



## Learning Pathways Advice.

Choosing a handful of subjects to take in Year 12 is a decision you should not take lightly. The A-levels/Level 3 qualifications you pick now can impact what you do later, namely the courses you can apply to at university, the apprenticeships you are eligible for, or the career you follow. That said, if you don't know what you want to do in the future, you can still make smart choices now that will leave you in the best position in two years' time.

UCAS says that the most important criteria for choosing are:

1. What you are likely to enjoy and be good at?
2. Are there any particular subjects and grades you may need? If you have a particular career, job or further study in mind you may need to choose certain A levels in order to meet entry requirements.
3. How open you want to keep your future study and career choices?

UCAS has a good guide on choosing subjects that can be found at

[https://www.ucas.com/sites/default/files/tips\\_on\\_choosing\\_a\\_levels\\_march\\_2015\\_0.pdf](https://www.ucas.com/sites/default/files/tips_on_choosing_a_levels_march_2015_0.pdf)

Similarly, Careers Wales has some very useful information at <https://careerswales.gov.wales/courses-and-training/choosing-subjects-and-courses-at-16> and at <https://careerswales.gov.wales/courses-and-training/how-to-choose-the-right-subject-or-course>

### How **not** to choose your subjects

1. Don't copy your friends  
Choosing your A-levels is one of the first significant decisions in your life where you have a major say – enjoy this taste of responsibility! Don't just take a subject so you'll be in a class with your friends, nor be turned off by one because of what others think of it.
2. Don't just think about the 'now'  
It's worth keeping the future in mind when making your A-level choices – what subjects or careers might you want to pursue? Remember, you need certain A-levels for some degree courses, while some universities have preferred subjects.
3. Don't forget, your current subjects aren't the *only* ones  
There are a number of refreshing A-level subjects which aren't commonly available at GCSE, such as psychology and criminology. Shake things up a bit after a decade of studying the same subjects!

