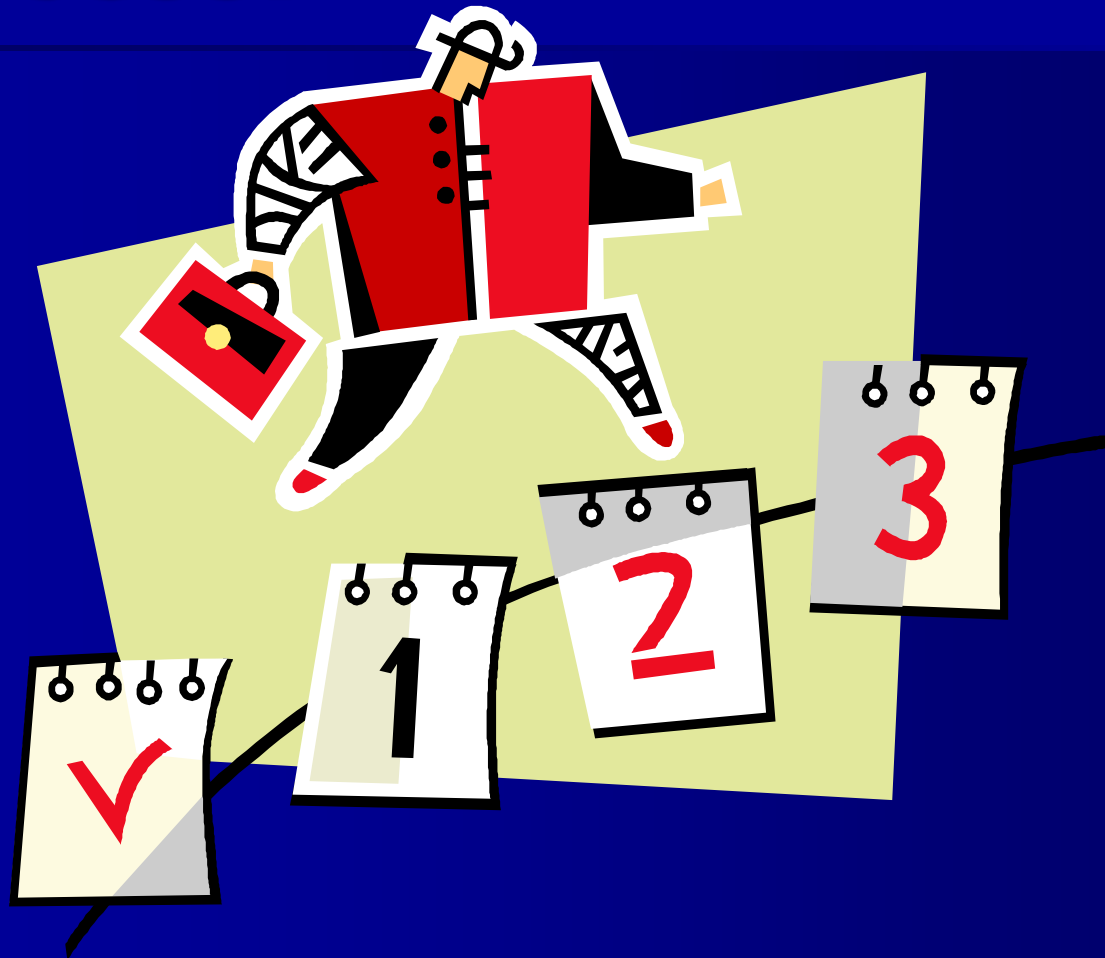


UCAS and Post 16 Choices

A Presentation to Year 14
Pupils and their Parents
2018

This is a step by step process!



