



It's important for young people to know all of the different options available to them in order to make an informed decision about their future. The resources in this section will help students get a better understanding of the opportunities available once they leave further education and empower them to decide which choice is right for them.

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## The key topics covered are:



### Choosing a career pathway

Getting started is often the hardest part. This page supports students who are unsure about their future options and helps them learn how to overcome their fears related to their next steps.



### Is university right for me?

There can be great advantages to going to university. This page offers a guide for students who are questioning whether or not higher education is the right choice for them.



### Alternatives to university

University is not for everyone. The resources on this page look at the alternatives available for young people, from apprenticeships to entry-level roles, and explains the different routes you can take to a successful career.



### Apprenticeships

Fast becoming a popular route into the workplace, apprenticeships are a fantastic way to earn while you learn. This page provides key information that young people should know about this exciting pathway into the world of work.



### How to use support networks

Having support is vital to both personal and professional success. This page looks at the different networks available to young people and how they can harness these relationships to help them achieve goals.

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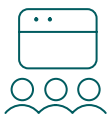
We recommend exploring each page with your students; using the written content and user-generated videos to facilitate discussion and questions.

At the end of each page, you will also find a range of activities that you can work through with your students, or set as self-study, in order to apply what they've learnt into practice and reinforce the key teachings from the website.

Each set of activities ranges from a short activity which should take no more than 30 minutes, through to portfolio activities which are longer, project-based tasks.

## Need some help on where to start?

We've put together a lesson plan to show how the content from the website can be used to build a one-hour careers lesson – perfect for PSHE/Form time!



### Introduction

#### 5 minutes

Demonstrate the M&G Skills for Life website and signpost students to the different resources available to support them in this lesson and when completing self-study.

Explain the aims and objectives of the lesson:

- To think about a five-year plan and the relevant steps to achieve this.
- To gain a deeper understanding of alternatives to university.
- To understand that there is no one set pathway to success.

Write a community code to create a safe space for open and honest discussion in today's lesson.



### Short activity

#### 10 minutes

To start this lesson, work through the short activity on the page '**Fears and careers**'.

Ask students to write down a job they are interested in.

- Think about what the starting salary is for that job.
- What qualifications and/or experience do they need to do that job (if any)?
- What support is currently available to help them get their foot in the door (eg, insight days, internships, traineeships, bursaries, etc)?

Ask students to volunteer their answers. This information is their starting point and will help them to build their career pathway. If they have found it difficult to answer these questions, then encourage them to look further into their desired role.

They may find that there are lots of different routes into their chosen field, as well as support available to help them get there.



### Main activity

#### 40 minutes

Now that students have started to discuss and think about next steps after further education, play the video on the page '**Alternatives to university**'. The video will talk through some of the different pathways to success and reassure students that no one path is the correct way – everybody's career journey looks different.

Next, split students into four groups and assign them each an alternative route to university – apprenticeships and higher apprenticeships, entry-level job, gap year, self-employment.

Give each group 10 minutes to prepare to argue in favour of their alternative route and try to convince the rest of the class that their pathway is the best next step.

This will help create a summary on the different routes into the world of work, the potential advantages for each route and help to dispel any misconceptions that students may have.

This may also encourage some students to consider different pathways that they may not have previously considered and know that it's ok to change their mind on what is the right choice for them.



### Summary

#### 5 minutes

Provide a summary of today's lesson and congratulate students for taking the time to think about future pathways. Understanding the different opportunities available to you and making informed decisions is an important skill for life. It is something that we all need to do at key milestones throughout our lives, both personally and professionally.

Set students homework to explore the '**The future you**' resources in their own time and complete one or more of the activities from each page.

If you're using the Skills for Life student workbook with your students, make sure that they record their work for you to review. Each activity completed will earn them points which will accumulate to an award (Bronze, Silver, Gold).