Welcome to York St. John University!

inspiring choices
York & North Yorkshire

OfS Uni Connect Programme

Who are Inspiring Choices?

We support young people as they make decisions about their future education and career.

What we do:

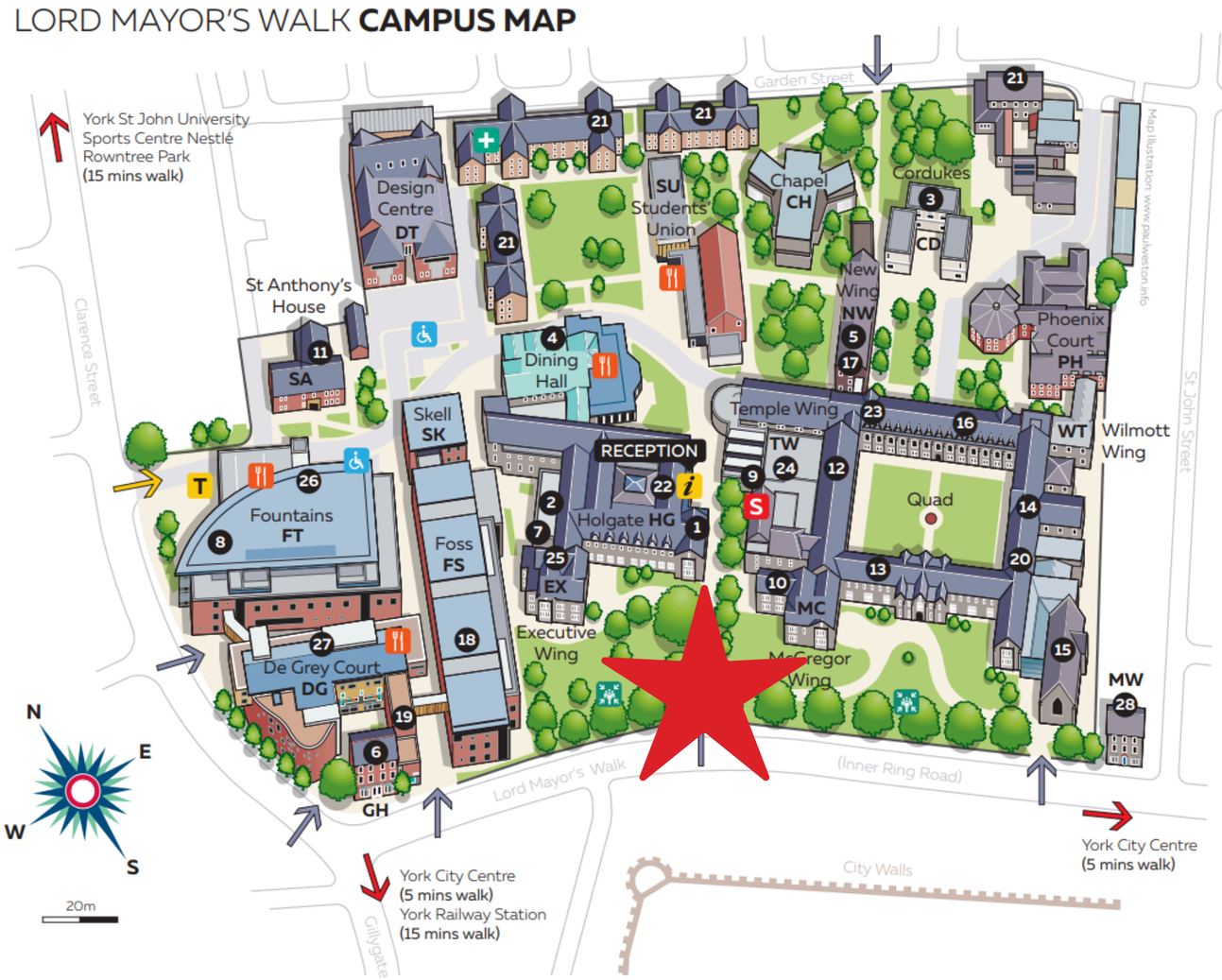
- Run activities in schools and colleges
- Work with young people aged 15 and above
- Opportunities to consider future education options and how to achieve these
- 1 to 1 support
- Organise university campus visits

