



HIGHER EDUCATION

UCAS APPLY

Choices available

- Higher education
- Higher/Degree Apprenticeships and traineeships
- Studying abroad
- Gap year
- Getting a job

Understand the options available and make choices that are right for you.

Visit ucas.com/alternatives

Why choose HE?



Essential for some career paths.



Develop new transferable skills and subject knowledge.



Increase your confidence and independence.



Broaden your experiences.



Show yourself what you can do.



Invest in your future.

CHOICES

1. What?
2. Where?

RESEARCH IS VITAL

- 6.7% - drop out after first year (range = 0.8% - 23.8%)
- 31% - definitely/maybe chosen another course
- 87% - fairly/very satisfied with course
- Not possible to visit many universities at the moment
- Virtual tours
- Student case studies

CHOOSING A COURSE

Thousands available!

3 main options:

1. Similar/related to A level subject
2. Related to an extra-curricular interest
3. In preparation for a future career

UNIVERSITY COURSES

- Bachelor's / Master's degree
- Foundation degree
- Higher National Certificate (HNC) & Higher National Diploma (HND)
- Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) & Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)

TYPES OF DEGREES

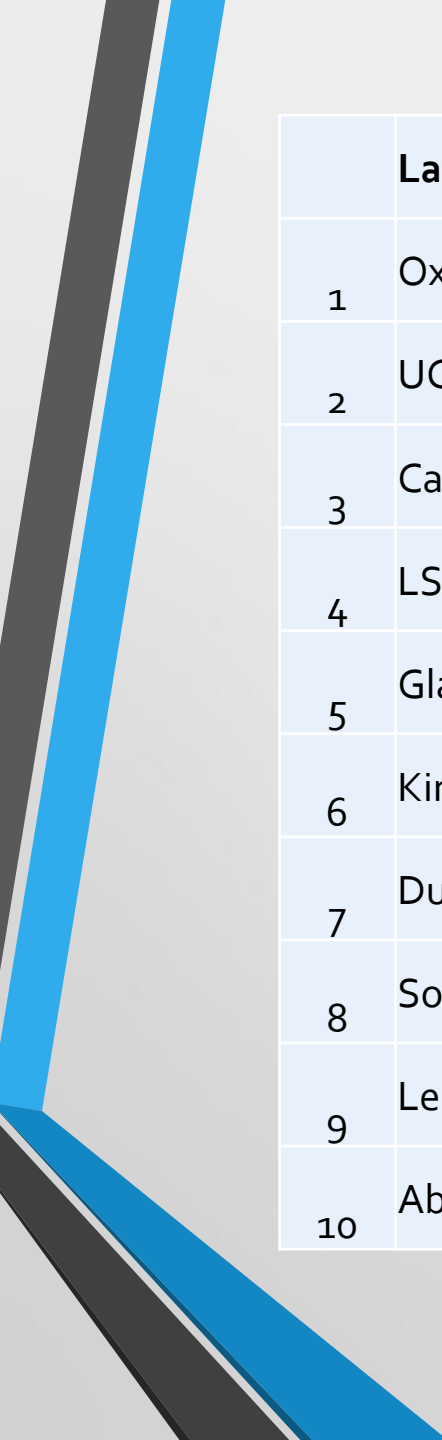
1. Single Subject
2. Joint honours
3. Major/Minor
4. Combined
5. Modular
6. Sandwich

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A COURSE

- What is the subject all about?
- What is different about this course compared to others?
- How big is the department?
- How is the course taught?
- How will my work be assessed and examined?
- What is the drop out/failure rate?
- What are the career/job prospects like for course graduates?

The Guardian's Top 10 entry 2021 (= 2020)

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Oxford (3) | 6. Bath (6) |
| 2. St Andrews (2) | 7. Loughborough (4) |
| 3. Cambridge (1) | 8. Warwick (9) |
| 4. Durham (5) | 9. Imperial (7) |
| 5. LSE (19) | 10. Lancaster (7) |



