



Supporting Parents and Carers:
A Guide for the Guides



Supporting Parents and Carers

Higher education is changing all the time: from how learning is delivered, to how studies are financed. Whether or not you've attended university yourself, there are some important things you'll need to know about the next step in your son or daughter's academic journey.

This guide will cover those things. Our goal is to build your knowledge and confidence, and to help you help them. Together, we'll explore the value of life and learning at Nottingham Trent University (NTU); the vibrant student city of Nottingham and our iconic campuses; the opportunities and support your son or daughter can count on at NTU; the UCAS application process; the ins-and-outs of fees and finance; results day and all its permutations; and finally, their arrival plans. We have covered everything – from key dates, to what to pack.

We have been working with parents and carers for decades, and we can show you how to strike the perfect balance between providing support and ensuring that your son or daughter takes the initiative throughout this process. This is their journey, but you have still got a vital role to play in it.

Successfully applying and preparing for university has always hinged on the quality of your research. It's about asking questions and assessing options and opportunities – together with your child – in an informed, considered way. This guide will help you to answer those questions. And if any still remain, remember that we're always available to talk to – in-person, online, and over the phone. You can visit ntu.ac.uk/parents for tailored advice, and talk to our Admissions and Enquiries team on **+44 (0)115 848 4200** between **9.30 am** and **4.30 pm** (Monday to Friday). You can also use ntu.ac.uk/askntu to get in touch with any general queries, and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram – a great way of interacting directly with our community of staff and students.

We are confident that Nottingham Trent University can be a wonderful home for your son or daughter, and a place where they can truly fulfil their potential. That's been the case for generations of our students and their families. After reading this guide, we hope you will share that confidence – and alongside your child, we look forward to welcoming you into the NTU community.

Why university...

If you're wondering whether university is the right choice, consider the following:

- Today, the vast majority of skilled professions require some form of higher-level study as standard.
- University is a life-changing experience. Your son or daughter will be living and working with people from across the globe – and from their first day here, their world will get bigger.
- Jobs aren't for life anymore. Your son or daughter will want to move on, and up, and a degree from NTU will give them the transferrable skills to do just that. Our degrees teach versatility and self-reliance; the character traits that will augment their academic skills and set them up for life.
- University is unrivalled in the number and range of professional networking opportunities it provides. If your child has a particular job or industry in mind, they won't just be learning about the sector's key players – in many cases, they will be working directly with them on projects and placements.
- Many courses include the option of studying or working abroad – whether it's for a week or a full year. Again, it's an opportunity for your son or daughter to add some incredible academic, professional and cultural experience to their CV. That experience can make a crucial difference when it comes to job-hunting in a highly competitive market.
- Studying at university builds independence, confidence and resilience. For many students, it's their first time away from home; it's a transformative experience, and one that marks their transition into adulthood. The key "soft skills" of university – whether that's budgeting or working to deadlines – will lay the groundwork for their adult lives, and university is the perfect time and place for your child to get to grips with these important skills.

Opposite page. Space to think and breath in the Clifton campus Pavilion building



...and why NTU?

Researching universities can be tough. The "right choice" criteria can range from the reputation for a particular subject, to industry connections, to the location of the university itself. You and your son or daughter will also be looking for something distinct – an experience that adds genuine value beyond the rudiments of a degree course.

At NTU, we offer that distinction. It comes from our learning philosophy; the particular ways in which our teaching is devised, developed and delivered. Since our beginnings in 1843, we have enjoyed a tradition of applied, vocational, hands-on learning. And today, that kind of industry-ready experience is more important than ever.

This is a place where your child will learn beyond the classroom; where theory meets meaningful, relevant practice. Our students learn by doing – from the work experience opportunities built into every course, to volunteering schemes, to self-employment enterprises and the chance to study abroad. As your son or daughter puts their skills to the test, we will help them to dream bigger, and go further.

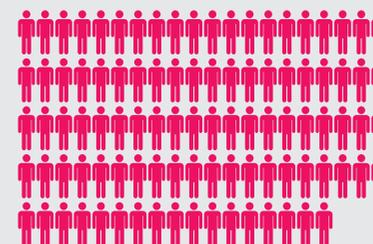
At NTU, our degrees are more than qualifications. Our graduates know who they are, and what they want from life. If your son or daughter has a passion, we will nurture it – and with our help, they can build a life around the things they love.



