



Virtual Higher Education Day: Choosing A Degree Course & University

Please use the information and links below if you'd like to go to university after upper sixth. If you'd prefer an apprenticeship, a separate careers resource is available on this subject.

Choosing a subject to study

What to think about:

- Are you enjoying your current subjects and would you like to study for a related degree?
- What key skills do you have? Try UCAS's Buzz quiz: www.ucas.com/buzz-quiz This is designed to help you identify what you like and what you could do for a career.
- Which subject/s could lead to a career that interests you? Use the Prospects website to find out about the jobs that different degrees can lead to: <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree>
- Would you like to take a degree that's more general and leaves your job options open (such as psychology), or would you prefer to take a specialist or vocational course (like nursing) which would lead to a particular job or small range of jobs?
- Which degree subjects could your current A levels/BTECs lead to? Use the Informed Choices website to get some ideas: <https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/subjects>
- Advice from UCAS on choosing an undergraduate degree can be found here: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/choosing-course/choosing-undergraduate-course>

Using the UCAS course search tool

This will let you find out which universities offer your chosen subject by showing all those that run the same degree at the same time.

- Go to <https://digital.ucas.com/search>
- In the search box, enter the subject you're interested in studying.
- Make sure 'study level' is set to 'undergraduate'.
- At the moment, information isn't available for 2021 starts, so choose '2020-2021' as the entry year. This will still give you a good idea of your choices.
- Click go. All the universities that offer the subject will be listed.
 - If a university offers more than 3 related courses, you will need to click 'more undergraduate courses' to see the rest.
 - You can filter your results using the 'Filters' button on the top left of the screen. Scroll down to choose where you want to study, to see the UCAS tariff points needed, or to select a specific university.



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- To take a closer look at any listed course, click on its title.
 - Scroll down to read the course summary, some basic module information, to check the entry requirements, and to find out about the provider.
- If you like the look of the course, click 'Visit our course page' to see full information about that degree on the university's website.
- Do this for any university or degree subject that you are interested in. Keep a note of what you find out. The section below will help you decide where to apply.

Choosing between courses at different universities

Advice from UCAS on choosing between different courses and universities can be found here: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/choosing-course/how-choose-between-undergraduate-courses-and-unis>

You can use each university's website to:

1. Look at the content of the course e.g. modules/units. These vary between institutions depending on the expertise of the lecturers.
2. Find out how the course is assessed. What style of teaching will be used e.g. modular coursework or exams. Does this suit your style of study?
3. Find out about progression after the course. What sort of jobs do students get after the degree? How many get into graduate jobs? What support could you get from the careers service in making choices after your degree?
4. See if the course offers work placements, study abroad options etc. Is this important to you?
5. Decide where you want to study. You may not be able to visit potential universities but you can use Google Maps to get an idea of the area, and many universities offer virtual tours online: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/open-days-and-events/virtual-tours>
6. Find out about the facilities on offer: accommodation, libraries, student union, clubs & societies - how do these compare? Is this an important factor for you?
7. Find out about student support: what help does the university offer to students e.g. welfare, careers, housing, employment, enhancements, work experience etc.

You could also:

- See what current students say about the course. Check out their comments on Unistats (higher education statistics) and also compare student satisfaction scores, percentage of course work, teaching hours, etc. www.unistats.direct.gov.uk
- Check out university league tables such as The Times Online www.timeshighereducation.com and The Complete University Guide www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk. Be aware that they only report on specific criteria. Are these important to you?



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- See if the university has had any recent awards. All universities have had a TEF inspection looking at teaching excellence. What did they get - gold, silver or bronze?

Your 5 university choices

By the time you start upper sixth, you should know which courses you want to apply to and at which universities. You can apply to 5 universities but should be applying for similar courses at each one, not 5 completely different subjects.

The entry requirements listed on UCAS and the university's website are the minimum requirement for that course. If your predicted grades do not match a university's entry requirements it's very likely they will reject your application.

Your 5 choices should include a back-up option: a university with slightly lower entry requirements, just in case you don't get the grades you've been predicted. Please choose a university and course that you would be willing to take up.

If you have any further questions, or would like support from the careers team, please email us using careers@notredamecoll.ac.uk