

www.connexions-leics.org

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Not going to Uni this time — what now?

Things to consider:

Your career ideas

Find out if you actually need a degree for the job you want to do. Use the job profiles at <https://nextstep.direct.gov.uk>

Your motivation and learning style

If you have a strong desire to learn about a particular subject in depth, a degree might be right for you. Explore career options for your subject: www.prospects.ac.uk

Have you got the maturity you need to do well at Uni? Some people might get more out of doing a degree when they're older and have more experience of life.

If you prefer practical tasks and haven't really enjoyed your academic study, consider other options. An Advanced or Higher Apprenticeships could help you to become a highly skilled technician or manager in the future.

Finances

Find out what a degree will cost at www.direct.gov.uk/yourfuture

Grades too low?

You might want to stay on to improve your grades, but first discuss your chances of success with course tutors.

There are other levels of qualification to progress on to. For example, an HND in Business Studies requires fewer tariff points than a BA in Business Studies, and you might be able to do this at a local FE college. You can convert an HND or top it up to a degree with a further one or two years study at a later date.

High grades, but not sure about uni?

Even for students with very good grades getting a place is highly competitive—so exploring a number of alternatives is still wise.

What jobs are about in Leicester?

Everyone knows its harder for young people to get jobs now because they are in competition with older workers.

Don't get too discouraged. If you are going to have a realistic chance of getting work, it helps to understand local job availability. There are three sectors which are particularly worth investigating if you want to work part-time or if you want some prospect of promotion early on. Experience in these areas is good for your CV, and local jobs do often come up.

Hospitality

Businesses in this sector can experience frequent turnover of staff, so vacancies do come up, but be prepared to start off in a lower level job. If you are reliable and keen chances are you'll get better opportunities fairly quickly. Some employers might put you on an apprenticeship when you've proved yourself.

Start job hunting

www.caterer.com

<http://jobs.bighospitality.co.uk/>

Care and health work

If you've got the right personality and attitude, this sector could offer very good prospects through further training. Demand is rising for people skilled to work with dementia sufferers, for example. The sheer size of the NHS workforce means that entering this sector can lead to very wide options for careers later. Consider doing an apprenticeship as a way in.

Start job hunting

www.allcarejobs.co.uk

www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/

Contact centres

Despite the redundancies in banking recently, there are still companies with very large contact centres around the county. Customer service skills, IT user skills, listening and verbal communication skills are essential, and increasingly, so is accurate written English for responding to customer email enquiries.

Start job hunting

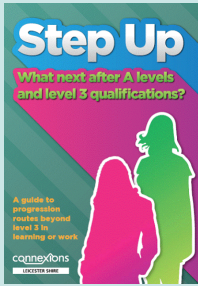
www.jobs.centrica.com/uk/leicester-jobs

<http://careers.next.co.uk/directory>

www.santanderjobs.co.uk/ptelephone.asp

Find more job market information at:

www.connexions-leics.org/jobsmarket



Your guide to options after post 16 education.

Pick up a copy at a Connexions centre or download it from:

www.connexions-leics.org/library

When should I get more help?

Speak to a Connexions adviser if you...

think you are at risk of having no course or job to go to in September.

are finding it difficult to achieve your career aims due to problems getting in the way.

have a disability and need to find out about the support available.

have researched the options but are still unsure what to do next.

Contact the Connexions adviser for your school/college:

www.connexions-leics.org/linkadvisers

Visit your local Connexions centre:

www.connexions-leics.org/centres

7 point strategy for job hunting in a recession

1 Think positive

Despite the number of job losses you hear about in the news, some companies will be recruiting. Even those losing staff may recruit into other departments. Some companies do well in a recession, cut price supermarkets for example, and remember they need supervisors and managers as well as shelf stackers.

2 Exploit your experience

You may have done a part-time job or work experience whilst at school or college. These jobs can lead to full-time work and even apprenticeships. Employers are often happier to give work to someone they already know.

Contact past employers to ask if they have any vacancies or even if they'd be willing to give you more unpaid work experience.

Even if it isn't the type of work you had planned to do, a first job can be a stepping stone to other things. Skills you pick up such as team working, time management and customer service can be valuable in other completely different jobs.

3 Start at the bottom and prove yourself

With a Level 3 qualification you may feel you should aim for a job with higher pay and more responsibility. In reality though, if you are willing to start at the bottom of the career ladder you may be at an advantage. Most employers will recognise your talent and commitment and reward you with promotion and training opportunities. If not, you'll at least be in a better position to look for jobs with other employers.

4 Start early

The earlier you start your job search the better. The best opportunities get snapped up quickly and larger companies may only recruit trainees and apprentices once a year. You can always check back later if a

company has no vacancies at present.

5 Get organised

The more jobs you apply for, the more chance of success. But you need to have an organised approach. Set aside some time each week to research possibilities and make applications. Keep a record of every job you apply for and copies of all your letters, emails, application forms and CV updates.

6 Polish up your CV

Your CV is often your one chance to secure an interview. Make sure it shows off your talents, skills and experience in the most positive light. Keep it up to date with any new information on predicted grades, work experience or personal achievements.

7 Think about Volunteering

Volunteering can be a way to develop new skills, build confidence and show future employers what you can do. For some popular careers in areas such as media, performing arts, and environmental work it's a common way to get started.

Go to www.connexions-leics.org/volunteering to find out more.

Get inspiration

Alternatives to university

www.notgoingtouni.co.uk

Apprenticeships

www.apprenticeships.org.uk

Planning a gap year

www.yearoutgroup.org/

Voluntary Service Overseas

www.vso.org.uk/