Study in the heart of the city at Boots library



Utilise outstanding facilities like those found in Superlab on the Clifton campus



97%

of our students are in **work or further study** within six months of graduating

(Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education 2016/17)



UK university to sign the **Social Mobility Pledge**

We've received **TEF's highest possible rating** – confirming we're delivering consistently outstanding teaching, learning and outcomes for our students.



ranking for the number of **year-long placements**

we offer – NTU is one of the UK's most **employment-focused** universities.



Ranked **3rd** People and Planet Green League 2019

Outstanding Leadership Team of the Year 2019 (Sustainability)

Green Gown Awards



Nottingham is a **Top-60** Global student city

QS Best Student Cities Index



Opportunities that Matter: Support that Counts

There is an army of people behind the scenes here – hundreds of advisers, administrators, coaches and mentors, all committed to making your child’s time at NTU as comfortable and productive as possible. This support is allied to unique, award-winning tools and tech like our Student Dashboard – the kind of cutting-edge online support that will encourage your son or daughter to take ownership of their studies, as they build their confidence and independence. We want your child to feel supported, we want them to feel empowered, and we want their journey to be about them – whatever it might look like, and wherever it goes.

NTU: a gold-standard in teaching and learning

We are proud to have received a “Gold” award in the Government’s Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). It’s the highest achievable rating – but what does it mean for your son or daughter’s NTU experience?

It means a guarantee of hands-on experience, whatever they’re studying – the kind of experience that busy employers in a competitive market expect to see. It means teachers with the proven knowledge and experience to support your child’s vision. It means



Students' Union

encouragement, in and outside of the classroom; the freedom for them to decide their own journey, and the expertise to help them reach their destination. It means opportunities and connections – whether that’s a year-long placement with a major global fashion brand, a collaborative project with our own award-winning researchers, or the specialist business knowledge to bring your child’s ideas to life.

The higher their engagement, the better their likely degree result; the Dashboard explains that engagement and helps your child to measure their own progress. It’s not a fortune teller, but the Dashboard is a great indicator for your son or daughter of how they’re doing – and how they could be doing even better!

NOW – a virtual learning environment

With this handy online tool, your child can keep up to date with their timetable, access course materials and other key resources, save their assignments and store files, and communicate off-site with tutors and fellow students. We have also answered our students’ calls by introducing Lecture Capture – a great new digital tool that allows them to revisit their lectures and review anything they feel they might have missed the first time around.

The NTU Student Dashboard

Learning at a new level, managing your own workload and juggling deadlines –there is no denying that university life has its challenges. To ease the strain of your child’s transition from school or college, we’ve developed the Student Dashboard – an award-winning online tool for our staff and students. It helps them to manage their own learning, and make sure their studies stay on track.



Lecture theatre, Clifton campus

Employability

With the chance to boost professional prospects in and outside of their degree, a work experience opportunity built into every course (ntu.ac.uk/experience) and the support of our dedicated experts, we are here to help your child build a future – from their first day at NTU to the last.

The employability programmes, experts and events they will have access to include:

- Acceler8's Bronze, Silver and Gold awards, which will enhance your son or daughter's CV by recognising their work outside of the classroom – from volunteering and work experience to Students' Union activities.
- They will benefit from NTU's global network of employers at our jobs fairs. Events like Recruiter Insights Live give your child the inside track on what employers expect, while eNGage showcases different professional pathways outside of their degree.
- Our Employability Centres will put your son or daughter in touch with some great work-focused opportunities, help them plan and plot a career path, and get them primed for life after graduation.
- In addition to these Centres, each of our academic Schools also provides careers consultants, with the specialist knowledge to help your child progress in their chosen sector.
- The Hive is our centre for entrepreneurship and self-employment, and it's helped more than 400 students bring their business ideas to life. We will support your son or daughter's plans with experience, expertise, and some great contacts.

Student Support Services team

We welcome students from a huge range of backgrounds, and that diversity is a big part of NTU's identity. Our reputation for student satisfaction isn't based on great teaching and learning alone – it comes from treating people as individuals, and helping out wherever we can.

