

Careers at PPC

Essential Student Guide to your Career
February 2020



Expanding opportunities
Enhancing futures

Prior Pursglove College takes your future, as a student, very seriously. Our Careers Coordinator is Diane Bate, who is available on a 'drop-in' basis 4 days every week. Students are asked to 'self-refer'. There is also a programme of Careers speakers and some key events which take place annually, e.g. Progression Launch days and the Progression Fair in July. In addition, all students follow a dedicated tutorial programme, which is based on the [eight Gatsby Benchmarks](#).

How can I find information on a particular job I'm interested in?

It's important to do some careers research early on (at the point of choosing college courses) because courses you choose now will influence your career direction. It is important that you check with Universities and employers individually that you have the right A-level subjects. We find that these are the best websites to use: [National Careers Service Job profiles](#) or, for more health related ideas, [Health Careers](#)

How can I find information on labour market information?

It's important to understand what job sectors exist and are common both in the local area and nationally, so you appreciate opportunities that exist and which sectors are likely to be 'growth areas'. The best websites, we believe, to begin this research are (for local sectors) the Tees Valley Combined Authority [key sectors](#) section, for growth sectors nationally, the [Recruitment Buzz](#) website and for key stats on all career areas, [the NGRF website](#).

How do I choose College courses?

We advise full time students to take three subjects in their first year, although the number of courses you take does depend upon the GCSE grades you achieve (you may be able to take four after consultation with staff). If you are considering going to University to study a particular course, it is really important that you check with the University if there are any specific subjects which are essential. You can do this by

looking on the University website or in their prospectus. Each University sets their own entry and subject requirements and they do differ considerably, so please contact them individually.

What do Prior Pursglove students tend to progress to?

About **75%** of our A Level students choose to progress to University.

Around **25%** of students choose alternatives to University and there are various reasons for this – sometimes students want a ‘break’ from studying and choose to take a Gap Year. Apprenticeships are quite popular - especially in: Engineering, Business Admin, Accounting Technician and Teaching Assistants. Increasingly, we are seeing some successful with the new ‘degree apprenticeships’, although we are finding they need to move out of the area for these. Some choose to enter the adult job market immediately and at least half of those enter the Armed Services. And some opt to complete further courses at alternative colleges.

How can I find out about University?

To find out which Universities offer which courses and what grades they ask for, do a **UCAS Course Search**. To understand the way that the ‘points’ work, put your predicted A-level results into the **UCAS Tariff calculator**. To see what Universities are like to live at, check out these sites: **PUSH** and **The Student Room** and **What Uni**

University fees are a source of worry for both students and parents – it’s not all bad news though, although you will accumulate more debt, repayments will be more affordable than in previous years’ systems. See this: **Understanding University Finance**.

To see what jobs you could do from your degree, check out **Prospects** and to learn more about graduate employment generally, see the **Complete Uni Guide**

An increasing number of students are keen to investigate studying their degree abroad – a good search site is **StudyLink** (all countries) or the **Fulbright Commission** (for study in the USA only). Please note, there is little to no funding for

study abroad unless you have sporting ability at national level or higher. The UK government will only give tuition fee loans for courses in the UK, not abroad.

Which are the most competitive degree courses?

As a rule of thumb, anything health related (medicine, dentistry, nursing, midwifery, radiography, occupational therapy etc.), primary teaching, veterinary science and social work are competitive courses. For access onto these courses, work experience is essential and the numbers applying are typically 10+ applicants per place. To start your research, try the following sites. For Medicine [Get me Into Medicine](#) is useful. Veterinary science applicants should use the [Vetsure site](#). Teaching applicants can use the government funded [Get Into Teaching](#) site. Social workers should check out the [BASW](#) site.

How can I find out about taking a Gap Year?

We find that less of our students opt for Gap years, but they are well thought of by universities in the main, as long as they are structured. You will find useful information at [Year Out group](#).

How can I find out about getting a job or apprenticeship straight after my A Levels or College courses?

Around 5% of all our A level leavers progress to Apprenticeships, and a further 4% straight into jobs. A small number of students have been able to secure Higher Apprenticeships with Nestle and PWC. Find out more about Higher Apprenticeships [here](#) – and we look forward to leavers in the next few years to progress into the new '[Degree Apprenticeships](#)'. You can search for jobs by home postcode at [Universal Jobsmatch](#) or search for [Apprenticeships](#). Routes to Employment Advisers are best placed to help you with searching for Apprenticeships. Their contact number is 01642 444 666.

How can I find out about setting up my own business?

If you fancy yourself in the Dragon's Den as an entrepreneur then check out some [government advice](#) about setting up your own business