

S6 Careers Resource 2016-17

Welcome to S6

Welcome back to sixth year. Since this is your last year at school, it’s essential to begin **now** to think about what you are going to do in the future. This book contains career planningresources that everyone can use this year.

As the school’s Careers Adviser, I am here to give you information and advice about the options open to you, so please get in touch if you need my help.

**Help from Skills Development Scotland**

If you would like help in deciding what to do when you leave school, you should register on Skills Development Scotland’s website **My World of Work** at **www.myworldofwork.co.uk**. As a starting point, use the online tools and quizzes on the website under Exploring Options to help identify areas of study or employment which might suit you. The website can also give you lots of useful information on applications, CVs, interviews, jobs and college. You can also call Skills Development Scotland’s Contact Centre for advice on **0800 917 8000.**

If you have used the **My Strengths** tool and accessed **My World of Work** website and other resources to research information, but are still undecided about what to do, please speak to your Guidance teacher, who can refer you to me for a face to face interview in school.

I can also be contacted by phone at the Skills Development Scotland Centre in Musselburgh on 0131 665 3120 or by email at **caroline.steele@sds.co.uk**

**Caroline Steele**

**Careers Adviser**

**June 2016**

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**Higher Education Open Days 2016**

**IMPORTANT: - Check dates and times before going to Open Days.**

**Book on-line to reserve a place.**

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| **Institution** | **Date of Visit** | **Website address** |
| **Aberdeen University** | Tuesday 30 August 2016  Saturday 22 October 2016 | <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/study/undergraduate-open-day/> |
| **University of Abertay, Dundee** | Wednesday 21 September 2016 | <http://www.abertay.ac.uk/studying/opendays/> |
| **University of Dundee** | Dentistry –Friday 10 June 2016  Medicine – Friday 10 June 2016  Main campus Open Days –Monday 29 August 2016 and Saturday 24 September 2016 | <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/study/visitus/> |
| **University of Edinburgh** | Friday 17 June 2016  Saturday 24 September 2016  Saturday 8 October 2016 | <http://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/undergraduate/open-day/open-days> |
| **Edinburgh Napier University** | Saturday 1 October 2016 – Main Open day at Merchiston, Craiglockhart and Sighthill campuses. | <http://www.napier.ac.uk/study-with-us/undergraduate/meet-us/open-days> |
| **University of Glasgow** | Glasgow campus – Thursday 16 June, Thursday 1 September and Saturday 22 October 2016  Crichton campus, Dumfries –Thursday 23 June, Thursday 8 September and Saturday 29 October 2016 | <http://www.gla.ac.uk/about/visit/undergraduateevents/> |
| **Glasgow Caledonian University** | Wednesday 7 September 2016  Saturday 8 October 2016 | <http://www.gcu.ac.uk/study/opendays/> |
| **Glasgow School of Art** | Thursday 27 October 2016 | [www.gsa.ac.uk](http://www.gsa.ac.uk) |
| **Heriot-Watt University** | Edinburgh campus – Friday 23 September and Saturday 29 October 2016  Scottish Borders Campus, Galashiels – Friday 30 September and Saturday 19 November 2016 | <http://www.hw.ac.uk/student-life/visit-us/open-days.htm> |
| **University of the Highlands and Islands** | Various visit days at individual campuses. See website for information. | <https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/studying-at-uhi/open-days> |
| **Queen Margaret  University, Edinburgh** | Monday 29 August 2016  Saturday 24 September 2016 | <http://www.qmu.ac.uk/marketing/bulletins/opendays.htm> |
| **Robert Gordon  University, Aberdeen** | Saturday 18 June 2016  Wednesday 31 August 2016  Saturday 29 October 2016 | <http://www.rgu.ac.uk/news-and-events/visit-us/open-days/open-days> |
| **Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Glasgow** | Music – Friday 3 June 2016.  Drama, Production & Screen – Friday 12 August 2016  Production & Screen – Friday 7 October 2016  Drama – Friday 14 October 2016  Modern Ballet – Friday 4 November 2016 | <https://www.rcs.ac.uk/studyhere/opendays/> |
| **Scotland’s Rural Colleges**  **SRUC**  **Aberdeen, Ayr and Edinburgh campuses** | Aberdeen campus – Saturday 27 August, Wednesday 12 October & Wednesday 16 November 2016  Ayr campus – Wednesday 21 September, Wednesday 19 October & Wednesday 23 November 2016  Edinburgh campus – Saturday 3 September, Wednesday 5 October & Wednesday 16 November 2016 | <http://www.sruc.ac.uk/opendays> |
| **University of St Andrews** | General Visiting Days – Wednesday 28 September, Wednesday 5 October, Wednesday 19 October, Wednesday 26 October, Wednesday 16 November 2016 | <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/study/ug/meet-us/visiting-days/> |
| **University of Stirling** | Saturday 17 September 2016  Saturday 29 October 2016 | <http://www.stir.ac.uk/visit-the-campus/open-days/> |
| **Strathclyde University** | Tuesday 6 September 2016  Saturday 8 October 2016 | <http://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/openday/> |
| **University of the West of Scotland** | Ayr campus –Saturday 10 September 2016  Dumfries campus –Saturday 10 September 2016  Hamilton campus –Saturday 17 September 2016  Paisley campus –Saturday 17 September 2016 | <http://www.uws.ac.uk/opendays/> |

Remember that the closing date for most UCAS applications is **15th January 2017** for courses due to start September/October 2016. However, for applicants applying to courses in **medicine, dentistry, vet medicine or to courses at Oxford University or Cambridge University,** **the closing date is** **15th October 2016**.

