

GAP YEAR



GAP YEAR - Options

There is a 'before' and 'after' with a gap

Planned between finishing A levels and starting a degree or other course

Planned, to gain necessary experience, or extend qualifications needed to apply for a competitive course or job

A planned break from studying, chance to work full time

Open ended, without a specific long term goal, to do further thinking and get some ideas

All of these options need to be planned

ORGANISING A GAP YEAR

Be clear about the purpose of the 'gap'

If intending to go to university after the 'gap', either apply and defer entry, or apply in the autumn after receiving A level results

Research your options, depending on what you want to get out of the gap year and what you want to do during it

Where are opportunities advertised? When?

Jobs and employment fairs

Have your CV ready – and be prepared to tailor it to every opportunity

EMPLOYMENT



Labour market reasonably buoyant at the moment particularly sectors – health, social care, hospitality and catering, transport, leisure sector, manufacturing ... and others



Part time, casual, temporary, zero hours – useful to try out a sector



Can be a stepping stone to a more structured career, eg NHS degree apprenticeships mainly go to existing employees, so starting as a health care support worker can give good progression



Needs systematic approach to applications – researching organisations, tailored CV, good interview skills, attend careers fairs and recruitment events

VOLUNTEERING

Opportunity to build experience of a sector or type of work

- to improve chances of employment in chosen sector
- to improve chances of an offer of a place on competitive degree
- to test out a career idea in practice

Improve employability skills

Wide range of volunteering opportunities – Sheffield City Council, the Sheffield based NHS Trusts, South Yorkshire Police, and nationally

APPRENTICESHIPS

Job with training. Training = Qualification related to the job

Levels – 2, 3 = Advanced, 4 = Higher, 5 = Degree level

Need to know the type of work you want to do.
Competitive

Available in wide variety of sectors, reflects labour market needs

Apply during Y13, vacancies appearing throughout the year, though competitive vacancies need early applications

Sheffield City Council, NHS Hospitals Trusts, AMRC, and many more

Degree apprenticeships – apply to company and if successful company will tell you which university and course to apply for

Need to plan.

Timing, where, languages? Visas (tourist)? Money?

Working while travelling. Working visas harder to get.

Type of work. Consider TEFL (teaching English as a foreign language) but will need qualification. Sporting qualifications always useful – pool lifeguarding, coaching, also musical instruments playing and teaching. Au pair work. Vocational skills/qualifications

Travel and Volunteer as part of a programme

Vast majority degree courses in UK offer a year or semester study abroad option at partner university in English speaking country

VOCATIONAL COURSE

Going to college to study for a qualification which will lead straight into employment. Wide range of sectors such as health and social care, child development, catering and hospitality, business administration, engineering, animal management, sport and fitness, technical support, construction operations, hair and beauty

Level 3 qualifications from college (= A levels) can also be used to progress to level 4 and beyond, often working and studying part time

Art Foundation Diploma (18+) fully funded