That is why we're committed to providing the support your son or daughter needs to enhance their university experience, and to maximise their chances of success – both in and outside the classroom.

Disability, mental health and dyslexia support

If your child has a disability – including a Specific Learning Difficulty (such as dyslexia), mental health condition, autism spectrum condition or long-term health condition – it is important they tell us in their application. This information then helps us to ensure that the appropriate support is in place once they have started at NTU. We will also give your son or daughter advice on how to manage wellbeing issues throughout their time at the University.

Mentors

We're big on peer-to-peer support, and our Student Mentor scheme is a great example of "paying it forward". As a first year undergraduate, your child will be allocated a second or final-year student from their course – someone with the knowledge and experience to help them settle into life at NTU. And when the time comes, your son or daughter will then be invited to take on mentoring responsibilities themselves – continuing our happy cycle of students supporting students!

Opposite page, exhibition space in the Bonington building, home to the School of Art and Design



Nottingham: A Place for Everyone

Nottingham is a big part of the NTU experience. For the tens of thousands of students who have come to us from across the country (and around the world), it's a city that's accommodated, supported and inspired them. Today, it continues to enjoy a reputation as one of the UK's best student cities, and it's now ranked in the world's top 60 study destinations (QS Best Student Cities Index).

So what can your child look forward to here? What can they do, where can they go, and how will they be looked after?

Nottingham is not a big city – and that's a part of its charm. It balances the very best in culture, entrepreneurship, sport, leisure, food and retail with a cosiness that makes it so much more than just a place to study. Per mile, we are confident that no other UK city offers quite as much fun, or as many opportunities. Vibrant and diverse, Nottingham means different things to different people – but whatever your son or daughter wants from their life outside lectures, they will find a charm and a sense of belonging here that will stay with them forever. Simply put, it's a home away from home.

That is why we know Nottingham's the right fit for your child. It is not just an experience – it is a lifestyle. It is a city with a proud history of people doing things their own way; from makers and thinkers to artists and athletes. It is big and small; old and new. It's a place of glass and grass: a city where youth and heritage come together, and continue to enrich each other.

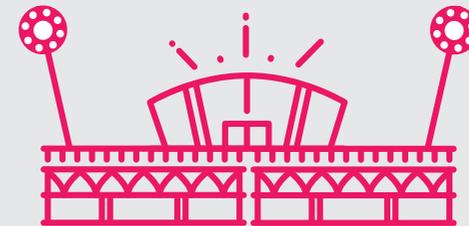
But most of all, it is a place where you can know with confidence that your son or daughter is safe. Nottingham has received Purple Flag status since 2010 – a prestigious national award that acknowledges the city's safety and accessibility. And in terms of access, generations of parents have been grateful for how easily reached we are from almost anywhere in the country – a real bonus if (when) you are requisitioned for a lift back home!

We are proud to be a part of this city, and for this city to be such a significant part of us. Together, we have always worked in tandem. You'll enjoy visiting Nottingham every bit as much as your child enjoys studying here – so head to ntu.ac.uk/Nottingham for the inside track on what to see, where to go, and all the city's secrets!



Nottingham Council building and Old Market Square

With two world-famous football clubs, the internationally renowned Trent Bridge cricket ground and pro-Tour tennis facilities – plus a huge range of other teams and activities, from rugby to ice hockey –



Nottingham has been named as
“Home of Sport”

VisitEngland

Alongside Prague, Edinburgh, Melbourne and Milan, Nottingham is a
UNESCO World City of Literature



Nottingham is a
thriving shopping hub



with a cracking arts scene, and one of the best public-transport networks in the country.



The Sunday Times, 'Best Places to Live in the UK 2020'



Newton building, home to Nottingham Business School

Our Campuses

Each one of our campuses is characterised by its own sense of identity and spirit. These cutting-edge spaces and places are designed to complement your child's life at university – both in and outside the classroom. From avant-garde art spaces, mock courtrooms and trading floors to TV studios, veterinary surgeries and a 500-acre outdoor classroom, we have invested more than £450 million in our facilities since 2003 – ensuring that your son or daughter has the opportunity to learn by doing, as they build vital hands-on experience. It is a key component of their future employability, and we're proud to provide them with these opportunities.

You can visit virtualltour.ntu.ac.uk for a campus-by-campus look at what's on offer at NTU.

