



Students take a gap year for a number of reasons, including:

I want to gain some more experience before applying for competitive courses

- You should think about the sorts of skills you need to develop and how you can gain the experience needed. For example, caring for vulnerable adults, children or the elderly can give you evidence of communication skills, empathy and compassion needed.
- You could get paid work in a care home or volunteer for local organisations that support people.
- There are some examples for volunteering on the [Futures site](#) and you can search for paid employment through job sites like [Monster](#), [Indeed](#), [Fish4Jobs](#) etc.
- For jobs with the local authority (for example in schools) the [Greater Jobs](#) website is useful and the NHS advertises vacancies [here](#).

**I don't know what I want to do yet.**

First of all this is fine - however taking a gap year and doing nothing won't miraculously help you to find your pathway!

- You should arrange a Futures meeting if you haven't got any ideas and need help in deciding. You can do this at any of the main reception areas or by emailing [futures@osfc.ac.uk](mailto:futures@osfc.ac.uk)
- Think about getting work, volunteering or an apprenticeship to give you some experience of being in the workplace and help you to discover strengths and interests. Doing anything is better than doing nothing!
- You can also use the resources on the [Futures website](#) to look at ways of finding ideas, get involved in real or virtual work experience by registering with organisations such as [Springpod](#) or [Uptree](#).
- You can also still contact us once you have left to arrange a careers meeting - we are more than happy to help

**I'm waiting to see what my grades are like and apply to university next year**

- You should still follow the advice above - think about ways you can make a UCAS application successful
- Go to Open Days - look at a wide range of universities that you may not have thought about this year.

- Start thinking about a Plan B - in case things haven't gone as well as you expected. You can apply to resit exams and there are all sorts of other options available, such as Apprenticeships and Foundation Years at universities.
- Think about submitting a late application before June 30th or consider [clearing](#) once you have your results
- Contact us via email at the start of next year to sort out a reference for your UCAS form or if you need any support or advice about your plans.

### **I want to travel and have experiences**

- As with everything you need to have a plan for this - whether it is researching organisations that specialise in gap year travel, or getting cash together to fund this.
- The [UCAS site](#) has useful websites for information and inspiration

[UCAS - Gap year advice](#)

[Gap Year Hub](#)

[City Year](#)

[Yipiyap](#)

[Volunteering Matters](#)

[Greater Jobs](#)

[Oldham Community Leisure](#)

[Camp America](#)

[Year in Industry](#)

[Good Web Guide - useful sites for planning a gap year](#)