

Careers Education and Guidance

How The Sixth Form College, Colchester helps students make the next step

Introduction

We are pleased to report that over 75% of our students eventually attend Higher Education; this excludes the number that more recently have commenced a Higher Apprenticeship which will lead to higher qualifications. We always look forward to hearing from former students regarding their career progression. Please contact careersoffice@colchsfc.ac.uk to share your good news.

Employment, Apprenticeships and Training Schemes

Increasing numbers of students are choosing to undertake opportunities offered by Apprenticeships, especially Higher Apprenticeships. Businesses are more aware of the value of training young people to be the managers of the future. We have good links with local businesses e.g. apprenticeships for Accountants, (most of the A Level Accounts student gain employment after A Levels). Other employer engagement has been with Barclays Bank, BT and Essex Police.

Self-employment

None of our College students who left in 2022 have reportedly started their own business.

Education

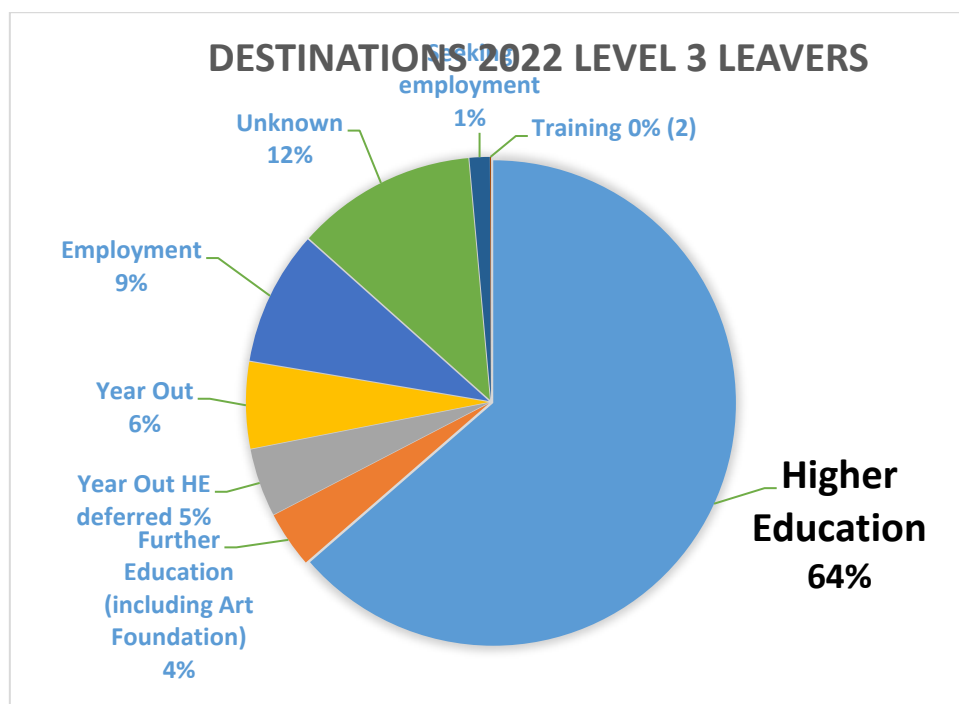
The majority of our leavers each year continue their education undertaking higher level studies. They are supported in this by a range of activities and every Personal Tutor will write references. The majority of students continue with their education at Higher Education Institutions in the UK.

Two students have taken the opportunity to study abroad this year (Poland and Spain).

Most overseas institutions require a greater lead time for applications and this deters students as does the lack of UK government funding.

Some students attend Further Education courses to specialise in a particular area for example our local Art Foundation course, and the AAT for accountants.

