

# An introduction to Higher Education

Schools and Colleges Liaison Office

## What is higher education?

- The progression from school / college – freedom to choose what you study
- Access to the professions – Medicine/ Dentistry/ Nursing/ Law etc.
- Your choice!



# Why go to university?





# University skills

## Professional:

- Wide range of courses
- In-depth study
- New learning styles
- Careers service and support

## Social:

- Meet lots of new people
- Gain independence
- Develop personal skills
- Experience a new city

## Opportunities:

- Join clubs and societies
- Study abroad
- Volunteer
- Gain work experience

An investment in your future





## Student finance

### Tuition fees and loan

- Typically up to £9,250 per year
- Covers your learning and teaching, library access, course facilities etc.
- Student loan available
- Non-means tested

### Maintenance loan

- Covers living costs
- Means tested, dependent on household income
- No repayments until you're earning over £27,295



If I earn £28,000 a year, how much of my student loan will I repay each month?

£10.69

£11.22

£12.77

£13.86





## Financial considerations

- Scholarships
- Bursaries
- NHS funding
- Part-time work opportunities
- The general cost of living in the town/city

## What is UCAS?

- Main way to apply for full-time university places in the UK
- Link between students and universities
- Over 3 million applications by 700,000 students processed every year by UCAS







## UCAS timetable

September: application process opens

15 October: closing date for Oxbridge,  
Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science

26 January: closing date for 'on-time'  
applications to other  
institutions/courses

Nov- May: offers/decisions by  
universities received through UCAS

## Your choices



More than **395**  
higher education  
institutions in the UK



Over **900**  
degree subjects



**50,000**  
course choices  
through UCAS



Lots of  
**flexibility**



You may apply to  
up to **5** choices



## Research

- Online research
- UCAS fairs and prospectuses
- Open Days
- Teachers/friends/family

Top tip: Give yourself plenty of time and don't be afraid to ask lots of questions





## Open Days

- Subject specific presentations and seminars
- Chat to staff and students
- Explore the campus and the city
- Learn more about university residences
- On-demand resources often available between events

# The 4 C's

Course





# Real or made up?

Tournament  
Golf

Baking Science  
and Technology

Perfumery

Ethical Hacking

Circus and  
Performance  
Theatre

Viking Studies

Horse  
Management

International  
Wine Business

Cheese  
Cultivation





# A-levels

**RUSSELL  
GROUP**

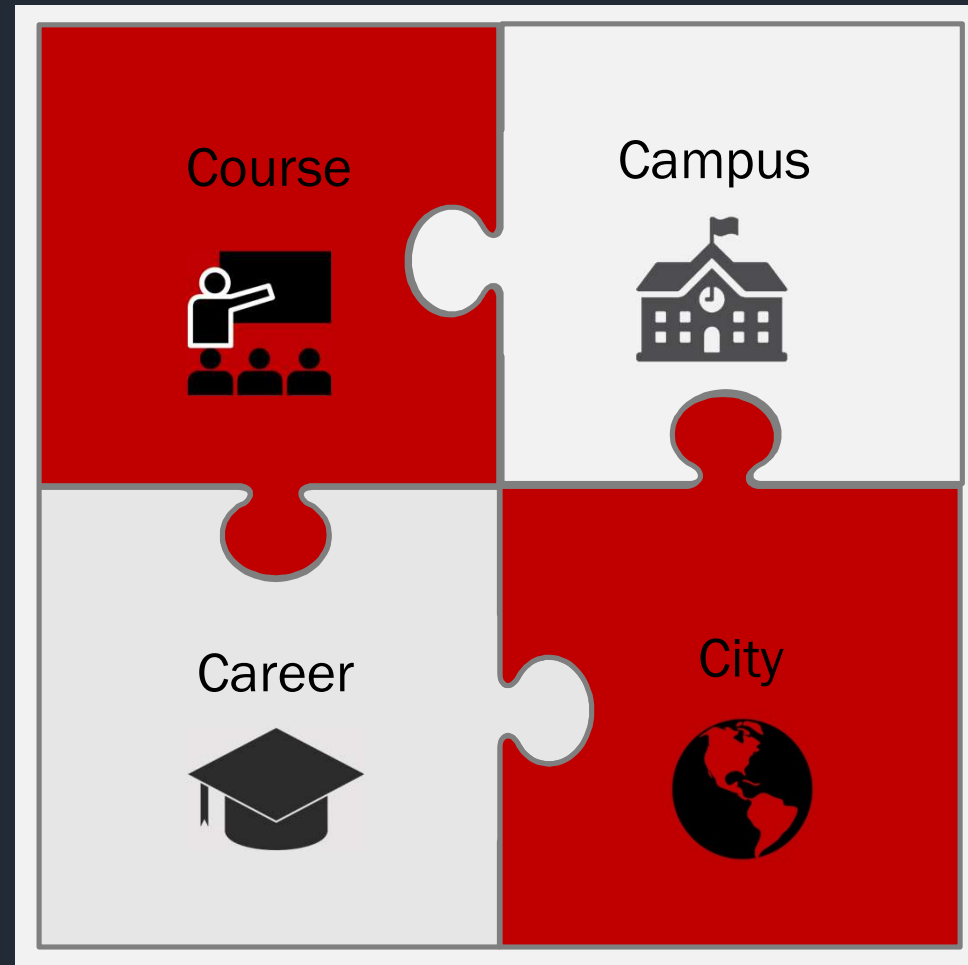
“ You don’t necessarily need to have studied three facilitating subjects at A-level. Some courses require one or two facilitating subjects, whilst for other courses there are no specific subject requirements. If you don’t know what you want to study then it’s a really good rule of thumb that taking two facilitating subjects will keep a wide range of degree courses open to you. ”