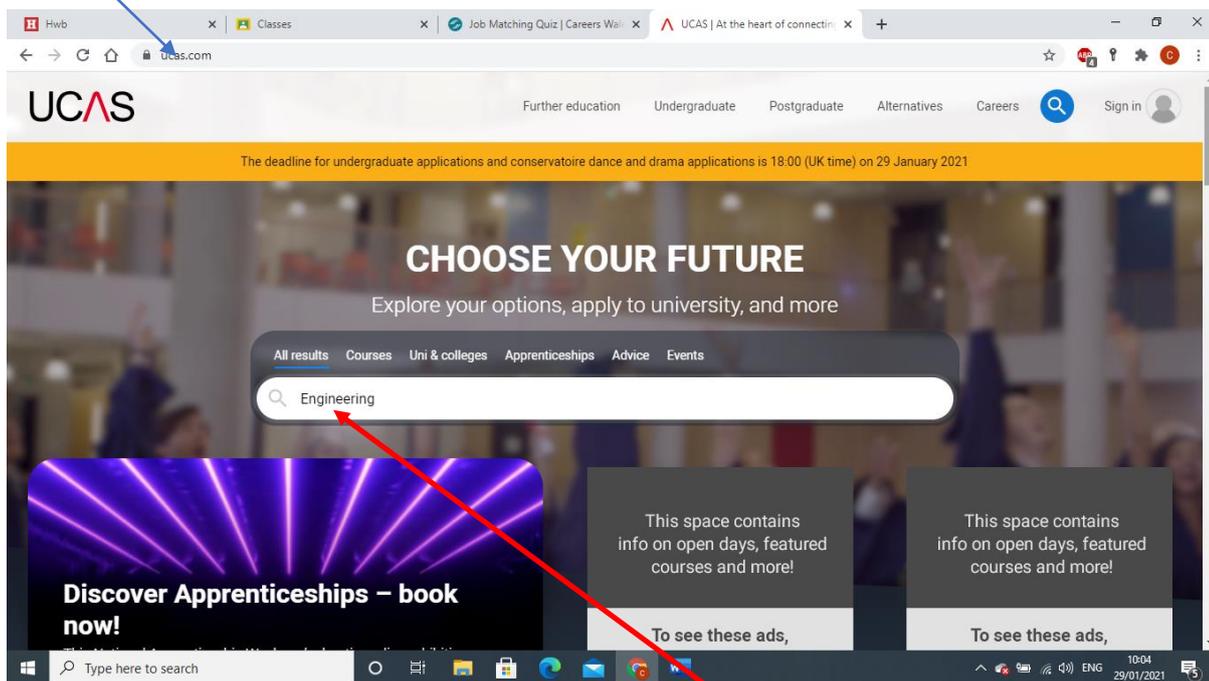


## I'm not sure what career I want to follow

At this stage it can be very difficult to know what you want to do as a career, and your mind may well change over the coming months and years. We can arrange for you to speak to a Careers Adviser, although you can do a 'job matching quiz' at <https://careerswales.gov.wales/plan-your-career/job-matching-quiz> where you will answer questions about you, your hobbies etc and then be given information on careers that match your answers. This will enable you to look at the details of these jobs, along with the qualifications you will need.

