

Newry, Mourne and Down Year 12 Careers Fair Questions

Questions to ask a company/business representative.

- 1. What is your main business and who are your clients/customers?**
- 2. Where is your company based?**
- 3. What range of jobs/apprenticeships are available in your company?**
- 4. Where do you advertise job/apprenticeship opportunities when recruiting?
(website/social media/recruitment websites)**
- 5. What is the selection process I would face if applying for a job in your company?**
- 6. Does your company offer work experience opportunities for students in year 12 or year 13?**
- 7. What support is offered to a new employee coming into work for the first time?**
- 8. Do you have a professional development programme so that employees can gain additional qualifications and promotion?**
- 9. Is there a gender balance within the company, are you actively seeking to employ more females/males?**
- 10. What activities/events does the company have in place to build a sense of community, enjoyment, and fun into the workplace.**

Questions to ask a career professional.

- 1. What was your pathway into your job?**
- 2. What does a day look like for you in your career?**
- 3. What do you find most enjoyable and most challenging about your job?**
- 4. What additional training/professional development have you been involved in?**
- 5. What skills and qualities are essential for someone doing your job?**
- 6. What advice would you give me if I was to consider your job/career?**

Questions to ask the NI Careers Service

- 1. Who do you advise me to talk to today about my career ideas/plans?**
- 2. Can I make an appointment with a Careers Officer outside of school to discuss my options?**
- 3. How do I contact my local careers office?**
- 4. Where do I go to online to find information about jobs and careers?**
- 5. What jobs are in demand in my area/in Northern Ireland?**

6. What jobs are available to me if I leave school and want to go into employment at 16?

Questions to ask if you are considering courses at a Regional College after Year 12

- 1. When can I apply for a place on a further education course or apprenticeship?**
- 2. What courses do you offer that are equivalent to 3 A levels?**
- 3. What grades do I need to have in my GCSEs to get a place on a further education course at SRC/SERC?**
- 4. If I don't pass GCSE English or GCSE mathematics, can I repeat these exams at SRC/SERC?**
- 5. Do I need an employer if I want to do a hairdressing or beauty therapy?**
- 6. What courses should I apply for if I am interested in a career in childcare/nursing/teaching?**
- 7. What are the GCSE grades I need to have to get a place on a construction apprenticeship?**
- 8. What is a traineeship and how is it different to an apprenticeship?**
- 9. Do I have to do exams if I am an apprentice?**
- 10. Do I get paid a training allowance as a trainee?**
- 11. What wage can I expect if I have an apprenticeship?**
- 12. What happens if I have an employer but don't have the grades to get onto an electrical/plumbing apprenticeship?**
- 13. What happens if my employer decides he/she no longer wants an apprentice, and I am not finished my course?**
- 14. How many courses in total can I apply for at SRC/SERC?**
- 15. Will I be considered for all the courses I apply for or only my first preference?**

Questions to ask an FE college or Company about a Higher-Level Apprenticeship (HLA)

- 1. What is a Higher-Level Apprenticeship?**
- 2. What level of qualification can I get if I complete a HLA?**
- 3. What advantages and disadvantages are there to following the HLA path instead of going to university?**
- 4. When do you open applications for your higher-level apprenticeships?**
- 5. How many HLA programmes do you offer?**
- 6. SRC/SERC. Do you have a list of employers who offer higher level apprenticeships?**
- 7. What is a higher-level apprentice likely to be paid each month?**

8. How long does it take to complete a higher-level apprenticeship?
9. Does a higher-level apprentice get study leave and support to complete coursework and exams?
10. Where can I find out more about the higher-level apprenticeship programmes?

Higher Education Courses at UK Universities and Regional Colleges

Applying

1. When and how do I apply for courses at your university?
2. Will the university expect me to have completed relevant work experience?
3. Does the university look at my GCSE results when I apply for a degree?
4. If I don't pass GCSE mathematics, can I still apply to courses at your university?
5. I am doing OCN Level 2 courses, will the university accept those instead of GCSE grades?
6. Are there any open days, workshops, or events at the university that Year 12 can attend?
7. Where do I find details of information events about degrees I am interested in?
8. How to find out what subjects I need to study after GCSE to be eligible for a degree in (*name a degree you are interested in*)?
9. Are there any selection tests or interviews for the degree course I am interested in?

Degree Course Related Questions

1. I am thinking of doing BTEC courses instead of A levels, will the university accept those?
2. Is there a placement year built into this degree course?
3. Is there an opportunity to study abroad during the degree?
4. Are there any bursaries or scholarships I can apply for associated with this degree?
5. How many places are available on this degree course and what ratio of applicants are successful in gaining a place?
6. How many hours of lectures per week are provided on my chosen course?
7. How many hours of independent study am I expected to do per week to be successful on my course?
8. How is my degree assessed across the 3/4/5 years?
9. What is the average dropout rate for this degree course?
10. What kind of careers do graduates of this degree go into and what is the average starting salary?

11. How well is this course ranked against other identical degree courses across the UK?

12. At 18, if I get a job and choose to do a degree on a part-time basis, do I apply in the same way as students hoping to do full-time degrees? How does funding work for part-time degrees?

Accommodation & Finance

- 1. What is the average cost of student accommodation at your university/college?**
- 2. Is the accommodation mixed or can I get female/male only options?**
- 3. What support do I get to help pay for accommodation at university?**
- 4. What is included in the accommodation?**
- 5. Are first years guaranteed accommodation?**
- 6. How far away is accommodation from the campus, local shops, social activities, and public transport?**
- 7. How much money can I borrow to live at university?**

Student Life at university

- 1. I play sport, how do I get to play for the university team?**
- 2. What leisure and entertainment facilities were available to students?**
- 3. What clubs and societies are available?**
- 4. What support services are available at university e.g., counselling, finance, medical, and for students with additional needs?**
- 5. Is there a medical centre, student welfare office, counselling service available for students?**

Questions to ask Universities and Colleges in the Republic of Ireland such as DKIT.

- 1. Are the degrees offered in the republic of Ireland the same as those available in NI universities?**
- 2. What is the process of applying to universities and colleges in the republic of Ireland?**
- 3. Do the republic of Ireland universities accept Level 3 Applied courses such as BTEC'S as well as general A levels?**
- 4. Will I need to get the same A level entry grades for degrees in ROI as I do for UK universities?**

- 5. Do I need to have studied Irish or another language other than English to be eligible to apply for universities in the ROI?**
- 6. Is there a good bus system from Newry to DKIT so I can travel each day?**
- 7. What accommodation do you have at your university/college?**
- 8. When are the open days and information events so I can see the campus and get more information?**