Going into Higher Education?

How to choose a university?

How could I apply?

How much it will cost



**Research activity**

**Year 3 level-2**

**Part 1: Researching higher education**

Write down a list of maximum five **subjects or courses** - the ones you want to explore further.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Subject / course details  | Website /URL  |
| 1) |  |
| 2) |  |
| 3) |  |
| 4) |  |
| 5) |  |

**Useful source: UCAS’ search toll** [**https://digital.ucas.com/search**](https://digital.ucas.com/search)

**Unistats website**. <https://discoveruni.gov.uk>

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Entry requirements | Subject/course 1 | Subject/course 2 | Subject/course 3 | Subject/course 4 | Subject/course 5  |
| 1) Does the course match my interests?  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2) Cost  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3)Professional accreditation  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4) Open days  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Part 2: Research apprenticeships**

Write down a list the apprenticeship you are interested in, the ones you want to explore further.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Job role apprenticeship | Website /URL |
| 1) |  |
| 2) |  |
| 3) |  |

Information about higher and degree apprenticeships on UCAS’ website [**www.ucas.com/apprenticeships**](http://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships).

**Find vacancies for the job roles you’re interested in**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Find out  | Option 1 | Option 2  | Option 3 | Option 4 | Option 5 |
| Job/role description  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Who is the employer?  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Entry requirements |  |  |  |  |  |
| The three most positive/negative aspects of this role? |  |  |  |  |  |
| What skills, experience are they looking for? |  |  |  |  |  |

**Part 3: Researching gap year**

Write down a list of the keys things you want to achieve, and the key features you want to include in a gap year.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Key things I want to achieve | Key features I want to include |
| 1) |  |
| 2) |  |
| 3) |  |
| 4) |  |
| 5) |  |

**Things to do before starting university**

To ensure the move to university goes as smoothly as possible, ensure you have made the necessary preparations.

**Arrange accommodation :** To get started, read our guide on [what you need to know about student accommodation](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/applying-for-university/university-life/what-you-need-to-know-about-student-accommodation).

Sort out your finances: If you're planning to receive government-funded [student finance](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/applying-for-university/student-loans-and-finance), you next need to get in touch with the relevant Student Finance body to get the ball rolling:

* [Student Finance England](https://www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance)
* [Student Finance Wales](https://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/)
* [Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS)](https://www.saas.gov.uk/)
* [Student Finance NI](https://www.studentfinanceni.co.uk/)

**Organise a railcard:** A 16-25 railcard, taking a third off the price of all train fares, could save you some serious cash if you're planning on visiting home or friends at other universities throughout the term. The card costs just £30 per year, or £70 for three years.

**Get reading:**

Many universities put their reading lists online weeks before their courses begin, or will send you the details via email. This will give you an idea of what to expect from your workload, and getting a head start on reading will build your confidence for lectures.

**Get to know the area:** Try and visit the university before you start so you know what to expect, it's a good idea to have a look around while you're visiting for an open day.

Once you've moved, use your spare time before the start of term to locate your nearest train station, local shops and GP surgery, as well as your campus library, students' union and lecture buildings.



If you’re considering **higher education**, you’ll need to decide what subject, course type, and course provider is right for you. Here are some tips and advice to help you.

**Choosing a subject**

It’s important you choose a subject you enjoy and will help you reach your goals. Here are some things to help you choose the right subject for you:

* Think about what you enjoy day-to-day – maybe this could be part of a future job role?
* Explore different job sites and graduate career options to look for ideas on what you’d like to do once you've finished your studies.
* Think about your career goals and the qualifications required as part of a person specification.
* [Take a look at our subject guides](https://www.ucas.com/ucas/subject-guide-list) to get an idea of the types of subjects you could study, and the industries graduates go on to work in.
* [Search for courses by subject](https://digital.ucas.com/search) to see what's available.

Make sure you read the course descriptions carefully, and click through to university websites for further information.

## ****Types of undergraduate course****

Here are some examples of the types of undergraduate courses you can do.

1. Bachelor degree courses
2. Foundation years
3. Diploma in foundation studies
4. Foundation degrees
5. Degree or graduate level apprenticeship

**Choosing where to study**

You could choose to study at a UK higher education college instead of a university – [find out more](https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/studying-uk-college).

**Here are five top tips to help you when choosing where to study:**

1. [Attend an open day](https://www.ucas.com/ucas/events/find/type/open-day) or if you can't visit in person, you can [go to an online open day](https://www.ucas.com/ucas/events/find/scheme/virtual-and-digital/type/open-day) – we cannot recommend this enough. It’s an opportunity for you to meet the course tutors, see the facilities, and explore the area.
2. If you can’t attend an open day, explore the campus with a [virtual tour](https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/open-days-and-events/virtual-tours).
3. [Check the application deadline](https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/ucas-undergraduate-when-apply) – some universities and courses have a different application deadline, so make sure you know the deadline associated to your chosen course or uni.
4. [Check the entry requirements](https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/ucas-undergraduate-entry-requirements) – different courses and universities will have different entry requirements, which you can check on the course listing in our search tool. Some universities and colleges make contextual offers. This is where the university or college considers any barriers you may face, and will either reduce their grade requirements or give extra consideration when deciding whether to give you an offer. [Check out this blog for more information](https://www.ucas.com/connect/blogs/what-contextual-admissions).