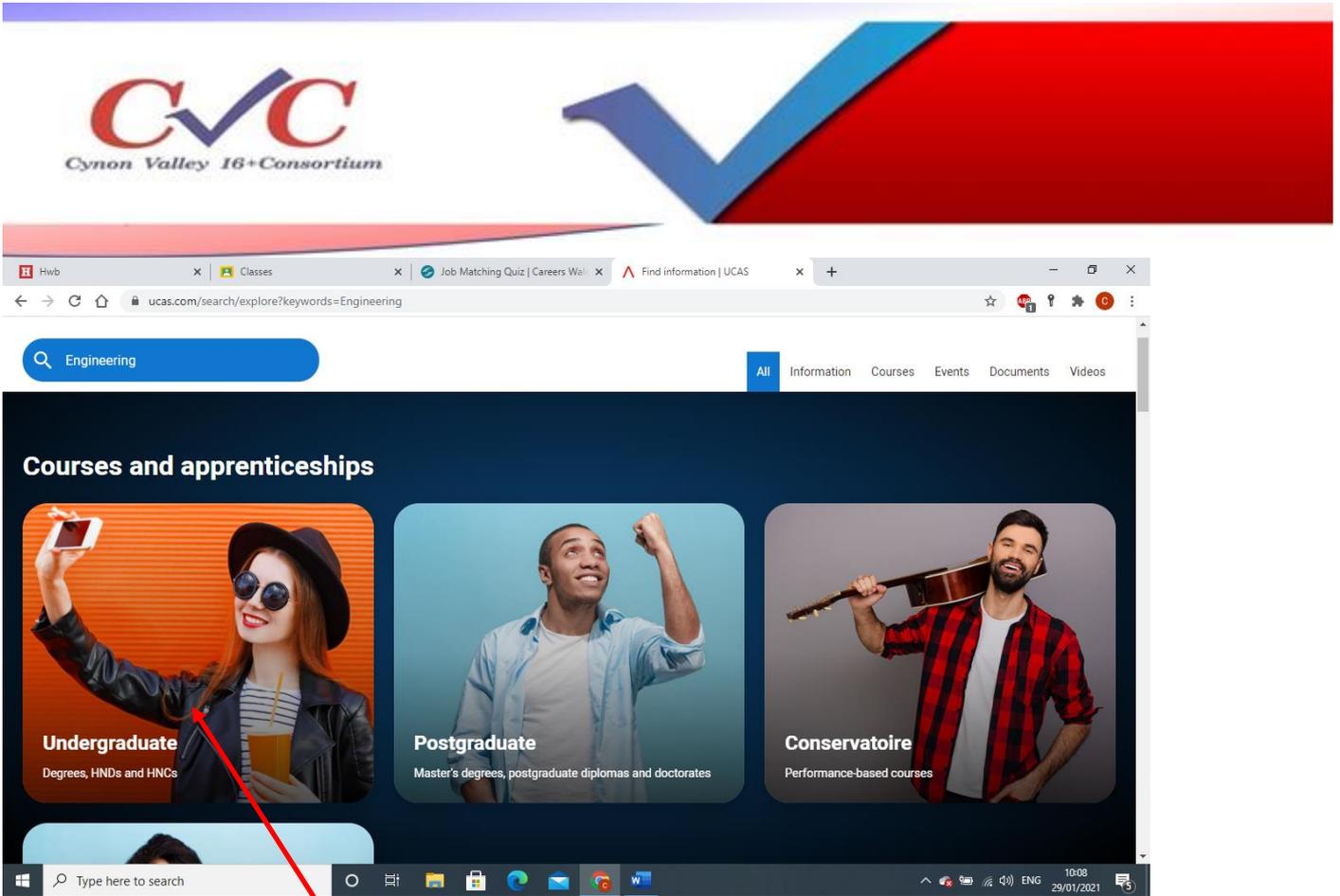
## I'm thinking of going to University

Many University courses do not require any specific qualifications to do a degree, they just specify that you need to achieve certain grades. However, there are others that specify that you need certain qualifications. To check whether this applies to you, you need to go to [UCAS.com](https://ucas.com) (this holds all the degrees available at all the universities in the UK)