Step 1: Consider Choices Post 18

Here are the options -

1. Employment

- Family business
- Armed Forces/Police/Prison Service
- Self-employment
- Apprenticeship e.g. Northern Ireland Electricity, BT, NI Water.
- School leaver opportunities e.g. PWC, Kainos, Deloitte Brightstart

2. Training for Success courses

- Most people begin these after Year 12 but some wait until after Year 14.
- Work experience for 4 days and in South West College for 1 day.
- NVQ Levels 2 and 3

Examples -

- Hairdressing
- Beauty Therapy
- Plumbing
- Electrical Installation
- Motor Vehicle Repair
- Welding
- Joinery

3. Foundation Degrees

- 2 year full-time courses (equiv. to the 1st 2 years of an Honours degree).
- Done locally at South West College (on licence from UU or QUB) or CAFRE.
- Lower entry requirements
- Can 'top up' after completion to gain a full degree (going into the 2nd year).

- Cheaper fees than full degrees (£2,600 per year)
- Can live at home if studying at SWC and save on living costs.
- Combine academic study with work based learning.
- Apply in March (not part of UCAS)
- Useful back-up option – too late in August!

Examples of Foundation Degrees available at SWC -

- Early Childhood Studies
- Energy, Environment and Sustainability
- Business and Information Technology
- Architectural Technology
- Civil & Environmental Engineering
- Sustainable Construction
- Renewable Technologies & Sustainable Development

- Engineering with Specialisms
- Financial Services Management
- Business Services Management
- Design (Product and Graphic)
- Computing
- Health & Social Care
- Digital Arts & Technology
- Applied & Medical Science
- International Hospitality and Tourism Management

4. Higher National Diplomas (H.N.D.s)

- Similar to Foundation Degrees (Vocational)
- 2 year courses (fees around £2,500)
- Lower A Level Entry Requirements e.g. 2 A Level passes)
- Can lead to degrees (possibly gaining entry to the 2nd year of a degree programme)

Examples of HND courses at NWRC -

- Fashion and Textile Design
- Advanced Practice in Working with Children and Adults
- Creative Media Production
- Interactive Media
- Music Production
- Music
- Performing Arts

5. Art Foundation Courses

- One year courses
- Usually necessary before applying to study a degree in Art
- Give students the chance to sample different areas of art and enhance their portfolio.
- Most popular – NWRC and Ulster University (integrated foundation year)

6. Higher Level Apprenticeships

- Do after A Levels.
- Earn and learn – work and study.
- No tuition fees.
- Minimum two years

- Majority equivalent to a Foundation Degree.

- You gain skills that employers need and that are relevant to the local economy.

- Need to be employed or about to be employed by a N.I company

- H.L.A.'s are available through local colleges and universities.
- Examples of colleges/universities -

College

[Belfast Metropolitan College](#)

[College of Agriculture, Food & Rural Enterprise](#)

[Northern Regional College](#)

[North West Regional College](#)

[South Eastern Regional College](#)

[Southern Regional College](#)

[South West College](#)

[Ulster University](#)

[Open University](#)

[Queen's University Belfast](#)

- Currently, Higher Level Apprenticeships are available in over 20 occupational areas including –

- ICT
- Professional Services
- Engineering
- Life Sciences
- Accountancy
- Health Care.
- Hospitality and Events Management

A few examples -

Sector	Title	College / University	Qualification
Agri-food manufacture	Food and drink manufacture	CAFRE	Foundation degree in food and drink manufacture

Sector	Title	College / University	Qualification
Built environment	Civil and environmental engineering	SWC	Foundation degree in civil and environmental engineering
	Construction engineering with surveying	SWC	Foundation degree in construction engineering with surveying
	Energy environment and sustainability	SWC	Foundation degree in energy environment and sustainability

- www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/higher-level-apprenticeships

7. Higher Education (degrees)

Study Destinations of Year 14 Pupils 2011 to 2018

Destination University	2011	2017	2018
N.Ireland	68%	72%	69%
England	23%	11%	23%
Scotland	8%	16%	8%
Wales	1%	0%	0%
Republic of Ireland	0%	1%	0%

Is Higher Education right for you or your child?

- Do they enjoy studying?
- Are they well motivated?
- Can they learn independently?
- Do they have a career plan? e.g. some jobs require a degree – doctor, lawyer, teacher, nurse, social worker

- They may have no idea of a future career!
- Some study degrees in subjects they enjoy e.g. Music, History, English, Psychology, Geography, Politics.
- Will then have to do a Postgraduate course or apply for management training programmes/jobs requiring 'a degree'.
- A degree is still useful because it develops a 'graduate skill set'.
- 40% of graduate level jobs do not specify a degree subject

What is the 'graduate skill set'?