# Choosing a course



# The 4 C's





## Settling in

- Making friends
- Freshers' week
- Explore your new campus and city
- Register with a local GP
- Join clubs and societies – 'give it a go'



# Clubs and societies





## Get involved

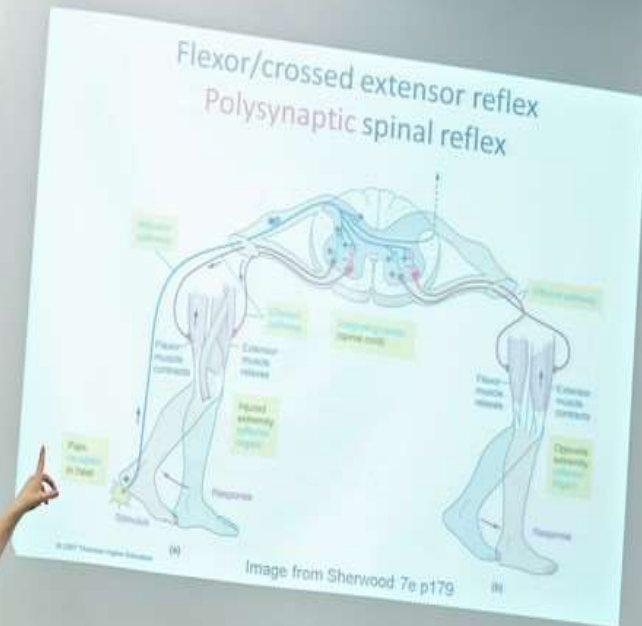
- Study abroad
- Professional and industry placements
- Research opportunities
- Learning a language
- Clubs and societies

**“A year abroad during your studies is a once in a lifetime opportunity and it is such a great one at that!”**

Lucy, Erasmus+ traineeship in Austria and Italy







## Academic life

- Not a massive jump
- Different kind of work – more flexibility
- In-depth study of one (or two) chosen subjects
- Support through personal tutors, lecturers and coursemates
- Adjustment period

# Teaching methods

The timetable can vary depending on the course you choose – some will have more 'contact hours', whilst others focus on independent study. You get out what you put in!



## LECTURES

- Large groups
- Take notes
- Ask questions



## SEMINARS

- Small groups
- Engage in discussions
- Discuss lecture topics



## FIELDWORK/PRACTICALS

- Can be off campus
- Practical experience
- Study abroad



## INDEPENDENT STUDY

- Reading books/websites
- Writing essays
- Dissertation



## What next?

- Do plenty of research and consider the 4 C's
- Think about your long-term goals
- Visit lots of universities (online or in person) and draw comparisons
- Work hard to get the grades needed!



# Meet our students

Chat

[www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/  
chat-to-our-students](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/chat-to-our-students)

Blogs

[blogs.cardiff.ac.uk/  
insiders](http://blogs.cardiff.ac.uk/insiders)

Students Staff Blog Inbox Sign Up


Students Powered by UNIBUDDY

Since April 2019, 36498 questions have been answered by our students.

Levels | Area Of Study | United Kingdom


United Kingdom x

Active 6h ago



**Henry**  
Music (BA/BMus)

Chat with Henry


I COME FROM  
Birmingham, UK 

PREVIOUS STUDIES  
GCE Advanced Level (A-Level)

ABOUT ME  
Hi! I'm Henry, and I'm a third year music student and the president of...


[Read more about Henry ...](#)

Active 6h ago



**Zoe**  
Biomedical Sciences (BSc/MBiomed)

Chat with Zoe

I COME FROM  
Barry, UK 

PREVIOUS STUDIES  
GCE Advanced Level (A-Level)

ABOUT ME  
Hey! I'm Zoe, a final year Biomedical Science student. I'm from Barry ...

[Read more about Zoe...](#)



Any  
questions?

FURTHER INFORMATION:

[www.cardiff.ac.uk](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk)

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