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**JULY 2020 ![C:\Users\Amanda\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\IE\A79Q940D\slov[1].gif]()**

**NEW WEBSITE**

[**www.unistats.ac.uk**](http://www.unistats.ac.uk) **has been replaced by** [**www.discoveruni.gov.uk**](http://www.discoveruni.gov.uk) **– this still includes a course search facility and the course comparison tool**

**WEBINARS - JUNE**

**I have attended a few webinars last month and have summarised the most interesting and useful points made for each as below: -**

* **Degree apprenticeships**

**Claire Little from the Pearson Business School, London (PBS) delivered a useful presentation concerning degree apprenticeships and, although she was directing it at those applying for opportunities with PBS, I am passing on some of her comments here as the recommendations will also apply for ANY apprenticeship/job you may be applying for, in the near/far future, with any company/organisation:-**

**What make a great online application? – it must be clear and concise / you need to have a purpose / it must be tailored to the application (research on the company is vital) / you need to call out all the skills you have that are relevant to the company/programme (such as multi tasking, organisation) / you must be able to tell us why you want to join the company / programme / you must check your spelling and grammar / give yourself plenty of time**

**Top tips: why are you applying? / do you know where to start your research? / what do you think the company are looking for? / what are your interests and achievements ? (link to the role, the company / organisation) / stick to any word counts / ask family and friends to read over your application / ask for permission re: references / be passionate / use LinkedIn where you can speak to current applicants/employees, when choosing a company, attending interviews and so on...**

**For degree apprenticeships, applicants need to communicate well...”be bold at what you are good at, be good at time management and be confident...”and “don’t give up and keep going!” I would, certainly, echo that!**

* **“Making choices- choosing your degree course and university”**

**Presented by the University of Hull**

* **There are 50,000 degree courses in the UK and around 395 higher education providers, according to UCAS, with the most popular courses being (not in any priority order) medicine, nursing, teaching, midwifery, engineering, criminology and computer science**
* **“Unusual” courses include American Studies, Creative Writing, Policing, Games Design, Robotics and Paramedic Science (just to add, I have talked about all these courses with many CGS students over the past few years so they will not be so unusual with most students!)**
* **Choose courses you are passionate about so that it will not feel like “work”!**
* **Consider the differences between campus and city universities – campus ones , which can be miles out of the city, will allow you to mix with other students more easily with the accommodation, student union, gym and so on all in the one location – Hull University being one example (15,000 students) . City universities will be more in the centre of a city, you may have to get a bus from one lecture to another, as will be various sites - Leeds University being one example (40,000 students)**
* **Allied Health Professions (AHPs)**

**This was delivered by the “I see the difference” team (funded by the Office for Students – aimed at promoting the AHPs). This was very useful as I see many students at CGS aiming for medicine but a lot less interested in, or aware of, those other health and medical based careers – I hope that if you are thinking of entering the health and medical field, in general, that you may want to consider these alternatives, which can be just as rewarding and fulfilling as medicine can be, with a lot fewer training years involved too!**

**It is also worth noting that several of the AHPs are now included in the government funding arrangements – there is a £5,000 additional non-repayable maintenance grant for some of them as well as the standard student tuition and maintenance loans that students can apply for**

**The main points made:-**

* **There are mainly 15 roles that come under this “family “of careers – Art Therapist/Drama Therapist/Music Therapist/Dietician/ Osteopath/ Speech and Language Therapist/Occupational Therapist/ Physiotherapist/Operating Department Practitioner/Diagnostic Radiographer/Therapeutic Radiographer/Prosthetist (and Orthotist) / Orthoptist/ Podiatrist/Paramedic**
* **Drs, Nurses and Midwives make up two thirds of the sector, with the AHPs making up one third**
* **Entry requirements vary according to the profession but will range from CCC-AAB at A level**
* **The working life for most AHPs are during core daytime hours – very few will involve shift work (exceptions include Paramedic and Diagnostic Radiographer)**
* **The 4 shortage AHPs are Podiatrist, Orthoptist, Prosthetist and Orthotists**

**For more information on these careers, see** [**www.iseethedifference.co.uk**](http://www.iseethedifference.co.uk) **as well as** [**www.healthcareers.nhs.uk**](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk)