- Research skills
- Teamwork skills
- Leadership skills
- Presentation skills
- Communication skills
- Problem solving skills
- Interpersonal and social skills
- Self-confidence
- Initiative
- Self-motivation

For many, going to University is an investment

- On average, graduates earn 30% (or £400,000) more over their working lives than non-graduates.
- Are 50% less likely to be unemployed.

Destinations by Post 18 Option 2018

Honours Degree	77%
Foundation Deg.	8%
Employment	2%
Year out/Returned to School	8%
Training for Success	0%
Art Foundation	1%
School leaver apprenticeship	4%

Step 2: Research

Choosing what to study

- Up to five courses in UCAS.
- Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary – only four courses – the fifth course must be something else.
- Either Oxford or Cambridge not both!
- May be interviews e.g. Teaching and healthcare professions.

Some tips on choosing

- Particular career in mind? – then study a relevant degree e.g. Lawyer, nurse.
- Not sure? – what A Levels are they studying? Which do they enjoy most?
- If study a degree such as English, Geography or History are they prepared to do Postgraduate courses?

- Try not to mix and match e.g. Nursing and primary teaching
- Try to be as focussed as possible!
- Sometimes mixing and matching is possible e.g. Physiotherapy and occupational therapy, mechanical engineering and maths.

- Check entry requirements for courses and compare to AS Results and A Level predicted grades and subject requirements.
- Try to choose courses with a 'spread' of grades i.e. Not all the same grades.
- Use www.ucas.com course search
- Unistats website useful for comparing courses

Bad choices!

University	Course	Grades or points required	Any essential subjects?
Bristol	History	AAA	History
Edinburgh	History	AAB	History
QUB	History	AAB	History
Manchester	History	AAB	History
Newcastle	History	AAA	History

Better Choices

University	Course	Grades or points required	Any essential subjects?
Bristol	History	AAA	History
Edinburgh	History	AAB	History
QUB	History	AAB	History
Ulster	History	BBC	History
Dundee	History	BBB	History

Remember!

- Some courses are Sandwich courses i.e. have work experience (usually for a year).
- Degrees in Scotland are usually four years not three years as in the rest of the UK (extra year of fees and living expenses!)

Choosing where to study

- Location – N.Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales or Republic of Ireland?
- Urban or Rural? – e.g. University of Cumbria or University of Manchester?
- Size of University

- Popularity of the university – very popular
Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh.
- Facilities e.g. for sport.
- Living costs – London and SE England
higher.
- Transport connections with N.Ireland –
some places easier to reach than others
e.g. Glasgow versus Norwich

- University and subject ranking – The Times Good University Guide.
- Employability – www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk, prospectuses, unistats website.
- Number of places available – restrictions on the healthcare professions and primary school teaching places.
- Entry requirements (higher at some universities. May also be quotas e.g. Edinburgh)

Finance will be an issue -

- Study in N.Ireland - £4,160 per year of study (Ulster University) or £4,275 (QUB) - tuition fees only – 2018-19.
- In the rest of the UK – may cost up to £9,250 a year depending on the course and the University.
- Republic of Ireland – E3,000 at the minute (but higher living expenses)

Repayments – Example 2017-18

- Earnings threshold is £17,495 p.a. (or £1,457 a month)
- Pay 9% of your income over the threshold
- Example – earn £1,750 before tax per month – £1,750 minus £1,457 = £293
- 9% of £293 = £26 (this is what you would pay per month)

Income each year before tax	Monthly Salary	Monthly Payment
Up to £17,495	£1,457	£0
£18,500	£1,541	£7
£21,000	£1,750	£26
£24,000	£2,000	£48
£27,000	£2,250	£71
£30,000	£2,500	£93

- www.studentfinancenl.co.uk

- Video Guides

- Student Finance Calculator

- Other bursaries and scholarships available from universities, especially in GB

Finance for Allied Health Professional Degrees

- Dietetics, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, podiatry, radiography, speech and language therapy.
- Income assessed bursary if study at Ulster University – under review!.
- Tuition fees under review!