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Important information

- The fire meeting point is marked as the red star on the map. Please follow a member of staff to the assembly point if the alarm is raised
- Security & First Aid
- Lanyards
- Toilets
- When walking through learning spaces, please keep noise to a minimum



Itinerary

10:00am - Arrival/Introduction

10:15am - Beginners Guide to Higher Education

11:15am - Campus tour

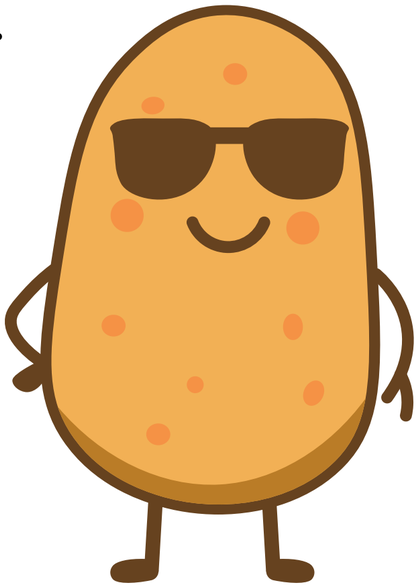
12:00pm - Lunch

12:45pm - Student life

2pm - Departure

Lunch

- A **£5 voucher** will be given to you at the end of the campus tour and we will provide jugs of juice and water if a drink is not included with your voucher.
- Once you've chosen your food, hand your voucher to one of the cashiers.
- Recycling / food waste / rubbish bins are available for you to use.
- Please return dishes and trays behind the registers.



Beginners Guide to Higher Education

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Aims of the Session

- What Higher Education is.
- What you can study.
- Where people choose to go and why.
- Student Finance



What is HE?

Qualifications that you can choose to take after the age of 18. They can be gained from:

- Universities
- Colleges
- Degree Apprenticeships

There are **over 50,000** HE courses in the UK to choose from!

Examples of Higher Education Qualifications:

Bachelors Degree:



Level 6

Masters Degree:



Level 7

Higher National Certificate:



Level 4

Higher National Diploma:



Level 5

Activity!

Decide Which Courses Are Real or Fake

Categorise the courses in front of you, one side for real the other for fake.

Answers:

Real:

- Immunology and Infectious Disease
- Luxury Brand Management
- Ethical Hacking
- Fire Engineering
- Baking Science
- Golf Management
- Robotics
- Genetics
- Zoology
- Film and Television Studies

Fake:

- History of Internet Studies
- Digital Theatre and Immersive Performance
- True Crime and Digital Media
- Botanical Illustration



Although these courses are fake, you can study some of these subjects within other very real courses!

Where can I study?

Would you prefer to live from home or move away?

Queen's University Belfast is located in Northern Ireland.

York St John University is located in central York.