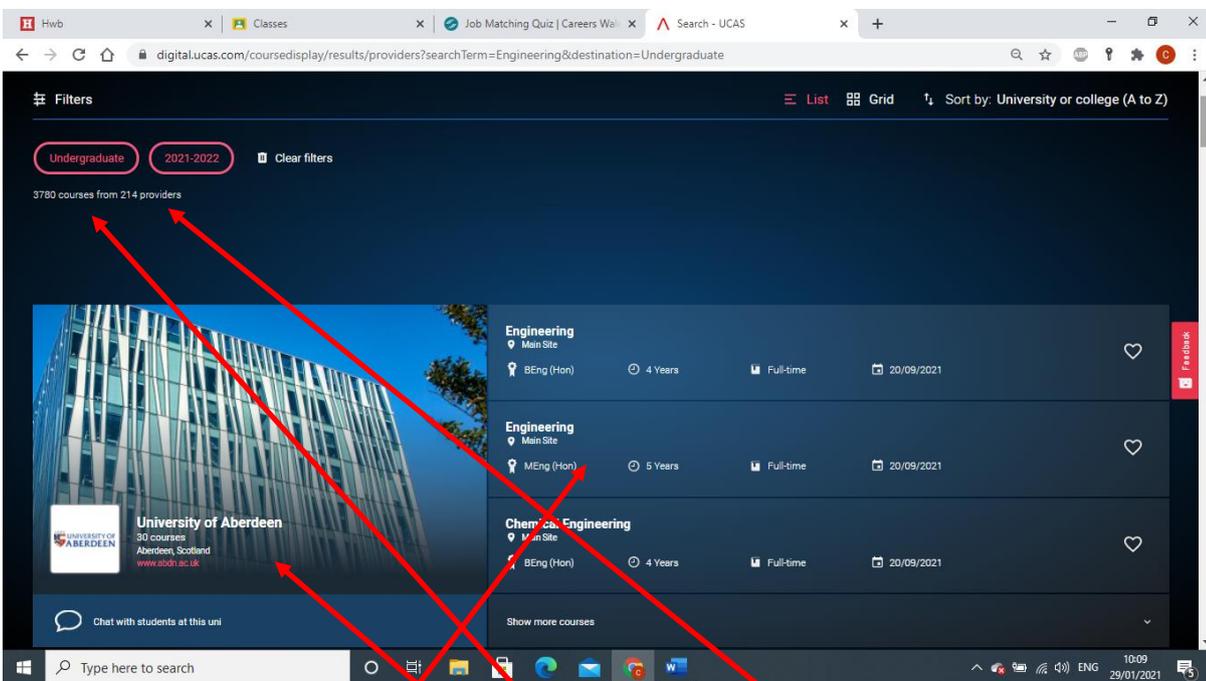


The screenshot shows a web browser window with the UCAS website. The browser's address bar shows 'ucas.com'. The website header includes the UCAS logo and navigation links for 'Further education', 'Undergraduate', 'Postgraduate', 'Alternatives', 'Careers', and 'Sign in'. A yellow banner at the top of the page states: 'The deadline for undergraduate applications and conservatoire dance and drama applications is 18.00 (UK time) on 29 January 2021'. The main heading is 'CHOOSE YOUR FUTURE' with the subtext 'Explore your options, apply to university, and more'. Below this is a search bar with 'Engineering' entered. A red arrow points to the search bar. Below the search bar are several promotional cards, including one for 'Discover Apprenticeships – book now!' and others with placeholder text: 'This space contains info on open days, featured courses and more!' and 'To see these ads,'.

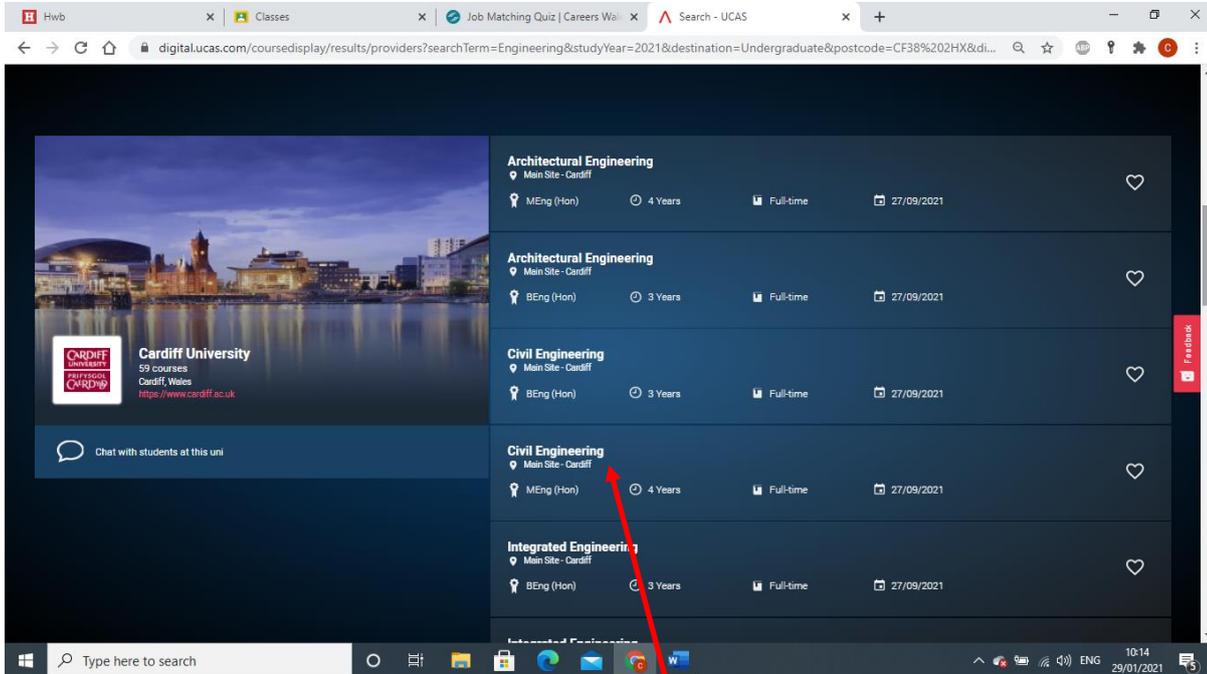
In this example we're looking for the requirements to do engineering, once you've entered the name of the course, press 'search'.