Nursing and Midwifery

- Bursary and tuition fees paid if study at UU or QUB - under review!
- Tuition fees charged if study in rest of the UK – see individual university websites for more detail.
- Social work – eligible for a student loan for fees and maintenance and a non-means tested incentive grant – **under review!**

Aptitude Tests

- Medicine (UKCAT) for most universities (CLOSING DATE 18th September).
- Veterinary (BMAT) for some universities.
- Law (LNAT) for some universities.
- Cost around £80

- Healthcare professions at UU only (HPAT Ulster) £111.
- Registration opens 1st October
- Closes 2nd January 2019
- Test is on the 26th January 2019
- Results late March 2019

Step 3: Applying through UCAS

- Apply online via Apply.
- Costs £24
- Medicine, veterinary, Oxbridge applications must be sent by the 15th of October.
- May have to sit extra tests for Oxford or Cambridge as well as submit samples of school work

- The earlier the application is completed the better (some universities begin short listing as soon as applications are received).



- Applications can be sent up to the 15th of January but in reality need to be sent by the end of November.
- May take another 10 days for the application to be processed by the school – reference, checked, corrections made etc.
- Moral of the story – complete application as early as possible!

The Sections

Personal Details

- Name
- Address (**postcode**)
- **Ethnic origin**
- Have you been **in care?**
- **Parental education**
- **Occupational background** of highest earner in the household
- Why these questions?

Courses

- Up to 5
- Can be 5 different courses at the same university or 1 course at 5 different universities.
- Automatically entered in alphabetical order so don't have to choose a 1st choice and a 2nd yet

Education

- Your school.
- GCSEs (GCSE Profile very important).
- A Level subjects with module titles and module grades.
- Too many blank module grades can create a negative impression for some courses.

Employment

- Part-time or summer work.
- School work experience written in personal statement.
- Is there anything relevant to the choice of course?

Personal statement

- An interview on paper.
- Can be up to 47 lines long (Times New Roman, point 12, copied and pasted into UCAS application).
- SPAG must be perfect!
- May take up to 10 drafts!

Choice of Course or Courses

- Why do you want to study
- This is the most important section and therefore should be the longest!

Work Experience

- Paid and unpaid e.g. In family business.
- What relevance has it to the choice of courses?
- Some courses ask for a certain amount of experience e.g. 2 weeks in a primary school.

School Experience

- Sport
- Music
(choir/orchestra)
- Drama (and not just
the actors!)
- D of E
- ECO Schools
- Show jumping
Team
- Maths Tutor
- ICT Club
- Air Cadets
- Prefect

- School Council

- Young Enterprise

- History and Politics Society

- Formal Committee

- Psychology Society

- School Magazine

- Debates (Bratton Cup)

Outside School Experience

- Sunday School Teaching.
- Youth Club leader
- Leader at Rainbows
- BB/GB/GFS/Scouts
- Showing cattle
- Motocross/cycling
- Young Farmers'
- Sport e.g. Football
- Music
- Charity Work

Sporting Involvement

- Sometimes can be overdone!
- If not 'sporty', still need to demonstrate that can see the relevance of a healthy lifestyle e.g. Going to the gym, walking or swimming.
- If not 'sporty' then this section will be shorter so another section needs to be longer.
- Remember – universities have sports teams as well and they will want these to be successful!

Concluding statement

- Sum up why the applicant is very suitable.

Reference

- Choose a teacher to write the reference.
- Will write about predicted grades, performance at AS Level, personal qualities, suitability for the course.
- Can take 2 or 3 hours to do.
- Can't be done until the pupil has completed their application and personal statement.

- So it is a bad idea to leave it until December when teachers are busy with exams, reports, school play, carol service etc.

Step 4: Offers

- Can check the progress of the application via **Track** on the UCAS website.
- Some Universities and courses will make offers as soon as they receive the applications.
- Others will be slower e.g. If the course requires interviews to be held or aptitude tests to be taken e.g. HPAT for the healthcare professions at University of Ulster.