	Law	Chemistry	Mech Eng	French
1	Oxford	Oxford	Bristol	Oxford
2	UCL	Durham	Imperial	Cambridge
3	Cambridge	Lincoln	Bath	St Andrews
4	LSE	St Andrews	Leeds	Durham
5	Glasgow	Bristol	Loughborough	Surrey
6	King's	York	Southampton	Southampton
7	Durham	Lancaster	Strathclyde	Aberystwyth
8	Solent	Sussex	Trinity St David	Warwick
9	Leeds	Loughborough	Heriot-Watt	Leicester
10	Aberdeen	Surrey	Sheffield	Sheffield Hallam

NSS Student (Satisfaction) Survey 2020

1	Brighton and Sussex Medical School	96.4
2	University of St Andrews	92.7
3	Conservatoire for Dance and Drama	92.3
4	Writtle University College	91.8
5	University of Law	90.7
6	Stranmillis University College	90.7
7	Harper Adams University	90.4
8	Robert Gordon University	90
9	Aberystwyth University	89.9
10	Guildhall School of Music and Drama	89.8
11	Abertay University	89.2
12	Swansea University	88.9
13	Royal Academy of Music	88.7
14	Loughborough University	88.7
15	University of Bath	88.3

Searching for a course:

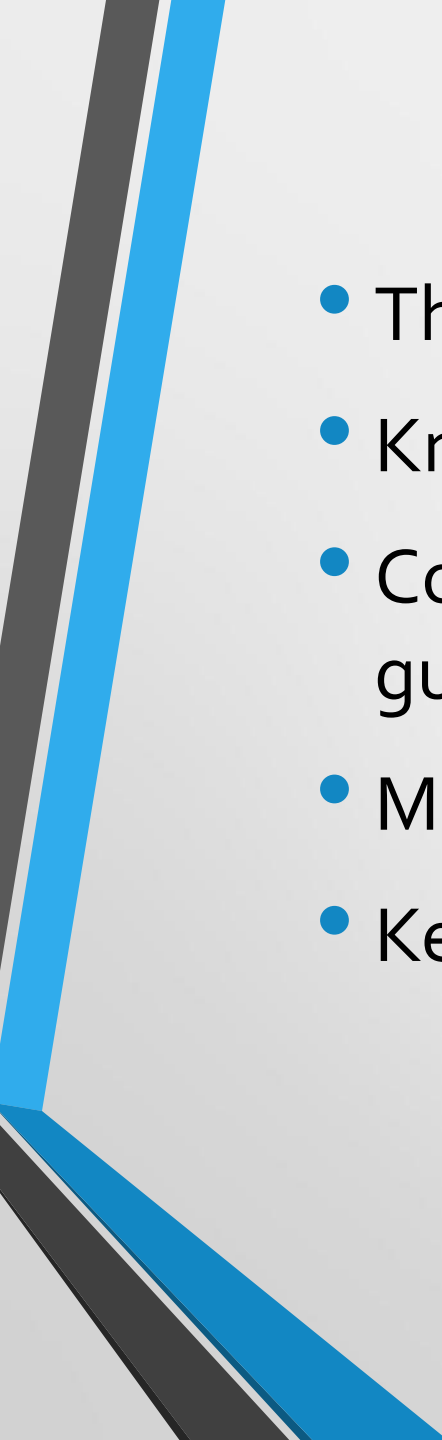
- Takes time
- Is about you
- You don't have to have a career in mind
- Course content is key
- Pick the right **type** of course
- Use official data but beware
- **Check entry requirements carefully (including GCSE)**
- Explore funding opportunities

Where to study

- The course
- The place
- Transport
- Support
- Facilities
- Accommodation
- Costs
- Graduate prospects

University of Exeter Partnership



- 
- There's no 'best' university
 - Know yourself
 - Consult websites, prospectuses & course guides
 - Make a shortlist
 - Keep asking questions

WEBSITES

www.ucas.com

www.ucas.com/what-are-my-options/create-your-ucas-hub-today

- Subject & city guides
- Personal statement advice
- Chat to current students (<https://unibuddy.com>)
- Virtual open days
- Alternatives to HE



