

SCHOOL'S OUT...WHAT NEXT?

LEVELS EXPLAINED

LEVEL 8

PhD

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

A PhD is the highest level of degree. It involves independent and original research into a specific field or subject – which is used to write a lengthy thesis that's worthy of publication. Most universities will require you to have both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree to get started with a PhD. However, people who only have a Bachelor's degree are often still accepted. This might involve initially registering to study for a Master's, to be upgraded to a PhD pathway through studying (based on your progress).

PROGRESSION:

A PhD can lead straight into a career

LEVEL 7

MASTER'S DEGREE

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

A Master's degree is the most common type of **postgraduate** qualification and involves a more in-depth level of study than a Bachelor's degree. They're designed to focus on a specific area of a wider subject – and they can either be taught or research based courses. You'll usually need a minimum of a 2:1 at undergraduate level to be accepted onto a Master's course, although those with a 2:2 may be accepted with relevant professional experience.

PROGRESSION:

A Master's degree can lead straight into a career or you can continue to do a PhD

LEVEL 6

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

A Bachelor's degree is the most common type of **undergraduate** degree – and can be studied straight after finishing further education. Entry requirements may vary from course to course – but you'll usually be required to gain a certain number of UCAS points to get started. These can be made up of a variety of Level 3 qualifications, including A levels, BTECs and Diplomas.

PROGRESSION:

A Bachelor's degree can lead straight into a career or you can continue to postgraduate education

LEVEL 5

FOUNDATION DEGREE

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Although specific entry requirements may vary, entry can be gained through a range of qualifications that are usually studied at school level. These include A Levels or a Level 3 diploma.

PROGRESSION:

The Foundation Degree - equal to two years at university - can lead straight into a career or be 'topped up' by further to study to become a full Bachelor's degree

HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA (HND)

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

For this work-related course, entry requirements vary but as a minimum, you will need a relevant Level 3 and/or Level 4 qualification and Maths and English at Grade 4/C or above

PROGRESSION:

You may be able to progress to the second year of a degree level qualification or into employment

LEVEL 4

HIGHER NATIONAL CERTIFICATE (HNC)

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

For this work-related qualification, you will need a relevant Level 3 qualification and a minimum requirement of Maths and English at Grade 4/C or above

PROGRESSION: You may be able to progress to an HND or the second year of a degree level qualification

LEVEL 3

APPRENTICESHIP

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

As a minimum, you will need 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including English & Maths*

PROGRESSION:

Higher Level Apprenticeship or full time Employment

A LEVELS

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

As a minimum, you will need 5 GCSEs - 2 at grade 6 and 3 a grade 5 including English and Maths*

PROGRESSION:

Upon successful completion of an A Level programme, you may continue into Higher Education (university level courses), Employment or a Higher Level Apprenticeship

VOCATIONAL

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

As a minimum, you will need 5 GCSEs at grade 4 and above, including English and Maths*

PROGRESSION:

Upon successful completion of a L3 Vocational course, you may continue into Higher Education (university level courses), Employment or a Higher Level Apprenticeship

LEVEL 2

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

As a minimum, you will need 5 GCSEs at grade 3 or above, including English & Maths*

PROGRESSION:

Level 3 Apprenticeship or full time Employment

YOU ARE HERE

YEAR 11 GCSES (BTEC, OCR ETC)

DON'T FORGET

YOU WILL NEED GCSE MATHS & ENGLISH AT GRADE 4 OR ABOVE TO PROGRESS AND A GOOD GRADE IN SCIENCE MAY ALSO BE REQUIRED

LEVEL 1

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Suitability will be based upon an assessment and interview*

PROGRESSION:

Upon successful completion of a L1 Vocational course, you may progress to a L2 Vocational course, Employment or a Level 2 Apprenticeship

ENTRY LEVEL

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Suitability will be based upon an assessment and interview*

PROGRESSION:

Upon successful completion of an Entry Level course, you may progress to a L1 Vocational course or Employment

HIGHER EDUCATION (HE)

FURTHER EDUCATION (FE)

DID YOU KNOW...

APPRENTICESHIPS ARE AVAILABLE UP TO LEVEL 7?

WE OFFER HE LEVEL COURSES AT HALESOWEN COLLEGE?

*Suitability for all courses will also depend on specific course requirements, grades achieved and satisfactory references