City Campus

As our largest learning site, the City Campus is typical of Nottingham itself. It is a place that is big enough to inspire, and compact enough to provide a sense of community; one where our best and proudest traditions sit shoulder to shoulder with new theories, new practice, and new possibilities. It's the same mix of heritage and modernity that sums up our city.

Most of all, it's a campus defined by its diversity. With a busy mix of students on-site – from lawyers, journalists and psychologists to entrepreneurs, artists and architects – the quality of your child's learning is enriched by the huge range of people and disciplines around them. It encourages study across subjects, and once again, that is a feature of NTU life that we're particularly proud of.



Boots library

Clifton Campus

Clifton Campus is community. It's convenience. It's an ecosystem all of its own, with everything that your child could need in one place. If they're fortunate enough to live and study here, they will find accommodation that is minutes from lectures; lectures that are next door to some incredible sports and leisure facilities; and a whole host of shops, bars and cafés.

With a community of over 8,000 students, Clifton is the definition of "campus life" – a place with its own spirit and character, and somewhere your son or daughter will be proud to live and learn. Located just four miles south of Nottingham city centre, it will give them the best of both worlds – their own place and space, with one of Britain's great student cities on the doorstep.

Brackenhurst Campus

Our famed Brackenhurst Campus is a working farm, and a wildlife haven. It is a stunning countryside estate, located next to the picturesque market town of Southwell. It is a huge outdoor classroom, and home to some of the most dynamic, innovative work in the field of animal, rural and environmental sciences. It is a flagship for conservation and sustainability, and it offers some of the most picturesque university accommodation in the UK. But most of all, it is a community – from our students, to our staff, to the animals themselves. And that makes Brackenhurst Campus a living and learning experience unlike any other.

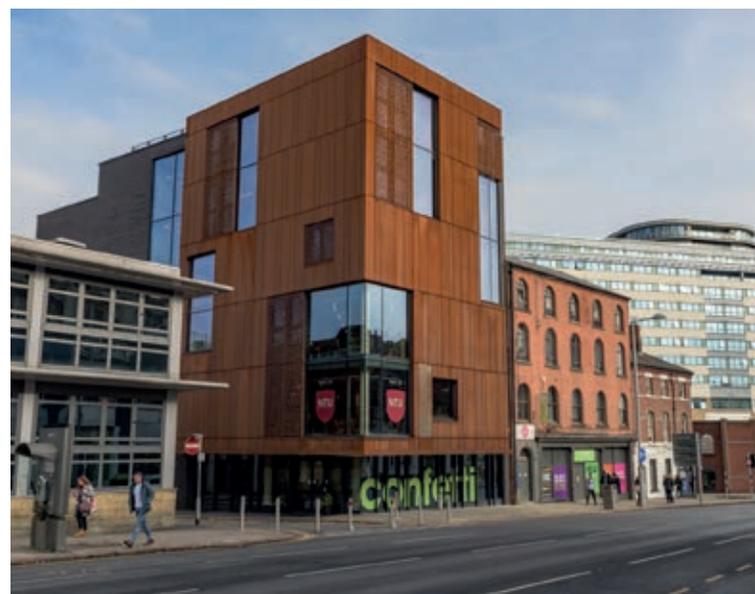
Confetti on the Creative Quarter Campus

Confetti is a nationally renowned creative hub, and a magnet for digital talent – on both sides of the classroom. Confetti already had a stellar industry reputation before joining the NTU family back in 2015: located just a short hop from our City Campus, it continues to fulfil its "Do it for Real" philosophy. You will be amazed by the facilities your child can access every day of their course – from media production labs to broadcast-spec TV galleries.

NTU in Mansfield

We are excited to announce NTU's latest venture – our partnership with Vision West Nottinghamshire College (VWNC). Based at the college's Mansfield site, we will be delivering foundation degrees – with the further potential for top-ups to Bachelor's qualifications. If your child is looking for an alternative route into higher education, if they are limited by work or care commitments, or if they are simply looking for a taster of university life without committing to a fully-fledged degree course, this could be their perfect solution.

Opposite page, clockwise from top: Brackenhurst Hall, NTU in Mansfield, Clifton campus plaza, Confetti.



