Supporting Student Choices

Education Liaison
Aims and Objectives

• Researching and choosing the right provider and course
• Alternative options to university
• Supporting students to make sensible subject choices at level 3
Choosing the right provider and course
Start the research early
What can university do for you?

- Extra activities
- Many jobs require a degree
- Develop valuable skills
- Plenty of support
- Study abroad
- Work placements
Things to consider when choosing a university:

- Location
- Distance from home
- Campus v/s non-campus
- Reputation
- Living quarters
- Learning support
- Social & sporting activities
- Part-time jobs
- Study facilities

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Choosing a course - points to consider

- Use independent university guides
- Attend Higher Education fairs
- Research relevant statistics about course
- Browse university websites
- UCAS
In-depth course research

- **Entry requirements** – make sure they match your predicted grades
- **Read course content**, they vary between universities
- **Course assessment** – exams, coursework, ongoing assessment
- **Possibility of work placement or study abroad**
- **Graduate jobs** from this course
If still in doubt, check…

…Centigrade

“Centigrade is an online resource that helps you make the right decision about higher education. It accesses the full UCAS database for the UK to give you instant feedback on which courses would suit you best.”

Helps you work out which courses suit your:

- Interests
- Abilities
- Qualifications
- Access to whole UCAS database
- Fee of £15 per user
- 30 minutes to complete

“Studies have shown that students who do the most research into Higher Education are the most likely to complete their course.”
Useful HE related websites

Independent university guide
www.prospects.ac.uk

Comparing UK HE course data
unistats.ac.uk/

HE courses at colleges
www.londoncolleges.com

Higher Education Careers Services Unit
www.hecsu.ac.uk
Alternative options to university

- Apprenticeships
- School leaver programmes
- HE college courses
- Employment
- Gap year
Further information

**Apprenticeships**
- Work + part-time learning
- Specific to an area of work
- Get valuable work experience
- Gain a qualification
- Get paid
- Various levels (level 4-7)
- Good chance of full-time employment
- Usually competitive

**School leaver programmes**
- HNC, HND, Foundation Diploma, Degree (level 4-6)
- Full-time or part-time
- Courses are work-related
- Can be ‘topped up’ for a full degree
- Opportunity to taste a job/profession

**HE college courses**
Further information

**Employment**
- Entry level jobs
- Lots of jobs are now apprenticeships
- Typical job sectors: business, retail, IT & digital media, recruitment, sport
- Consider career progression within an organisation
- Travel and work/volunteer abroad
- Volunteer on a project at home
- Work and save money for university
- New experience provide insight about possible career paths
- Gain experience + develop skills
- May struggle to settle back into studies
- Expensive to travel or have unpaid job
- Wasting time could leave a bad impression

**Gap year**
Alternative to university - useful websites

**Apprenticeships**
- www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk
- www.getingofar.gov.uk
- www.gapyear.com

**School Leaver programmes**
- www.allaboutschooleavers.co.uk

**Gap year**
- www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk

**Employment**
- Job boards
- Specific job boards
- Company websites
Making sensible subject choices at level 3

• Courses at university that require essential subjects or other requirements at level 3:
  • Science based courses: usually one or two science subjects and sometimes maths
  • Maths based courses: usually maths
  • English and modern foreign languages: relevant subject
Making sensible subject choices at level 3

Essential subjects or other requirements at level 3:

• Humanities: usually relevant subject
• Art based courses e.g. fashion, fine art, graphic design: portfolio
• Performing Arts: audition
• Engineering: usually maths and physics
• Architecture: arts/science
• Sports: one science subject
Making sensible subject choices at level 3

Courses that *do not* require essential subjects at level 3:

- Business/Finance
- Psychology
- Education
- Law
- Sociology
- Media
- Philosophy
- Politics
- Archaeology
- Classical studies
- History of Art
- Theology
- Surveying
Questions