Choose 'Undergraduate'

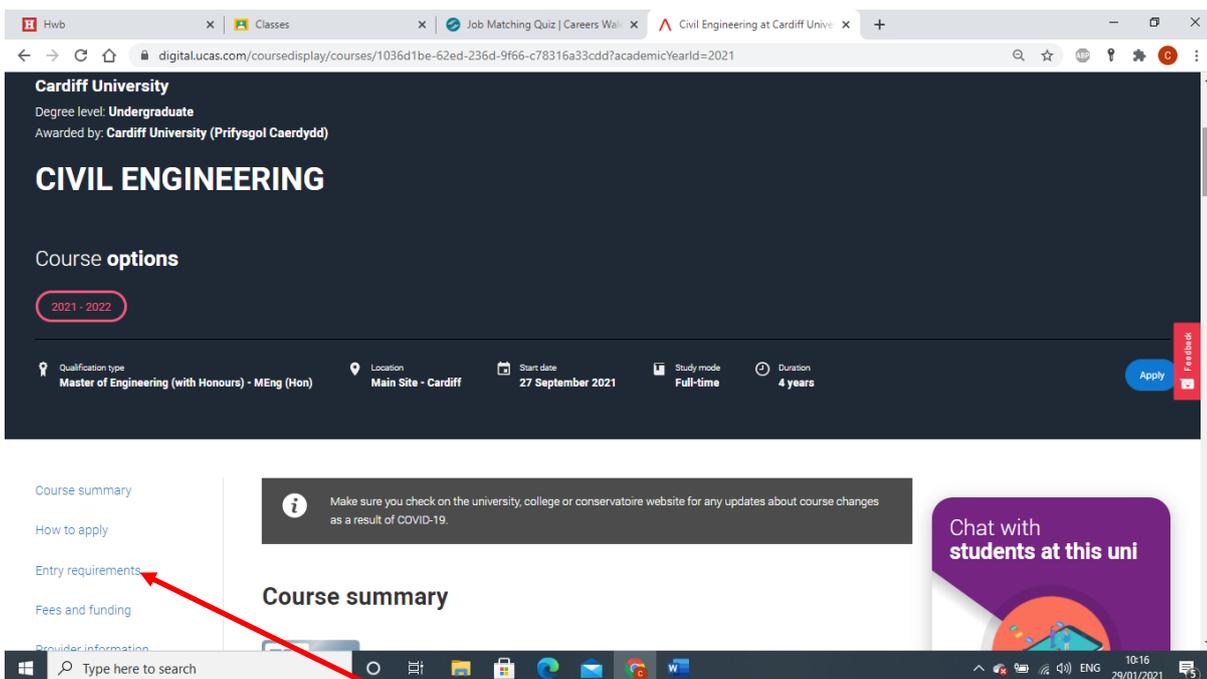


The results screen will show you all the Universities (in this case there are 214) that offer the various forms of Engineering (in this case there are over 3700 courses)



Course Name	Location	Qualification	Duration	Study Mode	Start Date
Architectural Engineering	Main Site - Cardiff	MEng (Hon)	4 Years	Full-time	27/09/2021
Architectural Engineering	Main Site - Cardiff	BEng (Hon)	3 Years	Full-time	27/09/2021
Civil Engineering	Main Site - Cardiff	BEng (Hon)	3 Years	Full-time	27/09/2021
Civil Engineering	Main Site - Cardiff	MEng (Hon)	4 Years	Full-time	27/09/2021
Integrated Engineering	Main Site - Cardiff	BEng (Hon)	3 Years	Full-time	27/09/2021

I've decided I'm interested in Civil Engineering at Cardiff University (I've scrolled through the options in the results). To do this I click on the Civil Engineering course