Supporting UCAS applications

The application journey is a long one – from your son or daughter opening their first university prospectus, to A Level results day. Alongside the pressure of revision and exams, staying on top of things can be tough – so your encouragement and guidance is going to be vital.

As a parent or carer, you can support your child by keeping track of key dates, and knowing what is expected – by us, and by UCAS.

There is a lot of terminology associated with applying to university, which can be confusing. Visit ucas.com/ucas-terms-explained for a full university jargon buster.

2020

June onwards

Due to the current restrictions on our everyday lives, many universities are offering online alternatives to open days – including NTU.

Visit virtualopenday.ntu.ac.uk for a guided online tour of our campuses, facilities and accommodation. It's as close as it gets to the real thing!

8 September

Completed applications for courses starting in 2021 can be submitted to UCAS. Progress can be saved and revisited, so there's no need to complete it all at once.

Search **Nottingham Trent University** on ucas.com/search to see a full list of courses offered by NTU.

15 October

Application deadline for Oxford and Cambridge, as well as medicine, dentistry and veterinary science courses. Currently, no courses at NTU are affected by this deadline.

2021

15 January

The UCAS application deadline for most undergraduate courses is **Friday 15 January 2021**. This is UCAS' "equal consideration" deadline, meaning universities must consider all applications received by this time equally.

If your son or daughter misses the deadline, or changes their mind, they may still be able to apply. Whilst the University welcomes applications after the January deadline, we can only make offers if places are available.

25 February

UCAS Extra opens. Extra is the next step of the application cycle for applicants who have no offers from their five choices or have declined any offers received. Visit ntu.ac.uk/extra for more information.

February – March

When they have submitted their application, encourage your son or daughter to visit ntu.ac.uk/accommodation to see our range of accommodation, and make a shortlist of their favourite options. During this time your son or daughter will need to start thinking about their firm and insurance choices. We recommend that they compare course details, find out more about the support for students, the career opportunities and the quality of teaching.

If they receive an offer from NTU, we'll invite your son or daughter to an offer holder day in Spring.

April – June

It is time to think about their funding – visit ntu.ac.uk/funding for guidance on tuition fees and living costs. Remember: your son or daughter does not need to have a confirmed place at university to apply for student finance.

30 June

Any new applications submitted to UCAS after this date will automatically be considered through Clearing.

5 July

Clearing opens. This is the process that helps students who haven't secured a university place to find and apply for a course. Visit ntu.ac.uk/clearing to find out more.

12 August

A Level results day. Students should log in to ucas.com/track to see the outcome of their application(s). If they have been accepted by their firm choice, then their place is confirmed.

If they change their mind about where or what they want to study or don't meet the conditions of their firm and insurance choices, they can get in touch with our Clearing team via ntu.ac.uk/clearing.

September

We welcome our new students to NTU with a series of events, activities and introductions over a ten-day Welcome period. This helps your son or daughter settle into university life.

Supporting on Results Day

Stay calm, know their options, and expect the unexpected – in this section, you will find tips for supporting your son or daughter on A Level results day.

Preparing for results day

Clear heads make good choices. As a parent or carer, we advise you to:

- be positive, but practical. Ahead of the big day, encourage your son or daughter to have a backup plan in place – whatever their expectations. It will keep the surprises to a minimum.
- encourage your child to learn about the Clearing and Adjustment processes. Preparation is key – and understanding these schemes could give them a head-start at a busy time. Visit [ntu.ac.uk/clearing](https://www.ntu.ac.uk/clearing) for more information.
- make sure they've got everything ready and to hand – from their offers, to those key telephone numbers. It is not the day to be hunting for UCAS log-in details.
- try to make sure that your son or daughter is not on holiday. If any communications are required, universities will want to speak with them directly.
- most of all, respect and support their decision. Every choice has its merits. A gap year or far-flung university might not be your preferred option, but they are adults – let them make up their own minds, independently and with confidence.

Nerves are natural on results day.

You can't control the results they will receive, but you can manage the mood. Help your son or daughter to stay calm, and composed – as a parent or carer, it's your most important job.

Visit [ntu.ac.uk/parents](https://www.ntu.ac.uk/parents) for more information on A Level results, and what they mean.



