Choosing the right course for you
What to consider?

- **Style** – from traditional with a focus on subject-based courses and research, to more modern universities with a greater focus on vocational courses.

- **Location** – some are based in large cities, others in smaller towns - a major influence on the environment and lifestyle on offer.

- **Size** – larger universities can have more than 20,000 students, some of the smallest have only a few thousand.

- **Culture and facilities** – influenced by a range of factors, including the diversity of students who attend.

- **What graduates do** – all universities collect graduate destination statistics. It can be interesting to find out the types of jobs or further study students go on to.

- **Tuition fees** – can vary between course providers. Check if there are any scholarships/bursaries available.

- **Living costs** – accommodation, transport, and food can vary enormously.
Types of courses available

- **Single**: study one subject.
- **Sandwich courses**: one year in industry or a year abroad.
- **Foundation year**: if you don’t have the right qualifications, some universities and colleges offer this to help you prepare.
- **Joint honours degree**: divide your time 50:50 between two subjects.
- **Major/Minor**: study two subjects, normally at a 75:25 rate.
- **Combined honours programme**: study between two to four subjects, specialising in just two subjects in years two and three.
- **Modular courses**: build a personalised course by choosing the modules you’re interested in.
What does the course cover?

• Courses with the same title may be very different.

• Look carefully at the core course content and the range of optional studies/modules available.

• Which modules are the most interesting and relevant to your career aspirations?

• If you’re looking to go into a particular profession, check whether the course gives you the accreditation you may need.

• See if the course or university/college offers any internship, placement, or study abroad opportunities.
How is it taught and assessed?

• Courses usually combine lectures, seminars, tutorials, and practicals; some have a greater emphasis on self-directed research and learning.

• Think about your preferred learning style.

• Do you prefer more structured teaching or more time completing your own research?

• How many lectures are there and how much group work will be done in seminars?

• Who are the tutors? What subject areas do they specialise in?

• Are tutors' experts in the areas you want to learn about?

• Universities use a whole range of assessment methods including exams, project work, presentations (individual or in groups), practical assessment, and dissertations.

• Think about what works best for you. What will help you succeed?
Get organised:
Tools to search, favourite, shortlist, reflect, and build your application.

Define what’s important:
Distance from home, teaching satisfaction, work experience options, job outcomes...

Make it yours:
Tick off your to-do list, build your favourites, join in Hub lives and take our quiz. It’s your space, and your future.

You might not have thought of...
Expand horizons by pushing options you might not have considered.

UCAS Hub
Starting your research

Register with the UCAS Hub to:

• explore careers, subjects, places, and apprenticeships
• find and favourite over 35,000 courses
• search for open days, online events and virtual tours
• turn predicted grades into UCAS Tariff points
• speak to those in the know using Unibuddy
• speak to career, higher education, and application specialists by attending the Hub lives
• take the UCAS Quiz to find your career matches
• start an application for 2024 entry (from May 2023)
Tools to help

Search and favourite courses
Search for courses, view your top five choices, and manage and edit your favourites.

Go to my Hub

Explore and favourite options
Explore and favourite subjects, locations, uni and colleges, and courses.

Go to my Hub
Tools to help

UCAS Hub lives
Join our live sessions hosted by expert panels.
Ask questions to help you make an informed decision.

UCAS Discovery
Talk to subject and admissions experts, discover apprenticeships, find open days and more! Discover a world of opportunities.
Tools to help

UCAS Quiz
Find job and career ideas matched to your personality.
Plus a list of courses previous students studied in order to get there.

Accommodation
High on the list when considering where to study, but it’s not always easy to compare what’s on offer.
Understand what options there are using our accommodation search.
UCAS Search
Additional help

UCAS Customer Experience Centre:
0371 468 0 468

From outside the UK:
+44 330 3330 230

Monday to Friday, 08:30 – 18:00 (UK time)

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