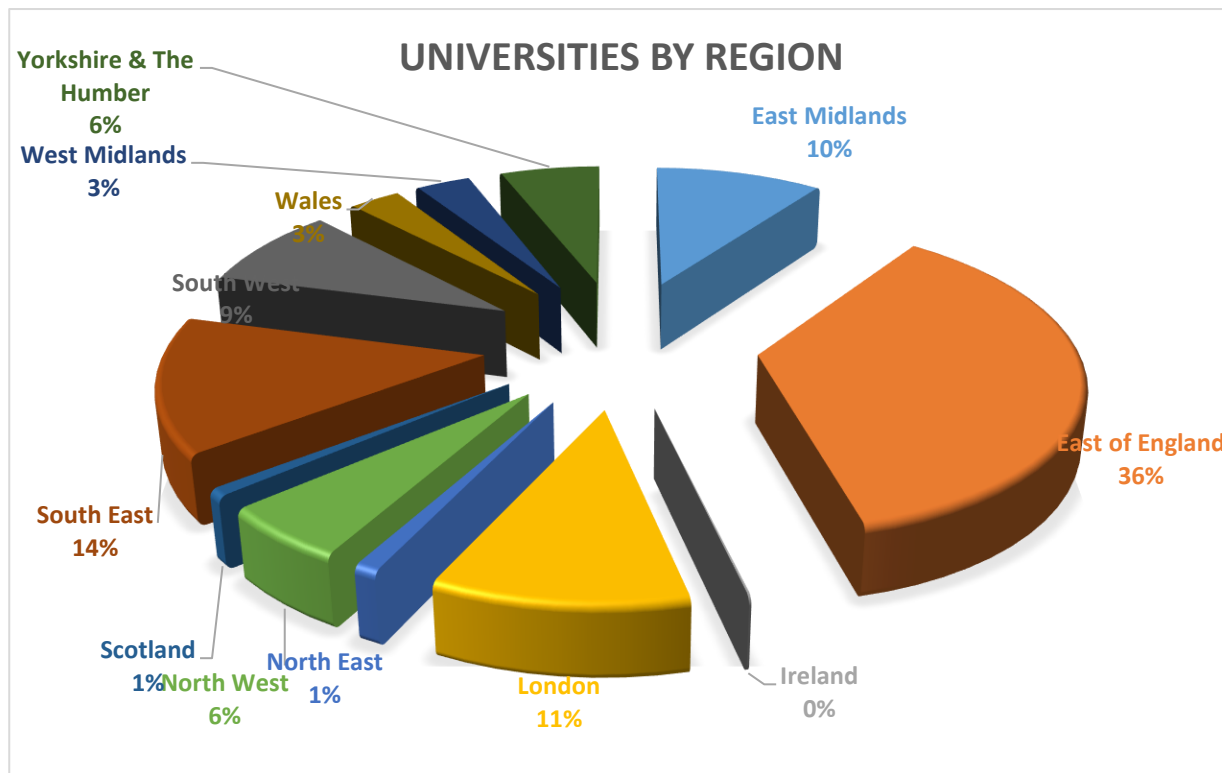
Destinations



64% of College students progress directly into Higher Education studies, with an additional 11% choosing to defer their entry. A further 4% choose to study in Further Education. 9% of students record that they go straight into employment.

University by Region:

The majority of students choose universities in the East of England with an additional 11% opting for London. The South East region is also popular attracting 14% of students.



Higher Education continues to be the main destination for our students, which is not surprising as College is predominantly an A Level centre. This has been analysed to see where students choose to go:

UNIVERSITY LOCAL CHOICES (does not include deferred places)

	2020 (781)		2021 (881)		2022 (886)	
Anglia Ruskin	43	5.5%	50	5.7%	63	7%
East Anglia	90	11.5%	47	5.3%	64	7%
Essex	128	16.3%	124	14%	126	14%
University Centre Colchester (HE)	4	0.5%	2	0.2%	5	0.5%
University of Suffolk	9	1.15%	8	0.9%	11	1.2%

Essex University is still the top choice for College students. The other local universities have also increased their numbers.

STUDY ABROAD CHOICES

	2020	2021	2022
Netherlands	0	0	0
Non UK University (unnamed)	1	1	0
Australia	1	0	0
USA	0	3	0
Spain			1
Poland			1
France	0	2	0
Total:	2	6	2

Students aren't choosing to study abroad at the moment, possibly due to the ongoing effects of COVID.

UNIVERSITY Acceptances – TOP 5

		2020		2021		2022
	Rank	Nos.	Rank	Nos.	Rank	Nos.
Anglia Ruskin	3	43	2	50	3	63
Brighton	5	11	4	22	5	20
East Anglia	2	90	3	47	2	64
Essex	1	128	1	124	1	126
Kent	4	19	5	15	4	32

Essex University still holds the top place for student acceptances over the years. East Anglia's acceptances have increased since last year.