www.discoveruni.gov.uk

www.ukcoursefinder.com

www.theuniguide.co.uk/

www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk

Top tips for applications

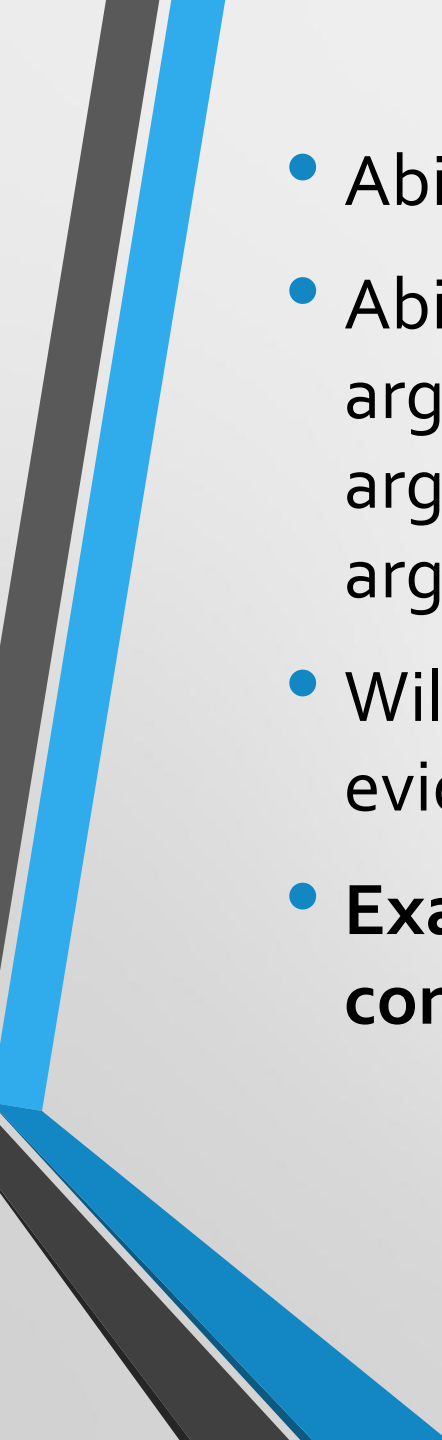
- Don't rush it
- Know the deadlines
- Respect your referee (form tutor)
- Extra info needed? (EPQ, 4th subject, co-curricular)
- Oxbridge / MDV / some Art & Design
- You are not alone
- Keep track

Personal Statements

DO NOT PLAGIARISE.

Universities are looking for:

- A clear understanding of what the course entails
- Commitment to the discipline (includes broad reading and extra curricular activities)
- Commitment to the study of X, coupled with curiosity about the study of a diverse range of X

- 
- Ability to make connections between X and Y
 - Ability to develop independent opinions and arguments on X, and use them to sustain an argument, identify weaknesses in other arguments and respond to criticisms
 - Willingness to think creatively about using evidence from a range of sources
 - **Examples are key – demonstrate by using concrete evidence > evaluate > reflect**

PRE-A LEVEL UNCONDITIONAL OFFERS – should be greatly reduced or non-existent this year

- 😊 you know exactly where you're going
- 😞 could coast to lower grades – not good on CV
- 😞 could make the wrong choice
- 😞 feel pressured to make a decision / direct contact from unis (just say no)
- **ONLY ACCEPT AN UNCONDITIONAL OFFER IF YOU WOULD HAVE ACCEPTED IT AS A CONDITIONAL OFFER**

FINANCE

- Not our problem!
- www.gov.uk/student-finance
- www.grantfairy.com
 - GrantFairy is a scholarship app which matches students with thousands of scholarships and bursaries to help pay university tuition fees and living expenses.

DEADLINES/DATES

- Personal statements – OMDVs: first draft NOW
- Tuesday 21 September – final submission of all Oxbridge (min 1 (2)), MDVs (min 4)
- Tuesday 16 November – final submission of all other applications
- Tuesday 16 November – final submission date for any prediction upgrades
- NB: Conservatoires/foreign universities have their own deadlines – **your** responsibility to know them

DEADLINES/DATES 2022

25 February – Extra opens

TBC by UCAS – confirm your CF/CI for decisions received by TBC, usually 31 March

30 June – Clearing opens


Thursday 18 August TBC – A Level Results Day

Adjustment

- Thursday 18 August TBC - Adjustment opens
- <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/apply-and-track/results/ucas-adjustment-if-youve-done-better-expected>

Your application

- Please see the **Checklist for 2022 applicants and list of qualifications with board – use these**



UCAS APPLY
BUZZWORD for entry
2022 or 2023 (deferred)

clocktower2022