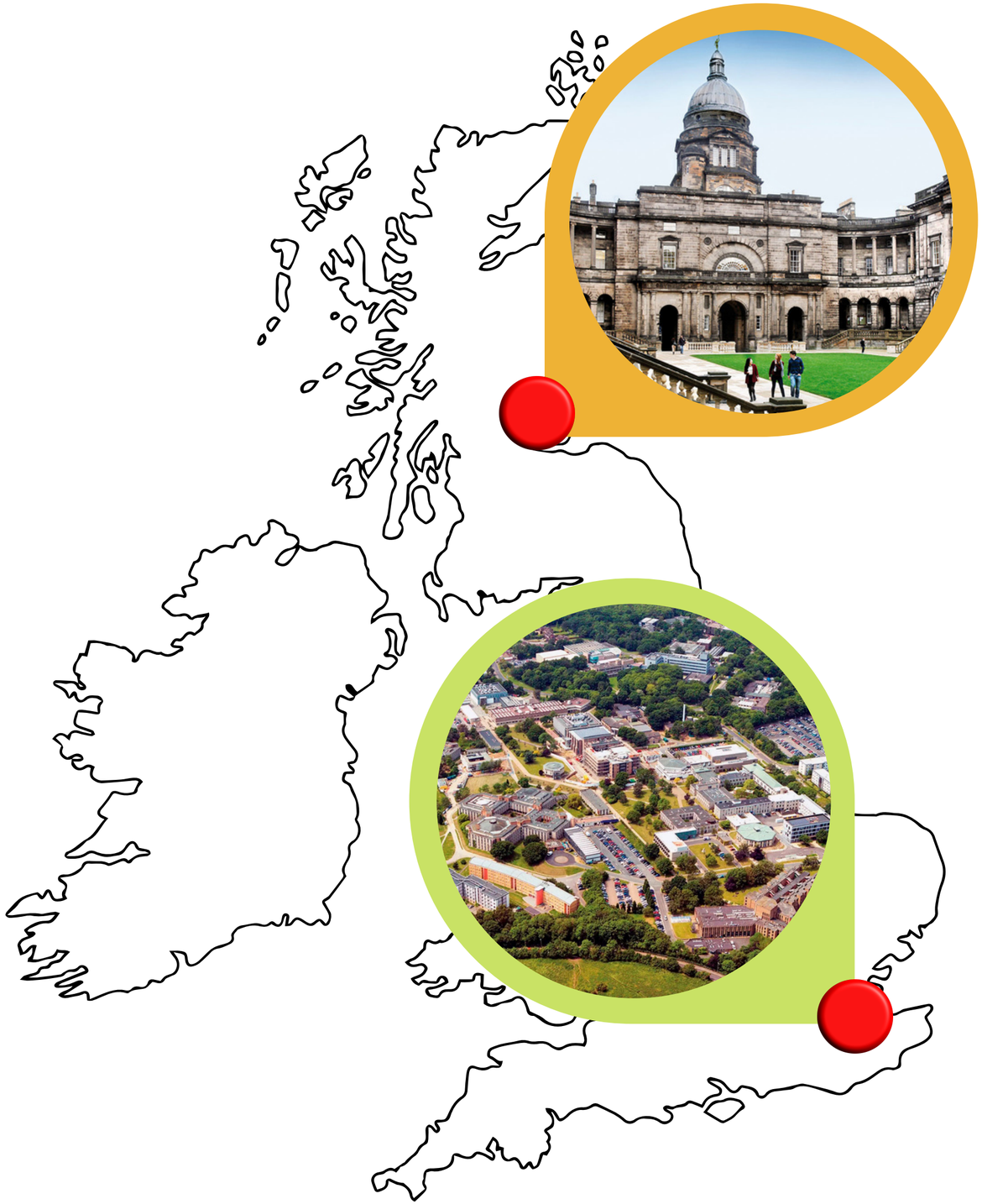


Where can I study?

Would you like to attend a campus university or a city university?

Edinburgh University is a city University in Scotland.

University of Kent is a campus University spread over 300 acres of land.



Where can I study?

Would you like to attend a large or small institution?

The University of Manchester has around 46,000 students in attendance.

Leeds Trinity University has around 5000 students in attendance.



Where can I study?

Would you like to attend a specialist institution?

Askham Bryan is a land based college with its own wildlife park.

UCFB is a University focussed around football courses. It has a campus in Manchester and at Wembley!



Where can I study?

Remember there are over 340 HE providers to choose from.

Take your time and find the right place for you!



Activity!

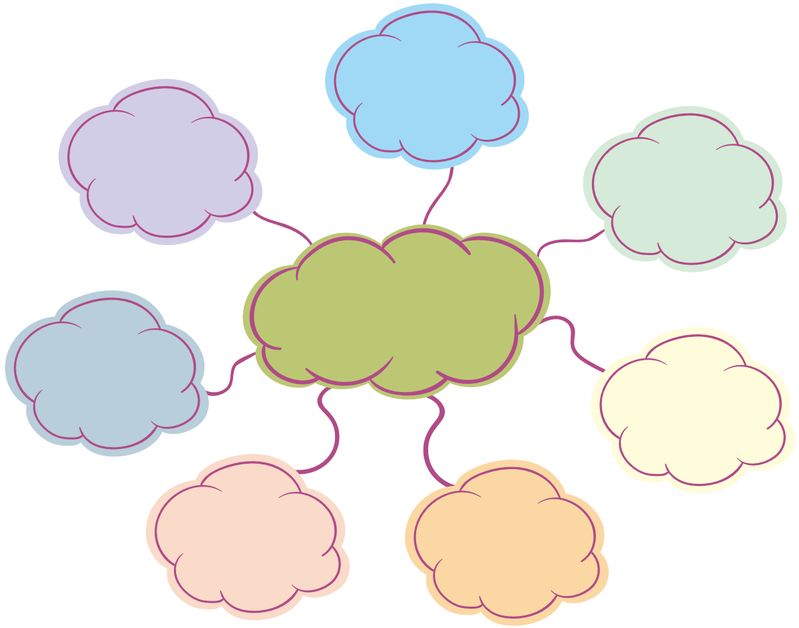
How does HE impact people's lives?

