

# Aimhigher



- Outreach programme to help young people (13-30) improve educational attainment and aspirations
- Facilitate a range of activities, including collaborative working with Schools, Colleges, Higher Education institutions and other partners
- Target young people from underrepresented groups who have the potential to progress into Higher Education

# WHY?

- Make INFORMED CHOICES
- Continue academic or vocational study post 18
- Improve young people's OPTIONS post 18

Post 16?

Traditional route is GCE AS/A Levels  
but also...

Applied AS/A Levels

BTEC National awards

A variety of Level 3 qualifications

NVQ Level 3

Advanced Apprenticeships

Access Courses [19+]

# Work-based Learning

- Vocational qualification
- Hands-on practical work experience
- NVQ Level 4 & 5]
- Advanced Apprenticeships [Level 3]
- Full or Part-time
- Sandwich Degree Course

# Apprenticeships on Offer

- Administration and Professional
- Agriculture
- Construction
- Customer Service
- Engineering
- Finance, Insurance & real estate
- Food and drink
- Health and Beauty
- Health Care and public services
- Hospitality
- Manufacturing
- Media and printing
- Recreation and travel
- Transportation

# NVQs

## JOB-related qualifications

- Tested on PRACTICAL SKILLS rather than exams
- Also called WORK-BASED Training
- You build up a PORTFOLIO of your SKILLS
- Go from Level 1 - LEVEL 5
- LEVEL 5 is ABOVE DEGREE Level

# HOW do I get them?

- In a job
- On a Modern Apprenticeship programme
- On a full-time college course

**YOU can do an NVQ at ANY stage in your career**

# Higher National Certificate

- The part-time alternative to a Higher National Diploma
- Equivalent to "A" Levels
- 2 years often part time
- Variety of vocational courses
- Can be used for entry to HND and /or degree courses

# So what is HE?

- Level 4 Learning
- Work-based
- HND
- Foundation Degree
- First Degree
- Can be Full-time or Part-time
- University, FE College, Work-based, Distance Learning

# Higher National Diploma

- 2 years full-time
- Variety of vocational courses
- Lower entry requirements than degree
- Can last 3 years and include a year's work placement
- Can be 'topped up' to a degree with another year's study

# Foundation Degree

- 2 years full-time or 3-4 years part-time
- Vocational course in a range of subjects
- Will eventually replace the HND
- Gives employability skills and specialist technical knowledge
- Often cheaper Tuition Fees than full degree!
- First year often studied locally in an FE college
- Can be 'topped up' to a full degree

# Foundation Degrees locally

- Aerosport engineering [FdEng]
- Animal Behaviour [FdSc]
- Business & Management
- Childcare & Early Years
- Garden Design
- Hospitality Management
- IT for E-Business/Software Engineering
- Motorsport Engineering
- Music & Multi Media Technology
- Photo Imaging
- Public Services
- Small –Scale theatre production [FdA]
- Sports Therapy
- Teaching & Learning Support
- Textile Design

HND in Computing  
HND in Digital Photography  
HND in Engineering  
HND in Musical Theatre

and many more!

# First Degree (BA, BSc, BEd)

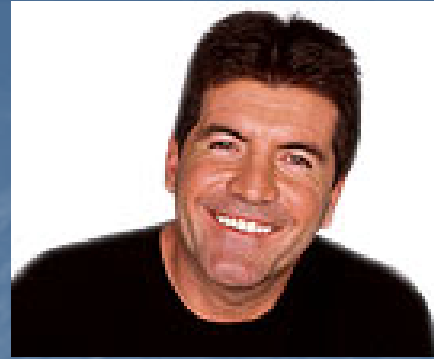
- Many different subjects
- Some more vocational than others
- Usually 3 years full-time
- May last 4 years and include a year in work placement or abroad
- May be a single subject, or a combination of subjects

# What subject?

80,000 + different courses

Animal Behaviour – Arts – Fashion - Criminology -  
DJ & Musicianship – English – Golf - History -  
Football Management - Journalism – Law - Media  
– Management - Maths - Music Technology –  
Nursing – Ocean Science – Social Work – Surfing -  
Sign Language - Perfumery – Psychology –  
Puppetry .....

and many more!



Reuters/Lou Dematteis

1. JK Rowling French & Literature University of Exeter
2. Gandhi Cambridge Law Degree
3. Stella McCartney London Central Fashion Degree
4. Julian Clary Goldsmiths College Drama Degree
5. Matt Lucas University of Bristol Drama
6. Matthew Pinsent Geography at Oxford
7. Ali G History Degree at Cambridge
8. Kelly Holmes Joined army at 18, trained as a PE Instructor
9. Zoe Salmon Law Degree [Blue Peter]
10. Tiger Woods Business Management from Stanford
11. Simon Cowell - left after A Levels, worked way up through music industry

# Is it worth it?

- Graduate unemployment is low
- Many jobs previously open to non-graduates are now dominated by graduates
- Perks! Company car, gym membership, health insurance
- By 2012 - 50% of occupations are most likely to demand graduates
- Graduates earn significantly more than people who have not been to Higher Education (average graduate salary in London is now £22,000 and graduates are estimated to earn around £120,000 more over their lifetime than non-graduates)



# Common Barriers

- Research shows that 3 of the most common barriers to going on to HE are:
  - Finance & worry about debt
  - No one you know has been to University
  - Not sure what it will be like

# What can I do to keep costs down?

- Stay at home
- Part-time and vacation work
- Spend less!
- Part-time study



# Learning Highway

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Aimhigher Surrey website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, About Us, What Are We Doing?, Summer Schools, Contact Us, and Links. Below this is a main header area with the Aimhigher Surrey logo and a banner image of students. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Learning Highway:** A blue box containing links for Learning Highway, National Vocational Qualification Map, Routes into Higher Education, and Higher Education in Surrey.
- Partners:** An orange box containing links for Partner Login, Partner Information, Partner Registration, Teachers - Join Us, and Administration.
- Information:** A red box containing links for Learners FAQ's, Young Learners - Case Studies, Adult Learners - Case Studies, Parents FAQ's, Financial Help, and Applying for Help.
- welcome to Aimhigher Surrey:** A central text area with a heading and two numbered points: 1) Young people and parents on how this programme can help raise aspirations, motivation, accomplishment and advancement to Higher Education; 2) Education and business partners across the county, to share ideas and assist in the planning and development of activities to help our target groups Aimhigher. Below this is a sub-heading "Get onto the Learning Highway" with a graphic of a road sign and a photo of students.
- Latest News:** A purple box containing two news items: "16 June and 23 June Open Evenings for Parents" and "Launch of Learning Highway".
- Our Targets:** An orange box containing text about focusing resources on working with targeted students, schools, and colleges.

At the bottom of the page, there is a link for "Privacy Policy | Top^".

■ [www.aimhighersurrey.ac.uk](http://www.aimhighersurrey.ac.uk)

# Summary

- Study at Higher Education can give...
  - Professional and academic qualifications
  - A route to a career
  - Ability to think and work in new ways
  - Meet people from different backgrounds
  - Exposure to a range of cultures
  - New lifelong friendships and interests