



Guide to useful websites



Introduction

The internet has been established for over a decade and this now means that there are hundreds of millions of websites, so how do you know which ones to use and which ones are reliable sources of information? We have searched high and low for reliable websites to save you some time. Over the next few pages we will list websites by topic.

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Entry into higher education and university

- **Universities & Colleges Admission Service (UCAS)**

This is the main website and system for applying to university. It has information on every course, university and higher education college as well as links through to other websites. There is also information on how to write personal statements and University fees.

www.ucas.com

- **Higher Education & Research Opportunities in UK (HERO)**

HERO is a great portal for information on higher education and research within the UK.

www.hero.ac.uk

- **Course Finders**

Coursefinders will help you to locate which universities offer the course you want and check the content of the different options. It includes a study interests questionnaire to help you make your choice

www.ukcoursefinder.com

- **National Union of Students**

NUS is a voluntary membership organisation comprising a confederation of local student representative organisations in colleges and universities throughout the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland which have chosen to affiliate and which pay a membership fee.

www.nusonline.co.uk

- **Education, Training & Community**

This site exists as a signpost to relevant organisations and resources in a number of key areas. The site contains links to resources for advisors, students and everyone involved in education, training and communities.

www.support4learning.org.uk

- **Student guide to University**

Universities.net is an online student guide to university. This site provides student advice and guidance on a range of issues including: student accommodation, applying to university, graduate careers, student travel, student entertainment, student health, student loans, tuition fees and student finance. Whether a current student or potential student you should find some useful guidance within this site.

www.universitiesnet.com

Student finance and funding

- **Student finance**

The official student finance website details information about how to apply for the student loan and the student fee loan as well as information on grants and bursaries. To apply you must contact your Local Education Authority (LEA).

www.studentfinancedirect.co.uk

- **Student money**

Hotcourses and UCAS bring you a comprehensive guide to everything you need when planning and organising your student finances. Student Money is made up of four key tools: Search for Funding, Budget Planner, Loan Repayment and Wage Predictor.

www.studentmoney.org

- **UCAS funding search**

Through the UCAS website you can access information on UK Resident and International student fees.

www.ucas.com/search

- **Placement and graduate opportunities**

Providing information on sources of sponsorship together with possibilities for industrial or commercial placements and graduate opportunities for all subjects.

www.everythingyouwantedtoknow.com

- **Department for Innovation, University and Skills**

This government department brings together functions from two former departments, the DTI and DfES. It focuses on promoting participation and attainment by young people and over-16s in education and learning; tackling basic literacy and numeracy skills for adults; developing a world class research base and ensuring it is exploited by industry; supporting innovation; and increasing the numbers of people working in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

<http://www.dius.gov.uk/>

- **Student Loans Company**

The Student Loans Company (SLC) is the UK public sector organisation established to provide loans and grants, to the one million students annually, in colleges and universities in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

www.slc.co.uk

- **Arts & Humanities Research Board**

The Arts and Humanities Research Council funds a wide variety of research projects and postgraduate study from traditional humanities subjects, such as history, modern languages and English literature, to the creative and performing arts.

www.ahrb.ac.uk

- **Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education**

This is the quality watchdog for higher education in the UK and it works with HE institutions to define academic standards and quality and to safeguard the public interest.

www.qaa.ac.uk

International Students

- **NARIC**

The National Agency responsible for providing information and expert opinion on vocational, academic and professional skills and qualifications from over 180 countries worldwide. You can check your qualifications achieved outside the UK for their UK equivalent through this website and obtain an official letter for employers, if needed.

www.naric.org.uk

- **UKCISA**

The UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) is the UK's national advisory body serving the interests of international students and those who work with them. In addition to their policy and research roles, they provide advice lines and training, and have a national network of members.

www.ukcisa.org.uk

- **Sources of Funding for International Students**

The British Council can help you find funding for your chosen course through their own scholarship schemes and links to approved websites, including their own portal, EducationUK, website at www.educationuk.org.

www.britishcouncil.org/learning-funding-your-studies.htm

Specific Careers

- **Prospects: the UK's official graduate career site**

An excellent website with a massive amount of invaluable information relating to graduates. Particularly useful sections include "What do graduates do?"

(with their degree) and “Explore types of jobs”, as well as a graduate job vacancy search engine.

www.prospects.ac.uk

Nursing

- **Royal College of Nurses**

The RCN represents nurses and nursing, promotes excellence in practice and shapes health policies. For all nursing qualifications apply through UCAS.

<http://www.rcn.org.uk/>

- **NHS Careers**

The National Health Service offers a huge range of exciting and challenging opportunities for people who are passionate about making a difference. With more than 300 different careers on offer, there is a job for you no matter what your interests, skills or qualifications.

www.nhscareers.nhs.uk

- **Nursing & Midwifery Council**

The Nursing and Midwifery Council safeguards the health and wellbeing of the public by continually regulating, reviewing and promoting nursing and midwifery standards.

www.nmc-uk.org

Teaching

- **Teacher Training**

Everything you need to know about information on courses and other support services to help you get into teaching, courses and training options, life as a teacher, funding for training, and much more, including information helpline numbers.

www.tda.gov.uk

- **Graduate Teacher Training**

At the Graduate Teacher Training Registry (GTTR) they process applications for entry to Postgraduate and Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) and Professional Graduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) courses.

www.gttr.ac.uk

- **Qualifications & Curriculum Authority**

They regulate, develop and modernise the curriculum, assessments, examinations and qualifications. Useful if you need information about examination processes.

www.qca.org.uk

Other useful websites

- **Students with Disabilities**

SKILL is a national charity promoting opportunities for young people and adults with any kind of impairment in post-16 education, training and employment. They also have an information service and telephone helpline.

www.skill.org.uk

- **Local LEA phone numbers**

Richmond	020 8891 1411
Hounslow	020 8583 2000
Kingston	020 8891 7600

- **learndirect**

A government organisation for providing help and guidance on getting back into employment. The site is geared towards people who “want a great career without a university degree”. Lots of careers advice and information on qualifications on qualifications, courses and career routes.

www.learndirect-advice.co.uk

Job Hunting

- **Educational Jobs**

Educational jobs are generally posted on the two websites below. Both are good sources and you don't have to upload any personal information.

www.jobs.tes.co.uk/

- **Guardian Jobs**

The Guardian newspaper also offers an excellent resource for job hunting. Their website is easy to navigate and the search options are clear and concise.

www.jobs.guardian.co.uk

- **Monster**

Probably the most advertised of all the job hunting websites Monster has a wide range of jobs and offers an email alert service too.

www.monster.co.uk

- **e4s (Employment for Students)**

A jobsite with a wide range of student jobs, part time, temporary and graduate jobs. The site is dedicated to helping students and young people find work and was set up in 2000 by students while they were still at university.

www.e4s.co.uk

- **Job Centre Plus**

The Government's job agency who will also advise on benefits and give valuable advice to those who are on long term unemployment.

www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/JCP/

- **Aviation Jobs**

There are several websites to search for jobs in aviation, a few are listed below. Also try the airlines direct for employment and training schemes.

www.flightglobal.com/jobs

www.aviationjobsearch.com

For further information contact the RACC Learner Advice and Recruitment Team:

Email: cag@racc.ac.uk

Tel: 020 8891 5907 ext. 4025/4003