

GLOSSARY OF TERMS FOR STUDENTS

STEM

STEM stands for Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics), Technology, Engineering and Maths

UNIVERSITY

A university is a large school, where people both learn and do research. A student must finish secondary school before attending a university. Universities offer several levels of degrees. This can be Higher National Diplomas (HNDs), undergraduate degrees (BA/BSc etc.), postgraduate degrees (MA/MSc etc.), doctorates. You need level 3 qualifications to attend University.

FURTHER EDUCATION

Further Education (FE) refers to educational choices made after your 16th birthday. Everyone has to study FE until they are 18. This can be 'A' levels, a vocational qualification or an apprenticeship with a vocational qualification.

COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION

A college for students over the age of 16 that offers mainly vocational qualifications but sometimes, A levels and professional qualifications.

CAREERS ADVISER

A qualified person who can help you make decisions about your future career.

CAREER

A career is what you will have once you have finished education. A career is the work a person chooses to do through life.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

These are skills that employers are looking for. Some of the skills may be different depending on the career that you are in. Other skills such as honesty, good timekeeping, good communication skills are called generic skills and all employers will want their employers to have these skills.

APPRENTICESHIP

On an apprenticeship, people are employed to do a real job while studying for a vocational qualification, usually for one day a week either at a college of further education or training centre.

TRAINEESHIP

A traineeship is a course with work experience that gets a young person ready for work or an apprenticeship. It can last up to 6 months.

DEGREE

An academic degree is a qualification awarded to students upon successful completion of a course of study in higher education, usually at a college or university

GCSES

GCSE stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education. These are national exams taken in Year 11.

'A' LEVELS

A levels are typically taken by students looking to continue to higher studies. These are exams taken after GCSEs. Usually in year 13. These are level 3 qualifications.

PHSE

PHSE stands for Personal, Social, Health and Economic education. It will include Careers Education, Mental Health and Healthy Lifestyles.

VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

These are qualifications that can be studied after school and relate to different sectors such as motor vehicle, accountancy, hairdressing etc. They start at entry level and go up to level 7 which is a professional qualification.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher Education is academic education after the age of 18.