**Cardiff University**  
Degree level: Undergraduate  
Awarded by: Cardiff University (Prifysgol Caerdydd)

## CIVIL ENGINEERING

Course options

2021 - 2022

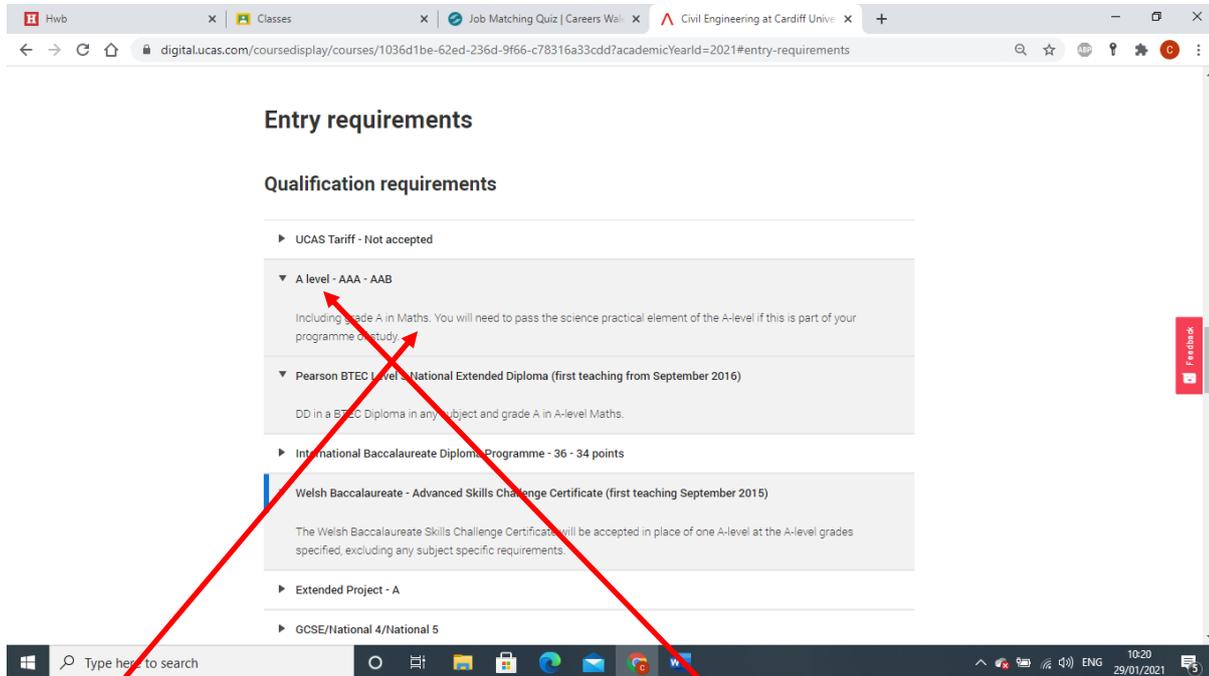
Qualification type: Master of Engineering (with Honours) - MEng (Hon)  
Location: Main Site - Cardiff  
Start date: 27 September 2021  
Study mode: Full-time  
Duration: 4 years

Course summary  
How to apply  
Entry requirements  
Fees and funding  
Provider information

Make sure you check on the university, college or conservatoire website for any updates about course changes as a result of COVID-19.

Chat with students at this uni

This page holds lots of useful information, but I'm most interested in what I need to achieve to apply for the course. To do this I choose 'Entry requirements'



digital.ucas.com/coursesdisplay/courses/1036d1be-62ed-236d-9f66-c78316a33cdd?academicYearId=2021#entry-requirements

## Entry requirements

### Qualification requirements

- ▶ UCAS Tariff - Not accepted
- ▼ A level - AAA - AAB  
Including grade A in Maths. You will need to pass the science practical element of the A-level if this is part of your programme of study.
- ▼ Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma (first teaching from September 2016)  
DD in a BTEC Diploma in any subject and grade A in A-level Maths.
- ▶ International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme - 36 - 34 points
- ▶ Welsh Baccalaureate - Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate (first teaching September 2015)  
The Welsh Baccalaureate Skills Challenge Certificate will be accepted in place of one A-level at the A-level grades specified, excluding any subject specific requirements.
- ▶ Extended Project - A
- ▶ GCSE/National 4/National 5

On this page I can see that I will need to achieve AAA-AAB in my A-levels and that I must do A-level Maths. It also shows me if any BTEC qualifications are accepted.