* **Studying in the USA**

**This was a very useful webinar, delivered by Education USA – lasted one and a half hours!**

* **The key differences to courses in the UK – course duration (4 years) / a longer application process/ applicants apply to the University as a whole, not the department / there are no set fees or deadlines (costs can be a challenge – not just for international students but for domestic students too!) / course exceptions are medicine and law which are only available at postgraduate level / higher education is seen as a “privilege” in the USA whereas in the UK, it can be viewed as a “right” / Universities place more importance on you as a person, not just on grades**
* **Terms differ – “class/course” (USA) – “module” (UK) and “degree program/major” (USA) - “course” (UK)**
* **Timeline – 1) research universities (early/middle of Year 12) 2) register for exams (summer of Year 12) 3) finalise selection from 10-20 down to 6-10 schools (10-12 months before enrolment, over the summer) 4) put together an application and submit (8-10 months before start) 5) receive admissions decisions (springtime in Year 13) 6) apply for visa (1-3 months before enrol) 7) pre-departure information on website 8) begin studies! (August/early September)**
* **Example of essay questions set by the Universities – the University of Chicago have, in the past, asked “Find X” and “What is so odd about odd numbers?”**
* **Choosing a University is the most important part of the whole process – 4,500 Universities in the USA – there is a wide variety and great diversity - consider funding costs (for international students) and have a UK back up plan – search on “the big future college search” – 3,807 Universities on there, check various filters - look out for need based aid, merit based scholarships and sports scholarships that international students can apply for, dependant on the Universities**
* **Example of fees given - Rice University in Houston, Texas – 2019-2020 – tuition ($48,330), fees ($782), room and board ($14,140) , books ($1,200) and personal expenses ($2650) – total: $67,102**
* **General advice – start early, be flexible in choosing Universities (the well known ones, in the larger cities, will be more expensive than those less well known, in different, less suburban, more rural locations) and think about how you will stand out as an applicant**
* **Other opportunities in the USA – 1) UK undergraduate programmes that offer University exchanges (the University of Manchester has 13 connections), Summer Institutes (intense, short term academic study) and American Studies degrees 2) Internships/summer work (such as Camp America and BUNAC) 3) Postgraduate study**
* **For more information and guidance on the above and all other questions relating to higher education in the USA, including details of the Sutton Trust US programme (aimed at high achieving Year 12 students from low income families – involves visiting US cities, support to apply for undergraduate study in the US – free for students accepted), contact The Fulbright Commission on** [**www.fulbright.org.uk**](http://www.fulbright.org.uk) **and check out their regular free US College Day events - although not until September, I will include in this newsletter – see below**

**UCAS Personal Statement (PS)**

**Delivered by the University of Hull**

* **The PS is “your chance to stand out”**
* **One Admissions Tutor’s comments –“...the PS should show your uniqueness and aptitude for the course you are applying for and evidence of transferable skills and how you can use them at University...” and another says “...must be really well written, with good grammar...”**
* **What is looked for? – 1) why do you want to study this subject? 2) what makes you someone particularly suitable to study the subject? 3) how will you contribute to the course and University community? What makes you an interesting and unique individual?**
* **Suggested structure / format – 1) opening paragraph – 2/3 sentences about what you want to study and why 2) main paragraphs – what you are studying at the moment that links to the course,/aspects of the course you find particularly interesting AND include skills, achievements and extracurricular activities 3) conclusion – 1 /2**

**sentences to sum up why you would be successful on the course**

* **ABC method – relates to what experiences to include in the main paragraph – Activity (eg volunteered in a charity shop) /Benefit (leadership, self motivation etc)/Course (how does it relate to the course you are applying for?)**
* **Avoid catchy beginnings, writing in bullet points, italics/bold print/underlined characters and emojis!**
* **Concerning those applying for University this year – bearing in mind we have been in a lockdown situation with no chance of gaining work experiences during this period - consider alternative options such as:**

**\* reading academic/careers based articles, journals, subscribe to magazines, newsletters and so on**

**\* start up new interests such as cook for your families (shows useful skills, preparation for leaving home), learn a new language, pick up a musical instrument and so on**

**\* check out BBC iPlayer podcasts (and others)**

**\* visit Youtube for various advice concerning courses, subjects, students case studies, Universities and careers.**

**\* engage with Universities – check out virtual open days and other events**

**REMINDER**

**Careermag – for all Years but especially those in Year 11 – you can subscribe to their free magazine – the latest issue has articles on, for example, UK Music, the ICAEW (accountancy), IBM, Network Rail and British Horse Racing – see** [**https://careermap.co.uk/subscribe-to-careermag/**](https://careermap.co.uk/subscribe-to-careermag/)

**CAREERS**

* **For all those interested in careers in business and finance, see the link for some useful careers and higher education information:-**

[**https://mailchi.mp/successatschool/careers-in-accountancy-banking-finance-1277035**](https://mailchi.mp/successatschool/careers-in-accountancy-banking-finance-1277035)

**EVENTS**

* **Are you interested in engineering and /or the sciences? Then check out the very “The Big Bang Digital 2020- science, engineering & Covid-19” event on Tuesday, 14th July – includes a GSK workshop on vaccines, an interactive session on Plastic Oceans, sessions on designing a social distancing lanyard and a session on potential changes in farming using remote technology due to the pandemic - visit** [**www.digitalbigbang.co.uk**](http://www.digitalbigbang.co.uk)
* **University of Lincoln Virtual Open day – Friday, 1oth and Saturday 11th July – 10-3pm – need to book your place, if interested - places still available at the writing of this newsletter (4TH July). There are also physical Open Days planned for Saturday, 26th September, Sunday, 11th October and Saturday, 14th November 2020**
* **Date for your diary! – as mentioned above, for those interested in applying to Universities in the USA, the next “US College Day” is on the 25-26th September– free to register - have 170 Universities present – see** [**www.fulbright.org.uk**](http://www.fulbright.org.uk)
* **Are you interested in a teaching career?** [**getintoteaching.education.gov.uk**](http://www.getintoteaching.education.gov.uk) **are offering online events for those interested in this career – some are now closed but “Teacher Training options” is still available (as of the 7th of July) – on 27th July at 6pm - need to register with your email address. See the home page on website for link on “Upcoming events”**

**.......................................AND FINALLY.......................................................**

 ***“You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose.”* –Dr. Seuss**

***“All our dreams can come true – if we have the courage to pursue them.”* –Walt Disney**

***“Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life." —Confucius***

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 **....................................AND STAY SAFE!**

**Amanda Watson**

**Careers Adviser**