**Music courses at the Conservatoires**,(the participating colleges are Birmingham Conservatoire, Leeds College of Music, Royal Academy of Music, Royal College of Music, Royal Northern College of Music, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, and Trinity Laban onservatoire of Music and Dance.) : These applications go through [CUKAS](http://www.cukas.ac.uk/) and their closing date is **1st October 2016**.

If you are **uncertain** about **any** closing dates, **check directly with the individual university or institution.**

Useful Websites for Higher Education Applicants

[**www.ucas.com**](http://www.ucas.com) **– UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service)**

Details of degree courses throughout the UK. Includes course search by subject and/or institution, course profiles, university/college information, student finance. Also includes Apply, the on-line application system used by applicants to UK universities.

[**www.myworldofwork.co.uk**](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk) – **Skills Development Scotland’s website**

Provides information on Higher National and Degree courses as well as a Graduate Portal for details of graduate careers.

[**www.planitplus.net**](http://www.planitplus.net) **- PlanIT**

Contains information on all full and part time courses at Scottish colleges including Higher National Certificates/Diplomas, along with information on degree courses at Scottish universities.

[**http://unistats.direct.gov.uk**](http://unistats.direct.gov.uk) **– Unistats**

Detailed information on the going rate for entry to courses. Also includes a survey of current students’ views of their course, including how it is taught and assessed, level of academic support provided, availability of learning resources including libraries and IT facilities. Data on graduate employment destinations for individual courses.

[**www.push.co.uk**](http://www.push.co.uk) **– PUSH Online**

The ultimate Guide to student life, university and everything! Researched by students and recent graduates. Includes brief university profiles, university links to student unions/newspaper websites, information on how to apply, prices of beer, a jargon buster and lots more.

[**www.elrah.ac.uk**](http://www.elrah.ac.uk) **– Edinburgh, Lothians, Fife and Borders Articulation Hub**

Designed to help HNC/HND college students with progression on to degree courses at university. This site provides useful information for school leavers on links from HNC/D courses at local colleges to related courses at universities in south east Scotland.

[**www.prospects.ac.uk**](http://www.prospects.ac.uk) **– Prospects**

The essential guide to graduate careers, jobs and postgraduate study in the UK. Gives information about employment opportunities in its ‘What do Graduates Do’ section.

[**www.saas.gov.uk**](http://www.saas.gov.uk) **– Student Awards Agency for Scotland**

Information on all aspects of student funding including bursaries and student loans. Scottish students studying in Scotland do not pay tuition fees for their courses. Some students may be eligible for a non-repayable Young Student Bursary depending on the level of their family’s income. All students can apply for a non income assessed repayable loan of up to £4500 per annum. Look at this site to find out more about the cost of Higher Education.

[**www.lattitude.org.uk**](http://www.lattitude.org.uk) **– GAP Year Activities Projects**

Information on ‘Year Out’ opportunities. Over 1,500 placements for UK volunteers in 34 countries across the world each year. There are opportunities in schools, conservation, medicine, outdoor activities and caring.

**Other Resources to help explore and research Higher Education**

**Which University** [**here**](http://university.which.co.uk/)

**Best Course for Me** [**here**](http://www.bestcourse4me.com/)

**Go Think Big** [**here**](http://www.gothinkbig.co.uk/tools/careers-infographics)

**Studential** [**here**](http://www.studential.com/)

**The Student Room** [**here**](http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/)

**Icould** [**here**](http://icould.com/)

  

  

**Important information for pupils**

**applying to Medicine, Dentistry,**

**Veterinary Medicine or Law courses**

All applicants to degree courses in **Medicine** and **Dentistry** must sit an aptitude test. The **UKCAT** (UK Clinical Aptitude Test) is being used by all Scottish universities (and the majority of those outside Scotland). This is an aptitude test, which does not draw on any particular body of knowledge that a candidate can learn in advance. However there are **practice questions** on the UKCAT website.

