

Choosing

THE RIGHT COURSE AND UNIVERSITY



▶▶ WITH THOUSANDS OF COURSES AT HUNDREDS OF UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES, IT CAN BE DIFFICULT DECIDING ON WHAT AND WHERE TO STUDY. HERE ARE SOME KEY QUESTIONS TO GET YOU THINKING.

CHOOSING A COURSE

Whether you decide to take a subject you already enjoy further, or try something completely new - there's lots to think about when making your choice:

- Which subject area are you most interested in?
- Do you have an aptitude for this subject?
- Do you have a career in mind? Will this course help you achieve this goal?
- Would you like to choose one subject (single honours) e.g. english literature or combine subjects (joint honours) e.g. criminology and sociology?
- What type of degree would you like, e.g. BA, BSc, LLB, BEng, MEng?
- Would you like to study full time or part time?
- How about a foundation year?
- Does the course have professional recognition? For example, a degree programme might be accredited by a professional body such as the Institution of Engineering and Technology (engineering courses).
- Do you want to complete a placement year (sometimes called a year in industry or a sandwich year)? If so, does the course offer this opportunity?
- What is the course content?
- How is the course delivered? What proportion of lectures, seminars and tutorials will you have?
- How many contact hours will you have per week?
- How is the course assessed (exams, essays or presentations)?
- How much academic support is available?
- If you are considering a gap year, does the course accept deferred entry?



CHOOSING A UNIVERSITY

Whether a city or campus, close to home or far away - each university is unique. It's important that you choose the right one for you.

- Which universities offer your course?
- What are the entry requirements? Do you also need relevant work experience?
- What is the reputation of the university and relevant course at the institution?
- Where is the university? How far away from home do you want to be?
- Would you prefer a campus or city-based university? What is the local city or town like?
- What financial help is available from the university? What are the living costs?
- What is the accommodation like? Is first-year accommodation guaranteed? What about subsequent years?
- What are the facilities like? Do they cater for your sport? What is the library like? How active is the Students' Union? What is student life like?
- How many students does the university have?

AND REMEMBER...

There are a variety of tools available to assist you in making an informed decision. Attending open days, higher education fairs and making the most of the many online resources available should help you select the most appropriate course and university for you. Research is key!

The following websites may help your decision-making process:

Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS):

ucas.com

Guardian league tables:

theguardian.com/education/universityguide

Times league tables:

thetimes.co.uk

Advice on courses and universities:

thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk

Taster day opportunities:

unitasterdays.com

Online student community:

thestudentroom.co.uk

Information about open day dates:

opendays.com

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