- University of Ulster waited until after the January 15th UCAS closing date before making any offers.
- QUB made offers (or rejections) soon after the application was received.
- Once all 5 places or courses have replied, then the pupil has until the start of May to decide on a 1st choice (**Firm** Choice) and a 2nd choice (**Insurance** Choice)

- Any other offers must be declined.
- Insurance choice must be lower than the Firm choice as shown on next slide -

University	Course	Grades or points required	Any essential subjects?
Bristol	History	AAA	History
Edinburgh	History	AAB	History
QUB	History	AAB	History
Ulster	History	BBC	History
Dundee	History	BBB	History

- If the pupil is rejected from all 5, then they look for courses on UCAS Extra.
- This is a list of courses which still have vacancies.
- Is available in February.

How Changes in Tuition Fees
have influenced student
applications

- More applications for courses at Ulster University and QUB.
- More interest in Foundation Degrees and H.L.A.'s.
- All to do with the new Tuition Fee arrangements.
- Result – more competition for places in N.Ireland and an increase in grade requirements.

	2011	2012	% decrease
NI applying to Universities in England	11,278	9,741	13.6%
NI applying to Universities in Scotland	6,115	5,195	15%
NI applying to Universities in Wales	1,127	955	15.3%

A Note on The Brain Drain!

- Figures released in Sept. 2013 reveal only 37% of local graduates who studied in GB returned home after graduation.
- Graduates who work in GB earn on average £4000 a year more than graduates who work in NI.

These figures also reveal :

- 18% of local graduates opted for postgraduate degrees.
- Graduates from medicine and dentistry courses almost guaranteed a job.

Step 5: Results

- In August after Year 14 (August 2019)
- If grades of the Conditional Offer are met – you are in!
- If not – may have to wait (if you are close) or be rejected.
- Then Insurance Choice will decide.
- If still rejected, may get an alternative course offer or go straight into Clearing (leftovers)

**The Top Higher Education
Subject Destinations for
Year 14 Leavers from
Omagh Academy**

Rank 2018	Subject Area	Number of Pupils
1	Engineering/Product Design	10
2.	Business, Accountancy and Finance	9
3.	Geography/Geology/ Environmental Science	6
5.	Psychology	5
	I.T. related	5
6..	History/Politics	4
	Sport	4
	Art Related	4

Rank 2018	Subject Area	Number of Pupils
6	Languages	3
	Pharmacy	3
	Construction Related	3
	Applied Science	3

Where are the jobs in Northern Ireland?

- Which Northern Ireland registered company, ranked in the Belfast Telegraph top 100 most profitable companies 2018, has the highest number of employees?

1. Moy Park

- c.9,230 employees
- Food processing
- Opportunities for those interested in Nutrition and Food Science, Biology, Chemistry, Business and languages.



2. Bombardier Aerospace

- c.4,700 employees.
- Aerospace engineering.
- Part of the world's 3rd largest civil aircraft manufacturer.
- Product Designers, Mechanical Engineers and Aerospace Engineers.



3. Dunbia

- c.3605 employees
- Supplies beef, pork and lamb products to retail and food service customers.
- Food related degrees but also support staff in marketing, HR, Accountancy, IT, Logistics.



4. Firstsource Solutions

- c.3,300 employees
- Call Centres and Business Information



5. Almac

- Medical Products
- c.3,290
- Global HQ in Craigavon



6. John Henderson

- c.2,580
- Distribution and retailing



7. Ballyvesey Holdings

- Distribution

- c.2,580



8. Fane Valley Co-op

- Milk Processing, agricultural stores, meat processing
- c.2,300



9. Allstate

- IT
- c.2,170
- See next slide!



Allstate.

You're in good hands.