You must register on-line to take the test. Registration should be made between **3 May 2016** and **21 September 2016**. The test must be taken between **1 July 2016** and **5 October 2016.** There is a test centre in Edinburgh.The cost of taking the test is £65 (1 July - 31 Aug) and £80 (1 Sept – 5 Oct). Bursaries may be available to cover the cost of the test depending on parental income. More information is available on the UKCAT website [**www.ukcat.ac.uk**](http://www.ukcat.ac.uk)**.**

The **BMAT** (BioMedical Admissions Test) is used by a small number of universities including Oxford, Cambridge, Brighton and Sussex Medical School, Lancaster University, University of Leeds, Imperial College, London and University College, London for entry to **Medicine,** by Cambridge for entry to **Veterinary Medicine** courses, by University of Leeds for **Dentistry** and by Oxford for **Biomedical Sciences**. Next test date is on **2 November 2016**. Registration is between **1 September and 1 October 2016**. Test fee is £45.00. More information at [**www.bmat.org.uk**](http://www.bmat.org.uk)**.**

The **LNAT** (National Admissions Test for law) is being used by Glasgow University (and other institutions outside Scotland) to assess applications to all courses in Law, including joint degrees in Law and another subject. Full details of test dates and registration are on the LNAT website [**www.lnat.ac.uk**](http://www.lnat.ac.uk)**.**

**Start to think about how to write your Personal Statement for UCAS applications and what to include.**

* Remember to allow yourself plenty of time to work on creating a good personal statement. Universities decide on their offers based mainly on your statement and your exam results.
* Timeline for this is [here](https://www.ucas.com/sites/default/files/ucas-personal-statement-timeline.pdf)
* Online personal statement tool is [here](https://www.ucasdigital.com/widgets/personalstatement/index.html)
* More help on this is [here](https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/apply-track/writing-personal-statement)
* Link to UCAS video wall with various “How to” and “Advice” videos is [here](https://www.ucas.com/connect/videos/ucas)
* More on applying to university and/or college is [here](https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/learn-and-train/applying-courses)

**Planning Ahead**

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| **Don’t have a clue:** | * Think about your skills, strengths and interests as discussed at today’s session * Visit [www.planitplus.net/careerzone/careerometer](http://www.planitplus.net/careerzone/careerometer) You can use the computers in the school library or at home to do this and it will help generate some ideas. * Register on [www.myworldofwork.co.uk](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk) for careers information and resources. |
| **Have some ideas but need to explore options available:** | * Visit [www.planitplus.net](http://www.planitplus.net) for career and course information * Try getting some relevant work experience or work shadowing. * Start to research the post-school options outlined below using the available resources. |

**Post-school options and resources**

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| **Further Education** | * Visit [www.planitplus.net](http://www.planitplus.net) for course availability * Read college prospectuses in the careers library and/or visit college websites:   Edinburgh College - [www.edinburghcollege.ac.uk](http://www.edinburghcollege.ac.uk)  Oatridge College – [www.sruc.ac.uk](http://www.sruc.ac.uk)  There are many other colleges throughout Scotland which you can explore in more detail through the Planit website |
| **Higher Education** | * Visit [www.ukcoursefinder.com](http://www.ukcoursefinder.com) you can take a quiz to help you identify course ideas * Visit [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) and [www.planitplus.net](http://www.planitplus.net) for course information * Visit [www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk) for financial advice * Visit [www.push.co.uk](http://www.push.co.uk) for student advice * Visit [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk) for degree course progression * Read university prospectuses in the careers library or visit university websites. * Attend the Higher Education Convention at Edinburgh Corn Exchange on 2nd and 3rd September 2014 |
| **Employment/ Training** | * Register on [www.myworldofwork.co.uk](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk) for help with CV’s and interview skills * There are lots of job search websites; you can access some links to these on [www.edubuzz.org/mgscareers/sample-page](http://www.edubuzz.org/mgscareers/sample-page) . * Visit [www.yell.com](http://www.yell.com) or use the Yellow Pages or local trade directories to identify employers to contact about recruitment. * Try to get some relevant work experience or work shadowing or do some volunteering – try <http://strive.me.uk/find-opportunities/> |
| **Year Out** | * Visit [www.yearoutgroup.org](http://www.yearoutgroup.org) [www.summerjobs.com](http://www.summerjobs.com) and [www.gapyear.com](http://www.gapyear.com) * Think about what you hope to gain from a year out. * Plan what you would like to do at the end of your year out too * Country guides [here](http://prospects.ac.uk/country_profiles.htm) to help you |

**Remember to use the Careers blog at** [**www.edubuzz.org/careers**](http://www.edubuzz.org/careers)

**START PLANNING NOW!**

College Resources

[Edinburgh College](http://www.edinburghcollege.ac.uk/)  
Scotland’s Rural [Colleges](http://www.sruc.ac.uk/)  
Pre-application resources here  
Higher National level funding [here](http://www.saas.gov.uk)  
HN to degree progression routes [here](http://www.elrah.ac.uk)  
Scottish Qualifications Framework [here](http://scqf.org.uk/features/Framework.htm)

Finding Employment

CV preparation [here](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/landing-mycv)

MyWOW Cover letter information [here](https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/getting-job/cover-letters)

MyWOW Cover letter layout and examples [here](https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/getting-job/tutorial-how-lay-out-your-cover-letter)

MyWOW Cover letter information [here](https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/getting-job/cover-letters)

MyWOW Cover letter layout and examples [here](https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/getting-job/tutorial-how-lay-out-your-cover-letter)

MyWOW – Interviews help  [here](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/node/57416)

MyWOW – My Interview [here](https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/myinterviewtool/start)

Some Vacancies Information [here](http://www.edubuzz.org/midandeastvacancies/)