	2020		2021		2022 (1410)	
Oxbridge	5		7		7	
Russell Group Universities	188	24%	178		170	12%

Oxbridge acceptances have stayed the same, with the Russell Group Universities decreasing slightly.

Local universities are popular with our students as well as ones in the south east. Russell Group universities are also popular with our students. We are a non-selective institution and this is reflected in our Oxbridge acceptance rate.

HIGHER EDUCATION TOP SUBJECT AREAS

We have large Business Studies, Psychology and Law departments and this is reflected in the courses that students choose to study. Psychology study numbers have increased slightly over the years, with a fall of numbers in Law.

Please note that the subjects are not necessarily single study subjects (have taken first subject as main subject).

	2022	2021	2020
Advertising and Marketing	24	13	17
Animal-related	3	5	
Art & Design	72	51	76
Building/Construction/Property/Estate Agency	4	8	8
Business/Economics/Finance	71	110	101
Computing and IT	44	29	35
Engineering	24	25	27
English/Journalism/Creative Writing	41	34	36
Geography/Geology/Environmental Science	19	33	25
Health/Medicine/Veterinary	52	59	61
History/Politics	50	60	51
Hospitality/Events/Travel/Tourism	4	4	5
Integrated Studies	0	3	0
Joint subject (un-related)	11	44	41
Law	82	84	60
Mathematics	15	9	19
Media/Film/TV/Communication	31	21	21
Modern Languages	6	3	13
Performing Arts/Music/Theatre/Dance/Drama	34	26	38
Philosophy, Politics, Economics (PPE)	0	2	2
Psychology/Criminology/Sociology	152	125	138
Religious Studies/Philosophy	8	5	8
Science	67	74	71
Sport/PE	28	23	27
Teaching/Childhood/Education	16	19	28

DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

	Company	University	Subject Area	Total
2020 - 5				
	Dyson	The Dyson Institute	Engineering	
		Anglia Ruskin	Quantity Surveying	
	MBDA		Engineering	
	MBDA	Hertfordshire	Software Engineering	
	Ministry of Justice – Government Economic Service	Unknown	Economics	
2021 - 4				
	Addenbrookes Hospital	Anglia Ruskin		
	Richard Jackson plc	Anglia Ruskin	Civil & Structural Engineering	
	Laing O'Rourke	London South Bank	Trainee Digital Engineer	
	L'Oreal	Kent	Chartered Management	
2022 - 8				
			Digital Marketing	
	WSP	London South Bank	Electrical and Electronic Engineering	
	BT		Digital Technology Solutions	
	Braintree Company		Civil Engineering	
	Barratt and David Wilson Homes		Technical Design	
	Essex Police		Professional Policing Degree	
	Essex Police - Investigate First		Professional Policing Degree	
	City of London Police		Professional Policing Degree	

FURTHER EDUCATION COURSES:

Alternative destinations for Level 3 leavers include Further Education courses as shown below. Applications for FE courses has increased again to 2017 numbers.

	2019	2020	2021	2022
AAT Fast Track Accounting	7	14	5	1
Beauty Diploma/Technical Certificate/Make up Artistry	1	1		3
Engineering (various)	0	0		3
Other	7	47		29

We also have a strong Art department and a number of students continue at our local provider for the Art Foundation course. Others studying a range of courses:

COLCHESTER INSTITUTE/UNIVERSITY CENTRE COLCHESTER

	2020	2021 (40)	2022 (48)
Higher Education Courses	4	2	6
Animation & Illustration		2	
Art Foundation	15	17	22
Business	3	1	3
Carpentry		1	1
Computing & IT	1		
Construction & The Built Environment	1		
Counselling			
Dance	1		1
Electrical Installations	1	1	
Engineering		1	
Fashion & Printed Textiles	1		1
Film & Television/Digital Film	3	2	
Forensic & Criminal Investigation	2	1	3
General Patisserie & Confectionery		1	
Graphic Design/Digital Graphics	1	3	3
Fashion & Textiles	0		
Health & Social Care	1		
Illustration		1	
Interactive Media & Games	1		1
Music and Performance Production	0		
Photography	0	1	1
Plumbing	2		
Popular Music	1		
Professional Chef	0		
Public Services	0	1	
Teaching/Childhood/Education	1		

