



Introduction into researching a degree course

Activity overview

This video-led activity will ease your students into thinking about university and encourage them to use the Which? University website to search for courses.

Learning objectives

- ▶ To enable students to ascertain what is important to them about their prospective university course and therefore effectively search for courses and universities that fit in with their chosen criteria.

Activity

- ▶ Ice-breaker activity: give students two minutes to discuss in pairs what they think is important to them when choosing a university course, then feed back to the class as a whole.
- ▶ Visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bNtWsNhhtE to watch the short video clip where current students talk about what was important to them when choosing their university course.
- ▶ Complete the worksheet, asking students to discuss their results with their neighbour.
- ▶ Go round the class asking which word students had put down to describe how they would be feeling about going to university. Some students could be asked to elaborate on why they feel like this to delve deeper into any nerves and allay any fears.
- ▶ If there are ICT facilities available, students could log on to www.which.co.uk/courses to start searching for possible courses. Alternatively, if no computers are available, go through the tool with the whole class then task them with searching for suitable courses in their own time, possibly feeding back at an agreed date. You may want to signpost students to other sources of information such as university prospectuses or league table guides.

AT A GLANCE

★ **Age group**
16-18

★ **Activity type**
Worksheet-based discussion

★ **Suggested subject setting**
This activity will work well during form time or a tutor period, or as part of a general studies programme or Careers teaching programme

★ **Student resources**
Worksheet: Introduction into researching a degree course

Suggestions for 11-14

- ▶ Students could be tasked with thinking about what is important to them for their sixth form, whether they would consider moving to a different sixth form or a further education college and if so, why.

Suggestions for 14-16

- ▶ Teacher-led activity with students being guided through the university profile search tool: www.which.co.uk/unisearch to enable them to look into different types of universities.

Extension activities

- ▶ For 11-14 – Show students how to find out more about what studying their favourite subject would involve at degree level using these in-depth degree subject guides: www.which.co.uk/courses.
- ▶ For 14-16 – As a follow-on activity, ask students to look up different university profiles and explore student reviews: www.which.co.uk/unisearch.
- ▶ For 16-18 – Once students have an idea of where and what they might want to study, you can talk them through the course search tool to help them create a shortlist of potential courses. Focus on exploring key comparative stats such as the percentage of applicants receiving an offer, typical entry requirements, student satisfaction and graduate prospects and salary expectations: www.which.co.uk/unishortlist.

Discovering more

- ▶ Top degree subjects for graduate starting salaries: www.which.co.uk/graduatesalaries
- ▶ Keep up to date, sign up for the newsletter: www.which.co.uk/uninewsletters
- ▶ Join Which? University on Facebook: www.facebook.com/WhichUniversity
- ▶ Follow Which? University on Twitter: www.twitter.com/WhichuniUK
- ▶ Students can be encouraged to use the online Ucas tariff calculator to see what sort of offer range they should be looking at: www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/entry-requirements/tariff/calculator