

Is University The Right Choice For You?

Financial and Careers Benefits

Graduates have more career options.

A university graduate could earn up to £400 000 more during their working life than someone who didn't go to university.

Some jobs are only open to graduates e.g. doctors / teachers.

Graduates enjoy accelerated promotion prospects.

Graduates have the competitive edge in the job market; they are well equipped for jobs requiring knowledge and analytical skills.

Personal Benefits

Develop intellectual and practical talents and skills which employers value, e.g. Reasoning, Communication, Team work, Problem solving and Presentation.

Expand your knowledge of subjects which interest you.

Make new friends.

Live independently.

Making an informed choice

Explore all possible options.

Ask all the questions you need to ask.

What type of course?

Subject based or vocational? i.e. leading directly to a profession or further professional training e.g. engineering, nursing, architecture, medicine.

A subject you enjoyed and were good at school or a totally new subject.

Single or joint subject degree combination?

Integrated work experience/sandwich courses?

Which university?

Campus or city centre?

Large or small? Many larger universities are now multi-campus and offer a similar experience to smaller ones.

Home or away? Scotland or elsewhere in the U.K or abroad.

Accommodation type, cost and availability? Are you guaranteed accommodation in your first year?

Leisure, sport and social facilities? Have they got what you are looking for?

Academic year (semesters or trimesters)

Assessment systems (balance of continuous assessment/end of course exams + finals system. Spread over two years or dependent on exams taken at the end of the year)? Which will suit you?

Academic reputation and graduate employment record.

Scholarships/ sponsorship? Some universities offer bursaries to students who meet certain criteria.

Opportunities for part-time work.

Which course?

Look at the university prospectuses and other information in the careers library.

Look at UCAS entry profiles (www.ucas.com). Entry Profiles provide details about courses, about the university or college offering each course, and about the information you need concerning their entry qualifications, selection criteria and admissions policy.

The UCAS website has all the relevant info you required for the whole process.

Look at the <http://www.theguardian.com/education/ng-interactive/2016/may/23/university-league-tables-2017> which lists the top universities for each course.

Read what students think about their universities at http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/wiki/A-Z_of_Universities

Look at www.push.co.uk which gives a humorous, ruthless and honest guide to all UK universities.

Look up www.whatuni.com which not only gives information on courses but also gives students reviews of universities ranging from facilities through accommodation to nightlife.

Look up <http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/> which lists everything you need to know about choosing UK universities and courses, the top universities in the country by subject, finance and much more.

Speak to **Guidance staff** or **Careers Advisor** at school - **Attend university open days.**

Deferred entry

It is possible to apply for university and defer entry until the following academic year. You might want to consider this if you are planning to take a gap year or are working to earn money to help fund your time at university. Before choosing to do so, **it is important to contact the university and check whether they are willing to offer you a deferred place.**

There are fewer deferred entry courses than in previous years.

Entry qualifications

University prospectuses will detail the **minimum** entry qualifications for each course.

The entrance requirements for some universities are listed as tariff points instead of a number of Highers at specific grades. This allows universities to compare exam results from different parts of the UK. Below is a table of Tariff points for Scottish Qualifications. **Normally, universities will only consider passes at Higher and Advanced Higher levels.**

Check for **specific subject** entry requirements on the UCAS Course Search facility to see whether all of your points can be used for entry to the courses you are interested in applying to.

View the tariff table for all UK qualifications on the UCAS website.

<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/entry-requirements/tariff-2016/new-tariff-2017>

Scottish Qualifications - Tariff points

Points	Advanced Higher	Higher
56	A	-
48	B	-
40	C	-
33	-	A
32	D	-
27	-	B
21	-	C
15	-	D
Points	Scottish Baccalaureate	
28	A	
24	B	
20	C	