Students who continue onto employment are the hardest to gather information from but a large number are traced and the types of employment they enter into are analysed below:

EMPLOYMENT TYPES

	2020	2021 *	2022
Accountancy	1	1	
Administration/Customer Service	2	0	3
Advertising/Marketing		2	1
Building/Construction/Property/Estate Agency	2	2	8
Apprenticeships	9	28	2
Bar work/Barista/Catering/Waiting	0	6	
Business/Finance (including Accountancy)	2	7	
Computing/IT	2	1	
Engineering	2	1	
Employment-full (unknown details)	48	16	
Employment-part (unknown details)	0	1	
Health/Medicine	3	4	
Hospitality/Events/Travel/Tourism	1	7	
Law	0	0	
Lifeguarding		1	
Motor Vehicle	1		
Plumbing/Carpentry/Heat Engineer/Joinery/		3	
Public Services -includes Armed Forces, Police, Fire etc.	3	8	
Retail	1	12	
Self-employed	0	4	
Sport & PE	1	0	
Teaching/Childhood/Education	0	0	
*Other (individual amounts)	n/a		

***In employment (either full or part time) 83 students – (as at 16.11.21)**

The Careers Department organise a range of events and activities for students to meet their needs.

Careers Fair/ 2 day programme

At the Careers Fair we welcomed over 50 exhibitors, including universities and employers.



Image 2021 Careers & University Fair

This event is essentially aimed at first year Advanced Level students as a means of encouraging them to begin thinking about their options after College. Second year students looking for employment opportunities or who have Higher Education queries will also be encouraged to attend. We invite a range of Higher Education representatives, employers who recruit at both graduate and college leaver levels. The event takes place in the Multi-purpose hall where representatives are able to display marketing materials and answer students' queries. The event is run alongside the student progress review process giving students the free time to attend the exhibition.

The highlight of the careers programme is the Career Progression Event which happens over 2 days in June. During the Career Progression Event (2 Day Programme) students have a choice of subject specific 40-minute talks and workshops, from which they choose 8 to attend. The sessions are organised by College teaching staff but presentations are offered by employers, Higher Education representatives, gap year providers and former students. The programme is intended to give students a real insight into their options and choices for the future after College and provides information which helps with their choices.

Tutorial programme – MOODLE

On either a Tuesday (Year 1) or Thursday (Year 2) students are with their personal tutor for a 30 minute tutorial session. These sessions offer opportunities for information on careers and progression to be delivered but more importantly Personal Tutors can offer guidance and advice to students about their future plans. The information we signpost for students is also available on our VLE 'MOODLE'. The Careers

area has lots of research opportunities and helpful information. This starts with tools such as KUDOS for students who have little idea of their plans, through to 'how to' guides for University applications. Job opportunities, apprenticeship vacancies, employer engagement, open days and university and higher education engagement are all communicated through these pages as well as in the daily Student Bulletin and on the display screens around College.



Work-related learning

Work related learning takes many forms and is both implicit and explicit in student's individual programmes of study and curriculum areas.

Subject lessons will all have elements of employability skills within them. e.g. Law explains how courts are structured outlining a number of careers opportunities. Business looks at the recruitment process, including the application process and legislation around recruitment and selection which assist students in their own employment.

External speakers for subjects provide opportunities for careers advice and information, as well as delivering a subject specific topic.

At the 2-day Career Progression event external and internal speakers provide information on career progression from subjects as well as information about alternative routes into careers.

Careers Interviews and other specialist activities

We have an established careers team and can provide careers interviews for students who need impartial information, advice and guidance. Students sign up for interviews in the careers department, in room 113, with each interview lasting about 30 minutes. They may book as many interviews as is necessary during their time at College.

Medics

Medics is a comprehensive programme of activities for students applying for medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine. It covers the application process for these competitive courses as well as the necessary skills for interview and for the UKCAT and BMAT examinations. Students are assisted in preparing statements, which reflects their strengths and are advised on the necessity of appropriate and extensive work and volunteer experience.