Below are a few other examples to give you an idea of what to expect;

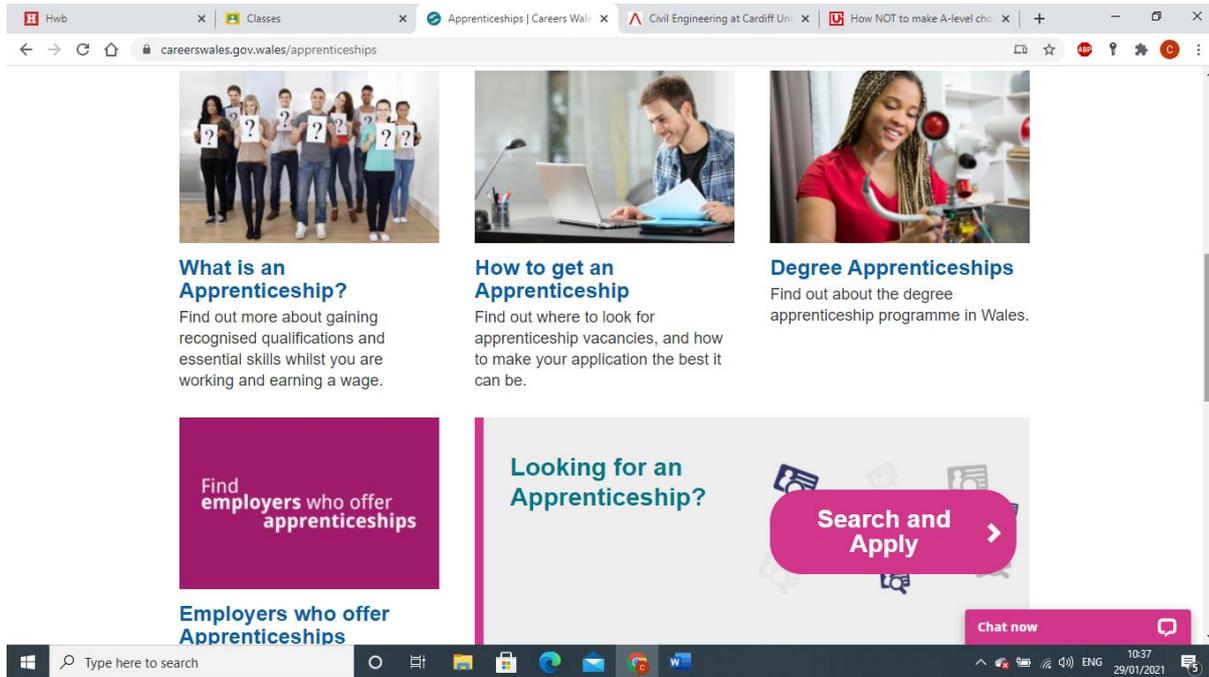
- Pharmacy must have: chemistry, plus at least one from biology, maths and physics
- English must have: usually English literature, maybe English literature and language or English language
- Geology / earth sciences must have: at least two from maths, physics, chemistry and biology
- Economics sometimes need: maths, very rarely do you need economics



## I'm interested in a career/apprenticeship after Form 6

Lots of useful information on apprenticeships can be found at

<https://careerswales.gov.wales/apprenticeships>



**What is an Apprenticeship?**  
Find out more about gaining recognised qualifications and essential skills whilst you are working and earning a wage.

**How to get an Apprenticeship**  
Find out where to look for apprenticeship vacancies, and how to make your application the best it can be.