1999



Northbrook
Technology
opened
its doors in
Belfast



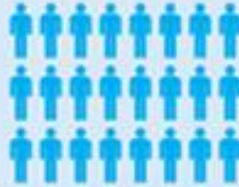
2001



Northbrook
Technology
opened
a secondary
facility in
L'Derry



2002



Belfast
workforce
expanded
and moved to
Lanyon Place



2003



Northbrook
Technology
opened a
third location
in Strabane



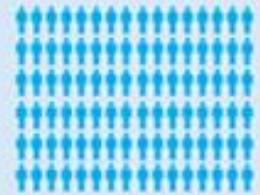
2008



Northbrook
Technology
rebrands to
become part of
the **Allstate**
family



2013




Allstate NI
announced
650 new
jobs by 2016


10. Norbrook

- Veterinary Products

- c.2,000




THE QUEEN'S AWARDS
FOR ENTERPRISE:
INTERNATIONAL TRADE
2011



Norbrook®

Leading Research & Innovation Worldwide



11. John Graham

- c.1,600
- Construction



11. Terex

- c.1,700
- Engineering



Others -

Company	Activity	Employees
Manderley Foods	Snacks	1380
Wrights Group	Bus Manufacture	1370
Seagate	IT	1350
Concentrix Europe	IT	1090
Hastings Group	Hotels	1100

Company	Activity	Employees
Schrader Electronic	Electronic Engineering	1050
United Dairy Farmers	Milk Processing	950
First Derivatives	IT	800

Here's an example -

PA Consulting creating 400 Belfast jobs with average 35k salary



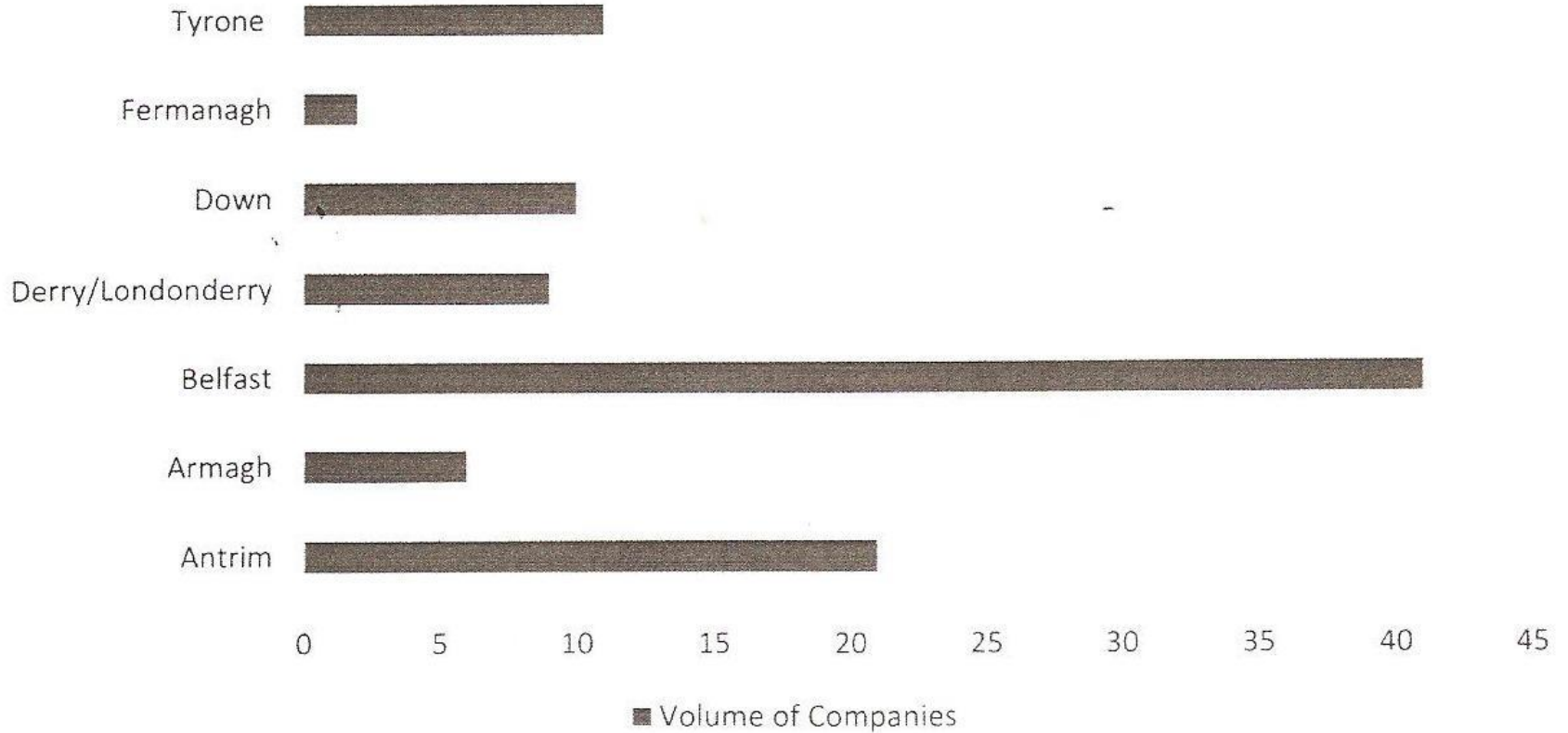
- International consultancy firm is creating 400 new digital specialist jobs paying an average of £35,000 in Belfast in a major expansion.
- PA Consulting said it was “enhancing its digital expertise” with the creation of the jobs over the next five years.
- The initial phase of the job creation will be focused on digital engineering roles.

