CHOOSING YOUR UNIVERSITY & COURSE
What we’ll cover today

Choosing a Course
Choosing a University
Applying to university
Life at university
Higher education

What?

• Generally refers to university level education.
• Includes many different routes across vocational and academic pathways such as degree apprenticeships.
• Options include a degree, foundation year, Higher National Diploma (HND) or Certificate (HNC).

Why?

• Study something you are passionate about in depth.
• Boost your chances of employment and earn more.
• Become more independent.
• New opportunities, experiences and friends.
Choosing a course
Choosing a Course

- Favourite subjects
- Hobbies or other interests
- Dream Job
- Career Prospects
- Work Experience
Choosing a Course

Guess the Degree

Natalie Portman
Natalie Portman-Actress

JK Rowling
Author

Chris Martin
Lead Singer Coldplay

John Legend
Singer and song writer
Choosing a Course

Some careers don’t require a specific undergraduate degree

**Careers that require a specific degree**

- Engineering
- Medicine, nursing, dentistry and related fields
- Sciences
- Veterinary science

**Careers that don’t require a specific degree**

- Accounting
- Advertising, public relations and marketing
- Construction
- Hospitality and travel management
- Human resources
- Investment banking
- IT
- Management consulting
- Publishing and media
- Retail banking, insurance and actuarial
- Sales
- And many others!
Choosing a university
Choosing a University

- Course content - exams vs coursework
- University culture
- Support available to students
- Location and campus(es)
- Accommodation available
- Living costs in the area
- Travel to and from university
Course content

Modules differ across universities

**History BA (Hons)**  
*Plymouth University*

- **Modules (Year 1)**
  - HIST403PP Re-making History (20 credits) - Core
  - HIST401 What is History? (20 credits) - Core
  - HIST407 World History since 1850 (20 credits) - Core
  - HIST406 America from settlement to Empire (20 credits) - Core
  - HIST405 Culture, Society and Politics in Britain 1640-1900 (20 credits) - Core
  - HIST402 Making History: Revolutions Causes and Processes (20 credits) - Core

**History BA (Hons)**  
*Nottingham Trent University*

- **Modules (Year 1)**
  - Into the Past
  - Medieval and Early Modern Worlds
  - Creating the Modern
  - World History
Location and campus

• City, Coast or Countryside
• Campus or Non-Campus
• Facilities
University culture & Support (Student life)

- Students’ Union, Societies, and Clubs
- Employability Service
- Sports
- Counselling and Mental Health Support
- Disability and Dyslexia Support
- Academic Writing and Numeracy Support
- Childcare
Halls, Housing or Home

- University accommodation
- Living at home
- Private accommodation
Private rented Housing

- 6 bed shared house in Hyde Park
- Rooms available to rent individually
- All-inclusive at £109 pppw
Staying at Home

• There are pros and cons to commuting to university
• Universities will have plans in place to support students who commute.
Rankings

League Tables

• Tend to combine measures such as proportion of graduates with 2:1 or above, entry standards, research quality, and more
• Important to look at subject rankings – university ranking will differ between subjects.
• Useful when taken into consideration alongside other factors.

What is the Russell Group?

• A group of 24 elite UK universities committed to maintaining excellent academic standards in both teaching and research
• Its members mostly dominate the top of the university league tables
Applying to University
HOW IT WORKS:

Applying to a UK university or college

1. Apply online
   - Find courses in the UCAS search tool. Check entry requirements and application deadlines.
     - 15 October – all courses at Oxford, Cambridge and most courses in medicine, veterinary science/medicine and dentistry.
     - 15 January – the majority of courses.

2. Wait to hear back
   - The universities or colleges will decide whether to make you an offer. It'll be either unconditional if you've already met the entry requirements, or conditional if the offer is based on your exam results.

3. Reply to your offers
   - If you're not accepted by all five universities or colleges, or you decline the offers you receive, you can use Extra to apply for more choices, one at a time.

4. Find out if you've got your place
   - You'll see in Track if your place is confirmed.
     - If your firm choice is unconditional – the place is yours!
     - If your place is conditional, the university or college will update your status when they have your exam results or other evidence that you've met the conditions.
     - You may be unsuccessful if you don't meet the conditions – in this case you can use Clearing to apply for more courses.

Once all the decisions are in, you have to reply to your offers by a specific deadline.
- Select a firm choice - this is your first choice.
- If your firm choice is conditional, select an insurance choice too, if you want – this is a backup choice in case you don't meet the conditions for your firm choice.
- Decline any other offers.

If you do better than expected, and meet and exceed the conditions of your firm choice, you can look for an alternative course using Adjustment, if you want to.
UCAS Undergraduate Apply 2021 will be open in June – so you can start filling in your application, ready to send it on its way to the universities from September 2020.

- Go to [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com).
- Click on register – undergraduate registration – register and apply.
- You have a maximum of 5 choices (four in medicine, dentistry or veterinary science).
- There is no order of preference and the universities cannot see where else you have applied.

Tip: Make sure you have a sensible email address – ie not hotchick22@hotmail.com
UCAS top tips

1. Make sure you know the ‘buzzword’ for your school/college.

2. Don’t try to fill it in all at once, take your time.

3. Have the information ready – passport, dates of education, exact qualification names and exam boards.

4. Write your personal statement in a word doc first.

5. You do not have to complete the sections in order and you can save partially completed sections at any time.
Life at university
Studying

Biggest Change between School/ College and University

Independent Study
• Your own responsibility

Courses are generally taught through
• Lectures
• Seminars
• Tutorials

If you anticipate the change in study, you will feel more prepared
Social life

• Parties, going out

• Clubs and societies:
  Sports Teams
  Social Societies
  Religious Groups
  The Student Union
  The Student Centre

• Moving away from home -> Daunting – but exciting!

• Student support
  * Don’t be shy about seeking out help if you’re finding it difficult
  * Change your living arrangements if you feel uncomfortable
Money

**ESTIMATED MONTHLY BUDGET**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount (£)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food/ Housekeeping</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socialising/ Leisure</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothes/ Shoes</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bills</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books/ Stationary</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxury/ Other</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1135</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Accommodation**: 40%
- **Food**: 9%
- **Clothes**: 6%
- **Bills**: 11%
- **Travel**: 8%
- **Luxury**: 4%
- **Books**: 4%
- **Socialising/Leisure**: 18%
- **Food**: 9%
Other types of Higher Education study

Degree Apprenticeships
What are the benefits for degree apprentices?

- No student debt as you don’t pay tuition fees
- Earn a salary while you learn
- Excellent career progression opportunities
- Increase your earning potential
- Develop your capabilities at work as you study
- Get expert guidance from a workplace mentor
- Be part of your university's student community
- Experience the benefits of a university learning environment
- Achieve a degree directly relevant to your chosen profession
Where can I find out more?

- www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk
- www.ucas.com/understanding-apprenticeships
- www.apprenticeships.gov.uk
- www.notgoingtouni.co.uk
- www.totaljobs.com
- www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk
- www.mdx.ac.uk/study-with-us
- www.qa.com
- Opendays.com
• MakeYourMark.mdx.ac.uk – Use the pathways tool
• University websites like MDX.ac.uk – Use the ‘course finder’ and look at the ‘careers tab’
• Icould.com – Career videos made by people currently working in a range of industries
• Prospects.ac.uk – Use the ‘Careers Advice’ tab
• Use the resources that are right for you!
THANK YOU 😊

ANY QUESTIONS?