How to start researching what’s right for you
University or College

Study and learn from experts in their fields. An opportunity for independence and to experience all aspects of student life as you develop essential skills for your future career.

Things to consider:

• Are you going to pursue a favourite subject or try something new?
• Check the entry requirements for courses you’re interested in.
• Do you have specific career aspirations, if so check if you need any specific subjects or qualifications.
Apprenticeship

A great way to learn the skills and experience needed for many careers. Earn a wage and continue studying at a higher level.

Things to consider:

• You’re training for a specific job; you need to be confident you’re ready to start work.
• Find out as much as you can about the job role, and the career progression routes it could lead to.
• Competition can be tough - there’s limited numbers of vacancies available.
• You can apply for an apprenticeship and university at the same time.
Internship

Think of an internship programme like a fixed period of work experience – it gives you the opportunity to improve your understanding of a particular job or industry.

Things to consider:
• What do you want to get out of it?
• Will you be paid or unpaid? Understand your situation from the start.
• Competition for places is high, so you need to apply early.
Gap year

Can be a good choice if you are undecided about university, not sure what to do in the future or just want a break from full-time education.

Things to consider:

• You need to set goals to make your time productive.
• Decide what you want to achieve.
• What value will add to your university study, your CV or career.
• Do thorough research into costs, value and practicalities.
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.
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)
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)

Stay up to date online at:
facebook.com/ucasonline
twitter.com/UCAS_online