Pre-Teaching

The Pre-Teaching Additional Study is a means by which Year 12 students who are considering a primary school teaching career, particularly if they are considering the 3-year Primary Teaching/Education with QTS degree route, can gain work experience in a primary school to help inform their choice. In addition, termly talks are made available to all students, delivered by a range of educational professionals, throughout the year. At the end of Year 12, an information pack regarding the Primary Teaching degree application process is provided for all Pre-Teaching students, plus further support as required from the Careers Department.

OXBRIDGE

In the Autumn Term the Principal begins with a series of individual appointments with those students who have outstanding GCSE results and advises them on potential Oxbridge applications. Open meetings are held in November and March for all students who feel they would like to apply. This includes a session with some of our ex-students currently studying at either Oxford or Cambridge. A trip to Cambridge is organised after Easter to Emmanuel College where students have the opportunity to talk to admissions tutors and current students.

Employability Skills and work-related experiences

Students naturally have skills that will help them during employment but we feel they need to be made more aware of skills they have and how to develop skills to show example for future employers. Students can develop skills across a wide range of activities some of which might include: Paid work; Volunteering; Work for family/friends; Work experiences; Community projects; Hobbies; Clubs and societies; Sporting activities

Seeking opportunities

Students need support and guidance in seeking opportunities that exist for them and developing openings for themselves. For example, a journalist can start by writing articles for the College magazine, writing a blog, offering to write articles for local/club newsletters or just getting involved with these groups. Gaining experiences at newspapers and magazines - the BBC have a range of opportunities for students