Your son or daughter's loans aren't repayable until they are earning over £26,575 per year. For example, **the monthly repayments for an annual salary of 27,096 are only £10**

Visit [gov.uk/student-finance-calculator](https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator) to find out more.





Paying for university

What's available?

Course fees and living costs are the two main expenses of student life. Your son or daughter can apply for a tuition fee loan and a maintenance loan to cover both – and a range of grants and bursaries might also be available, depending on your child's circumstances.

- **Tuition fee loan:** This covers the full cost of tuition charged by the University, and is available no matter what your household income is. It's paid directly to the University and, if your son or daughter is from England or Wales, it is repaid after they graduate and are earning above £26,575 per year (or the weekly / monthly equivalent).
- **Maintenance loan:** This helps with rent, bills and other living costs. The loan is paid into your son or daughter's bank account in three termly instalments. The amount of loan they can get will depend on whether they're living away from home, whether they are entitled to certain benefits, and your household income.
- **Bursaries and other funding:** In certain circumstances, extra funding is available to supplement living costs. Make sure your son or daughter does research based on their own circumstances, and check that they're applying for everything they are entitled to.



At the time of publication, the University hasn't yet confirmed its fee rate for 2021/22.

Visit [ntu.ac.uk/fees](https://www.ntu.ac.uk/fees) for the latest information.

Preparing for university

If your son or daughter receives an offer from us, we'll send them information on everything from enrolment dates and study spaces to fitness classes and societies. But as parents and carers, we know you'll have your own questions – and in this section, you will find the answers, ideas, and tips to help them settle in quickly.



Our tips on preparing for university

It's going to be emotional...

A son or daughter starting at university is a challenge – for them, and you. Don't be surprised if life seems a little emptier to begin with, and try not to worry about their worries. It is a time for independence and new opportunities, for all involved – so brace yourself, and try to enjoy it!

Get them kitchen-ready

A handful of recipes and a couple of cookbooks will make all the difference, when funds are tight. Knowing their way around a kitchen also helps your son or daughter may also help make a few friends quite quickly!

Encourage their independence

They will thank you for it, soon enough. Get your son or daughter familiar with cooking, cleaning, and household chores – the more they know, the easier their transition to university life will be.

Travel light

Stick to the essentials. Other possessions quickly build up over the course of a degree!

Insist on a cleaning rota

Put their training to good use – with shared accommodation, rotas are the key to a happy household. Nothing causes disharmony like piles of dirty dishes, and messy communal areas – so encourage your son or daughter to take the lead on a rota.

Work out a sensible budget, together

Put together a financial plan that is realistic, workable, and leaves them the space to have fun. Sound financial planning makes university life much easier and reduces the need for distractions like part-time work. Visit [ntu.ac.uk/funding](https://www.ntu.ac.uk/funding) for more details of rental cost, bills, utilities and budgeting.

Visit [ntu.ac.uk/parents](https://www.ntu.ac.uk/parents) for more our tips on preparing for university.

Get in Touch

NTU staff and students are available to answer any questions that you or your child may have. Visit ntu.ac.uk/chat to chat in real-time with our students and staff, where you or your son or daughter can find out about:

- life and learning on campus
- Nottingham's highlights, from the people who know it best
- course content, professional placements and work opportunities
- fees and finance
- our entry requirements, and how to apply to NTU.

Alternatively, our friendly Admissions and Enquiries team are also on hand to answer any of your questions.

Call us on **+44 (0)115 848 4200** between **9.30 am** and **4.30 pm** (Monday to Friday), or use the enquiry form on ntu.ac.uk/askntu to get in touch.

Join in the conversation on our online communities.

-  [/TrentUni](https://twitter.com/TrentUni)
-  [@nottinghamtrentuni](https://www.instagram.com/nottinghamtrentuni)
-  [/NottinghamTrentUniversity](https://www.facebook.com/NottinghamTrentUniversity)
-  [nottingham-trent-university](https://www.linkedin.com/company/nottingham-trent-university)



Central court in the Newton Arkright building



Nottingham Trent
University

Enquiries

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50 Shakespeare Street
Nottingham
NG1 4FQ

University of
the Year

2019

The Guardian
University Awards 2019

Modern
University of
the Year

2018

THE SUNDAY TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES

University of
the Year

2017

THE AWARDS
2017

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