

LESSON PLAN

EFFECTIVE RESEARCH FOR FUTURE OPTIONS

Relevant Tools: Subject and Industry Guides

Suggested Age Group: 14 -16

Time: 45 minutes (*can be run in shorter sections*)

Equipment: Students should have individual computer access

Benchmarks

Gatsby Benchmark 3: Addressing the needs of each pupil.

Gatsby Benchmark 4: Linking curriculum learning to careers.

CDI Framework 2: Explore possibilities.

Objective

Students will develop essential research skills to explore subjects, courses, universities, apprenticeships, and labour market trends, helping them make informed decisions about their future.

Key Learning Outcomes

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Identify reliable sources of information for academic and career research.
- Use effective strategies to compare courses, universities, and apprenticeships.
- Understand labour market trends and how they impact career choices.

OBJECTIVE 1

Identify reliable sources of information for academic and career research.

Starter Question: Why is it important to explore all your options before making decisions about your future?

Task 1: In pairs/groups discuss reliable sources of information and explain how research helps in making informed decisions using the slide deck provided.

Task 2: Show them **UCAS Ultimate Guide: How to decide your next steps**.

OBJECTIVE 2

Use effective strategies to compare courses, universities, and apprenticeships.

Starter Question: What's important to me?

Task 3: Discuss in pairs/groups what to consider when thinking about different pathways and subjects using the slide deck as a guide.

Task 4: Students choose one subject from the **UCAS Subject Guides** to find out:

1. What are the study options?
2. Where can that subject take you in a career?
3. What other subjects could you be interested in?

Group Discussion: Did anything surprise them about that subject?
Did they see different careers they hadn't thought of?

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OBJECTIVE 3

Understand labour market trends and how they impact career choices.

Starter Question: What information should I consider when I'm exploring my options?

Task 5: Students choose one industry in the **UCAS Industry Guides** and find out:

1. What opportunities are available?
2. What is the average salary?
3. How many people are employed in the UK in that area?

Group Discussion: In pairs or small groups, discuss what factors might influence your career choices. Is salary a top priority? Are there limited job opportunities in that field? What other considerations might be important to you?

Task 6: Present Labour Market Information using the slide deck provided, highlighting how it can guide and support students in making informed decisions.

Reflection

Looking back at Task 3 and considering what matters most to them, did students find anything in the online guides that matched their personal criteria? This could include factors like study preferences, earning potential, lifestyle goals, or anything else they identified as important.

Next Steps

Why not complete a **Subject Taster** in the UCAS Hub as homework?
They get a certificate at the end.

Supporting Resources

UCAS Ultimate Guide: www.ucas.com/your-next-steps

UCAS Subject Guides: www.ucas.com/subjects

UCAS Industry Guides: www.ucas.com/industry-guides

UCAS Subject Tasters: www.ucas.com/subject-tasters

Access to Supporting Slide Deck: www.ucas.com/early-careers-lesson-plans

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