How does HE impact people's lives?

In this activity you will need to think about the ways higher education can impact people.

You will need to:

- Split into small groups.
- Use the prompt you have been given. The prompt will say career, skill, student life, or independent living.
- Using your prompt, write down as many things as you can think of that relate to your area.
- After 5 minutes we will rotate the papers around the room and you will think about a new prompt.



How does HE impact people's lives?

Meet new people and make new friends from around the world.

Experience a student lifestyle.

Gain workplace or travel experience.

Study something you are passionate about.

Attending HE is essential for some professions.

Gain a sense of independence.







The cost of Higher Education

There are two types of loans you can apply for to help cover the costs of higher education:

Tuition Loan: Covers the cost of your course. This is currently £9,790 (academic year 26/27). This is paid directly to the University.

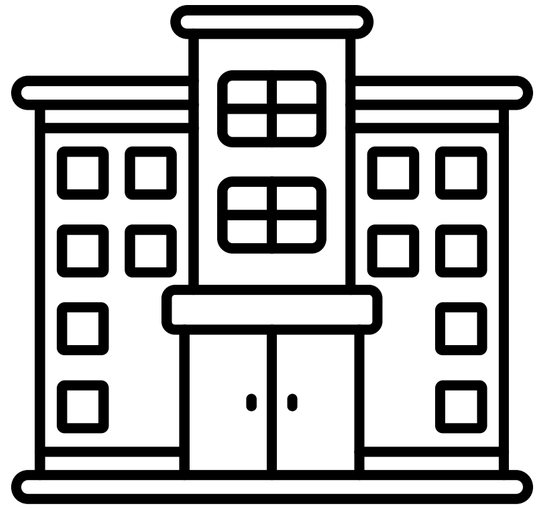
Maintenance Loan: covers your living costs, including rent, bills, food, extracurricular activities, etc.

Student Finance England provides these.

Maintenance Loan

Maintenance Loan: Money paid directly to you, which contributes to your living costs, including rent, bills, food, extracurricular activities, etc.

- Goes directly into your bank account.
- Given in three installments throughout the year at the start of each term (September/October, January, April).
- Amount you are eligible for depends on several factors, including: household income, living situation, and location.



Maintenance Loan

Living Situation	2026/27 Academic Year (max. loan)*
Living at home	£9,118
Living away from home	£10,830
Living away from home, in London	£14,135

*Support with living costs: 2026 to 2027 academic year.

Financial support



Different universities offer different bursaries and scholarships. Have a look around to see what you might be eligible for!

Many students are also eligible for other sources of funding.

Scholarships → Highly competitive and awarded based on excellence, e.g. academic, sporting, musical, etc.

Bursaries → Based on financial or other need. They are non-competitive and usually automatic. They can include first generation bursaries, young carer bursaries, and more.

Disabled Students Allowance → You are provided funded support, which could cover things like specialist technology, travel costs to university, non-medical helpers, etc.



This money does **not need to be repaid**.

Open days

- Open days are an opportunity to see universities for yourself.

- There may be guided tours, lectures/talks from members of staff, and visits to accommodation led by current students.

Questions you could ask:

- What accommodation options can I apply for?
- What would I study on this course?
- What kind of pastoral support can I access?
- Could I join any sport teams or societies?



You can find more information about upcoming open days on the open days website at: https://www.opendays.com/



Any Questions?