- The company had thought “long and hard” over where to locate the posts but chose Belfast on the strength of its existing technology sector, talent pool, salaries, education and universities and infrastructure. “Northern Ireland ticked all the boxes”.

**So, you ask how many of
these jobs are graduate
level jobs suitable for
former Omagh Academy
pupils?**

Figure 4: Geographic Location Comparison

Top 100 - Geography



The Top Graduate Recruiters UK Wide

1. Boots

- Vacancies in marketing, retail management, finance, pharmaceuticals, optometry.
- c.500 graduate vacancies.
- Degree required depends on programme applied for (need a 2.1)



2. PWC

- Vacancies in tax, assurance, consultancy, finance, actuarial work and technology.
- Offices in 158 countries employing 170,000.
- Need a 2.1. in ANY DEGREE DISCIPLINE.
- 19 applicants for every place.



3. Deloitte

- Vacancies in auditing, tax advice, consulting. Finance and technology.
- Need a 2.1 IN ANY DISCIPLINE and 300 UCAS points.



4. The NHS

- Vacancies mainly for those suitably qualified – nurses, physiotherapists, radiographers etc.

5. RBS

- Vacancies in internet banking, finance, risk, HR.
- 30 million customers across Europe, Asia and the Americas.
- Need a 2.1. IN ANY DISCIPLINE.



6. Ernst and Young

- Vacancies in finance, tax, consultancy, assurance, IT.



7.KPMG

- Vacancies in finance, tax, consultancy, assurance, IT.



8. Barclays

- Vacancies in finance, tax, consultancy, assurance, IT.



