students have been encouraged to use www.ucas.com and Unifrog to start their research. Students are encouraged to use the resources in the Careers Room, where our careers staff will be on hand to help answer any questions they may have.
June	Students will have the opportunity to attend talks that will give them detailed information on the application process, writing a personal statement and attend workshops to give them insights into working in the creative industries.
September	When returning to school in September students will submit their personal statement to their Tutor for feedback.
Sept / November	Students complete the UCAS application online. The form is then checked, references and predicted grades are added and applications are sent to UCAS.
March/April	Make final university decision.

How parents/guardians can help

Go to the **parent section of www.ucas.com** which has been developed to help parents find all the information they need to support students in choosing their courses and applying to higher education. Sign up there for monthly email updates

Take an interest in your son/daughter's application. Encourage careful research over the next few months and during the summer holidays.

Ensure they attend open days (www.opendays.com lists all university open days).

Read through their personal statement & form to help check spelling, grammar and so on.

Check they meet school deadline dates. (Listed on Page 3 of this booklet)

Information about student finance, loans, grants etc. can be found at:
www.gov.uk/browse/education/student-finance

UCAS Tariff 2021

Tariff	GCE A Level	GCE AS Level	UAL Extended Diploma
168			D
160			
152			
144			
120			M
112			
104			
96			
72			P
64			
56	A*		
48	A		
40	B		
32	C		
28			
24	D		
20		A	
16	E	B	
12		C	
10		D	
8			
6		E	

Studying at a Conservatoire

All courses at conservatoires have a strong vocational, performance orientation, and course structures are reflective of the industry. This means graduates from conservatoires will be accustomed to the ways of working, hours, and expectations of the industry they are going to work in, as they will have practised this throughout their course.

Instead of a limited number of contact hours per week at a university, conservatoire students often work a 9-5, Monday to Friday routine. Performances and workshops are mostly held in the evenings and at weekends. On top of this, students are expected to practise extensively in their own time.

As conservatoire study is performance-centred, the year is broken down into a block of academic weeks, followed by a block of performance weeks.

Applications to Conservatoires should be made either through UCAS Conservatoires or directly to the Institution. Students will need to check with individual institutions.

Most music courses have an application deadline in October, while most undergraduate dance, drama or musical theatre courses are in January – but there are some exceptions and variations.

Further information can be found at www.conservatoiresuk.ac.uk and www.ucas.com/ucas/conservatoires

Applying to Vocational Schools

The term 'school' is used in relation to these institutions but the training they offer is highly specialised, and designed to prepare students for a professional career in the dance and musical theatre industries. Students will receive an intensive training with a high level of teacher/student contact time in the form of daily classes, rehearsals, performances, professional studies, private study, etc. Most courses will lead to a nationally recognised qualification and throughout your training you will work with industry professionals as well as your regular tutors. This early contact with people already in the industry is crucial to your future as a professional artist. Many vocational schools now also offer degree programmes too. Degree courses have an academic element in addition to the practical.

Application methods to Vocational schools vary and students should check the website for each individual institution.

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 can be fierce, but previous BRIT 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.

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 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.whitehat.org.uk	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	

Conservatoires

www.conservatoiresuk.ac.uk	Detailed information on study at UK Conservatoires
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Vocational Training

www.cdmt.org.uk	Council for Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre Education & Training
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Graduate Information

www.prospects.ac.uk	Excellent information on graduate employment and information on what jobs specific degrees lead to.
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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.
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www.volunteerics.org	
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www.bunac.org	Summer Camps Abroad.
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www.campamerica.co.uk	US Summer Camps
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Careers

www.discovercreative.careers	Brings together careers information from creative organisations in one directory – excellent source of information
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www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk	Insights to thousands of careers
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