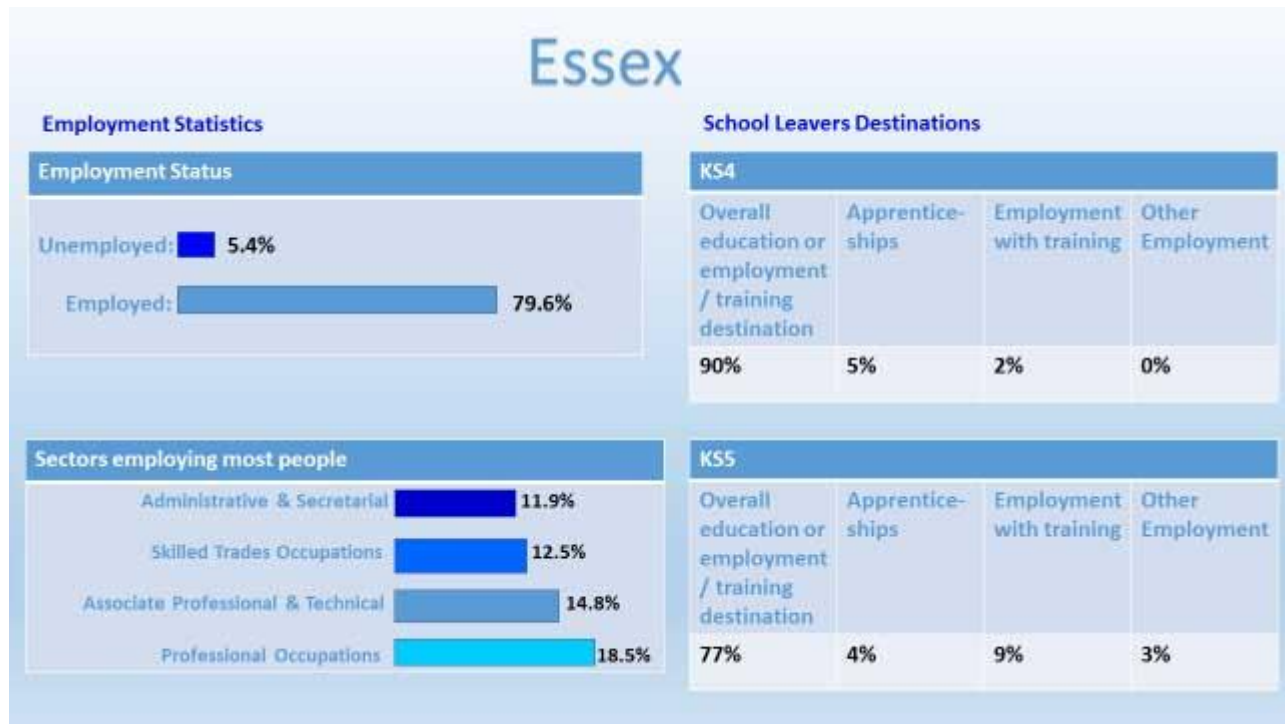
Volunteering

Increasing students' employability skills is a vital part of education. Volunteering gives them the opportunity to develop and improve skills whilst contributing to the local community. In this context we have a range of links with organisations such as St Helena Hospice, 360 (Colchester Community Voluntary Services), Larchwood and NCS (National Citizen Service).

Labour Market Information for Essex

Regeneration and expansion projects

Greater Essex is a thriving and prosperous area and is home to over 1.6 million people, nearly 70,000 businesses and over 600,000 jobs. The ambition for Greater Essex is to create a highly performing and competitive economy that makes a significant contribution to UK economic growth and recovery, provides for the successful regeneration of Greater Essex communities, and provides a high quality of life for our residents. National Careers Service.



Skills in shortage in Essex:

- banking, finance and insurance
- public administration, education and health
- distribution, hotels and restaurants

Sectors set to grow in Essex:

- construction
- professional, scientific and technical
- retail
- business administration and support services

The Greater Essex Integrated County Strategy

- [The Greater Essex Integrated County Strategy](#) (PDF - file size 1.19MB)

Essex County Growth Deal

Visit the South East LEP website for more information about the Essex County Growth Deal.

- [Essex County Growth Deal](#) (PDF - file size 1.51MB)

Essex Economic Growth Strategy

- [Essex Economic Growth Strategy](#) (PDF - file size 1.16MB)
- [Essex County Council](#) (Economic Plan for Essex)

DESTINATION REPORT – this information comes from Anne Johnson. May not need in this document?

This report is drawn from a range of sources of information including information supplied by UCAS and Colchester Institute. Other information is collated from leaver's forms and phone calls to students.

Key findings:

- 740 (59%) of level 3 leavers progressed directly to Higher Education. 63% of students intend to attend Higher Education when taking into account deferred entry.
- 74 (6%) of Level 3 leavers were studying in Further Education on a range of courses but predominantly the Art Foundation course
- 105 (8%) Level 3 leavers left having secured employment and apprenticeship places. 33 (3%) of level 3 leavers were still seeking employment at the time of the statistics.
- 85% of level 3 leavers have moved into positive destinations
- Local Universities tend to be the most popular destination for our level 3 leavers; Anglia Ruskin, East Anglia and Essex.

Starts and leavers for level 3 qualifications

	Total Year 2 level 3 at start of year	Total of level 3 completers	Number of mid-year leavers
2015-16-	1349	1288	61

STUDENT DESTINATIONS for students at end of their level 3 programme – A levels and IB

	Higher Education	Year Deferred	Employment/ Apprenticeship	Further Education (including Art Foundation)	Year Out	Seeking employment	Unknown	Total 2016 leavers
Year 2016	758	56	106	76	95	33	151	1288
%	59	5	8	6	7	3	12	100

GENDER ANALYSIS FOR DESTINATIONS for students at end of their level 3 programme – A levels and IB

	Higher Education		Year Deferred		Employment/ Apprenticeship		Further Education (including Art Foundation)		Year Out		Seeking employment		Unknown	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
2016	322	436	18	38	51	55	24	52	45	50	17	16	65	86

Advanced Foundation programme

	Level 2 starters	Level 2 completers	Level 2 mid-year leavers	% Completers
2015-16	98	86	12	88%

Advanced foundation Programme destinations/ progression:

Destination	Percentage
L1/2 – Alternative provider	6.9%
AS Levels - College	57.8%
A level – College	3.0%
Level 3 – alternative provider	22.5%
Employment/ Apprenticeships/ Training	7.5%
Unknown	2.3%

Progression Data 2015-2016 In-Year Leavers:

34% - Transferred to other Post-16 Institutions/ Providers

28% - Secured Apprenticeships or Employment with training

7% - Registered as looking for work

10% - Intending to restart College

21% - Illness/ Moved away/ Other / Unknown/ destination not declared