**Degree Apprenticeships**  
Find out about the degree apprenticeship programme in Wales.

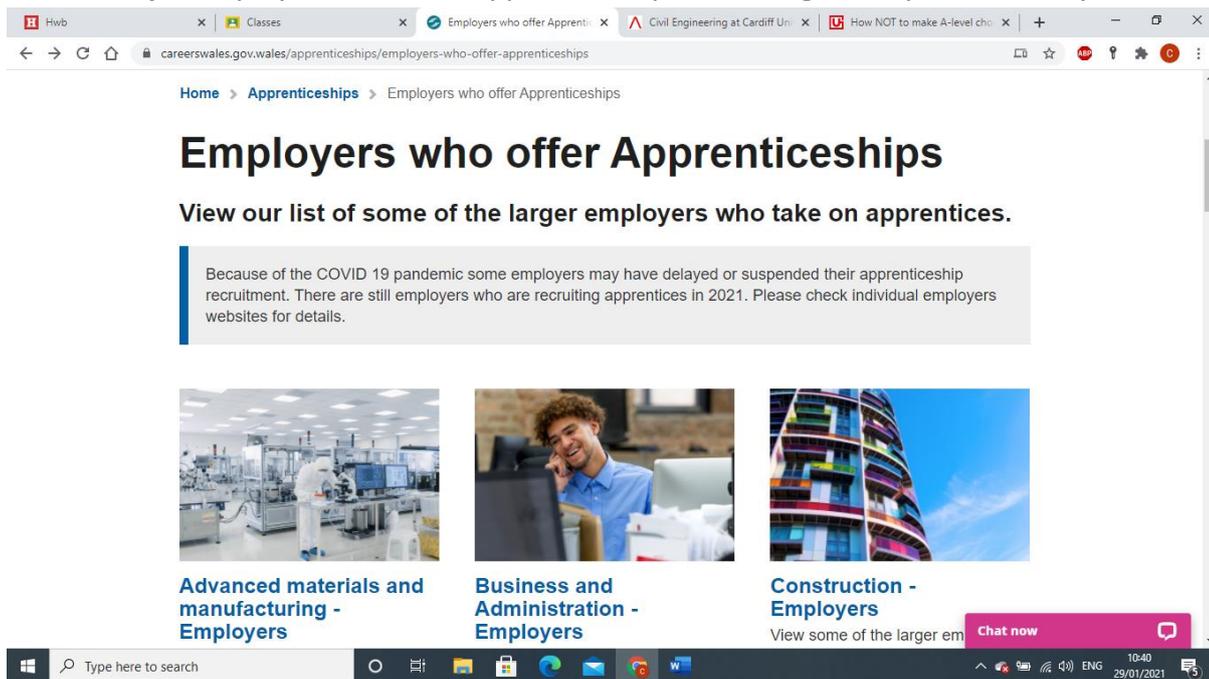
**Find employers who offer apprenticeships**

**Looking for an Apprenticeship?**  
**Search and Apply**

**Employers who offer Apprenticeships**

**Chat now**

Also, on <https://careerswales.gov.wales/apprenticeships/employers-who-offer-apprenticeships> there's a list of major employers who offer apprenticeships, including what qualifications you need;



**Employers who offer Apprenticeships**

View our list of some of the larger employers who take on apprentices.

Because of the COVID 19 pandemic some employers may have delayed or suspended their apprenticeship recruitment. There are still employers who are recruiting apprentices in 2021. Please check individual employers websites for details.

**Advanced materials and manufacturing - Employers**

**Business and Administration - Employers**

**Construction - Employers**  
View some of the larger em

**Chat now**



## Summary

There is a lot to think about. You should:

- Research your subject options and your career ideas.
- Take time to think through your decision.
- Listen to the advice of your Teachers, Careers Advisers and parents.
- Make a short list of subjects and options.
- Make an informed decision. You may hear lots of different ideas and opinions. Check the facts out for yourself.