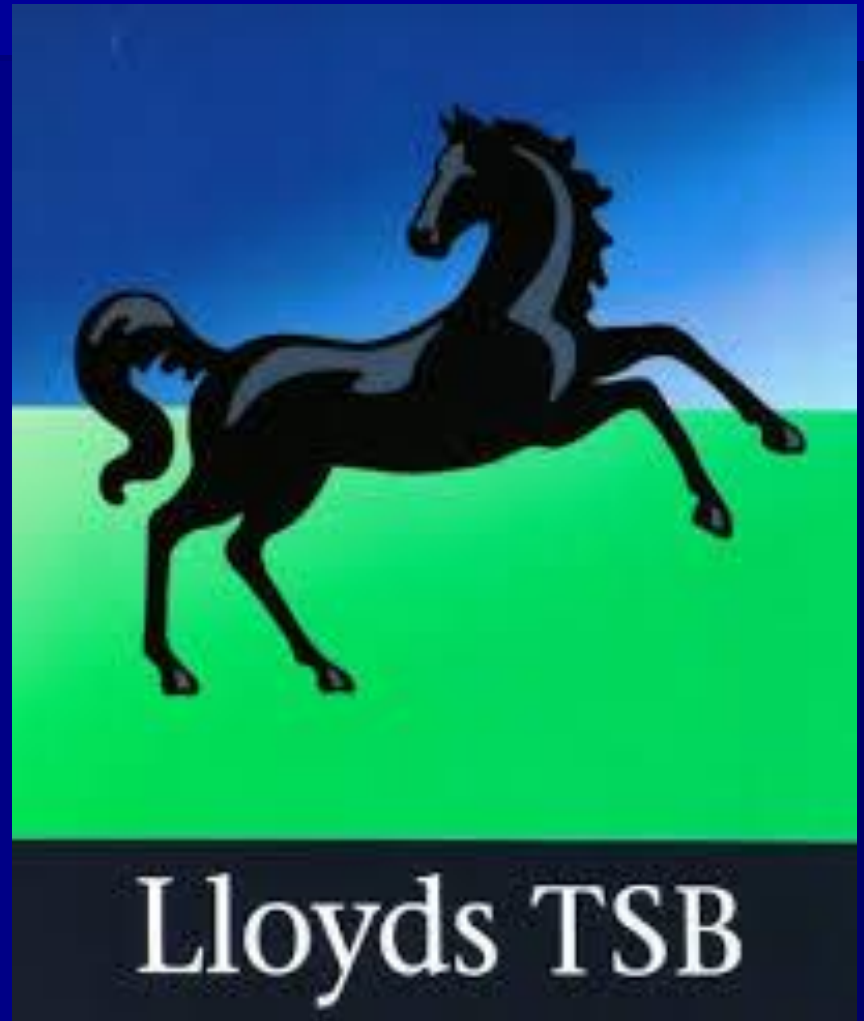
9. Tesco

- Vacancies for managers, IT staff, HR, marketing.
- Need a 2.1. IN ANY DISCIPLINE
- 30 applicants per place.



10. Lloyds

- Vacancies in finance, tax, consultancy, assurance, IT.
- Minimum of 2:1 in any degree discipline. BBB grades (ABB grades Commercial Banking roles).



- **But remember** – the top employers will be looking for the best graduates in these disciplines i.e. those with 1st class honours or 2:1 degrees.
- They are not looking not looking for 'also rans'.



**But....the government
wants as many
graduates as possible to**

....

Start their own businesses and become entrepreneurs!



- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WUg1T4E_G4g&feature=c4-overview&list=UUtbA00-xH31MHR9SraukSEw

Good websites -

- www.prospects.ac.uk
- www.unistats.direct.gov.uk
- www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk
- www.indirect.gov.uk/careers

Information from University Open Days 2018

- According to UU there is strong demand in the following areas -

- Quantity Surveying
- Project Management
- All aspects of engineering
- Supply Chain Management
- Food Science and Quality Assurance
- Software Engineering
- Web Development
- Business Information Technology
- Human Resource Management
- Finance

- I.T. Whizz kids beware! (companies are looking for evidence that applicants are able to work in teams, write reports, have appropriate interpersonal skills and emotional intelligence).
- Shortages in Finance and Software Development – companies offering conversion courses for non- I.T. Graduates.

Key Point!

- Graduates are **COMPETING** and **WORKING** in a **Global Employment Market!**



- Internationalisation important!
- 86% of UU graduates are employed in N.I. – they are pleased and displeased at this!
- Study opportunities in India, China, USA, Australia, Europe, Japan (250 partner universities around the world)

Why?

- Experience new cultures (inter-cultural flexibility).
- See the world and bring back new ideas
- Boosts employment prospects
- Enhances personal development

Graduates need to have -

- Work Experience (37% of graduate jobs are given to those who did work experience with that company)
- Skills (interpersonal, teamwork, problem solving)
- Extra-curricular involvement

N.I. A hotspot for -

- I.T.
- Technology
- Professional Services (accountancy, finance, human resources, marketing, management consultancy)

Q.U.B.

- Promoting Internationalisation e.g. University exchange programmes –
 - The University of Newcastle (N.S.W)
 - Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario
 - The University of Alberta

- Erasmus Programme (3 to 12 months studying or working in another European country as part of your degree).
- Study USA
- Study China
- Study India

- Teaching English in Thailand
- Washington Ireland program
- Project Children (USA)

ANY
QUESTIONS
?