

# Choosing your university and course



## GETTING STARTED

**Search courses**

Where do you normally live?:

Search courses available in:  2014  2015

\*This helps us to show courses that are available to you. [Click here for more info](#)

Search by any or all of the following

Course:

Provider:

Location:

### UCAS Search tool

Use our new search to find undergraduate courses and courses at conservatoires.

We'll be adding all our other courses soon – until then, click the links below.



Once you have a rough idea of the kind of course you wish to study complete a course search on the UCAS website.

<http://searchucas.com>

You can choose the subject and, if required, the location. Courses can be single honours (one subject), joint honours (two subjects) or combined (a range of subjects). Try different combinations. You can also be quite specific. For example, if you wish to study History you can also specify the type - Social, Economic, Mediaeval,

Contemporary, Early Modern, Military etc...

When you apply to UCAS you are able to choose five courses\*. These are usually at different universities, although you could choose more than one course at a particular university if desired.

*\*One restriction on the combinations you can have is a maximum of four courses in any one of medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or veterinary science.*

When you have identified a range of courses you need to find out more so that you can make an informed choice. You will need to consider some of the following criteria:

WHICH UNIVERSITY ?	WHICH COURSE ?
Location	Entry Requirements
Reputation	Reputation
Type	Course Size & Structure
Facilities	Assessment
Extra Services	Cost
Individual Needs	Employability

# FINDING OUT MORE

## WHICH UNIVERSITY ?

<b>Location</b>	Do you prefer an urban or a rural setting? Are you trying to stay within easy reach of home, or get as far away as possible? If you are unsure look at the UCAS map or select a subject in UNISTATS and then choose to view on a map. Also think about the cost of living in your chosen location.	<a href="http://www.ucas.com/sites/default/files/big-map-2013-uk-eu.pdf">http://www.ucas.com/sites/default/files/big-map-2013-uk-eu.pdf</a>
<b>Reputation</b>	How does the university rank in the league tables? Have a look at the different tables online at the <i>Guardian</i> and the <i>Complete University Guide</i> . You can also look in the <i>Times Good University Guide</i> and <i>The Virgin Guide to British Universities</i> in the LRC.	<a href="http://www.theguardian.com/education/universityguide">http://www.theguardian.com/education/universityguide</a> <a href="http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings">http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings</a>
<b>Type</b>	Universities significantly differ in their type. They can be campus based or in the city, rural or urban, sporty or political. Try searching with the <i>Which? University</i> website or look university prospectuses to give you more ideas.	<a href="http://university.which.co.uk/search/course">http://university.which.co.uk/search/course</a>
<b>Facilities</b>	Consider the different facilities available. Do they have sports facilities or societies you want to join? What is the accommodation like and how much does it cost?	
<b>Extra Services</b>	Can you study abroad as part of your degree or get help with work placement? What else does the university offer?	
<b>Individual Needs</b>	See what support is available if you are a care leaver or if you have a disability. Universities are given funding to support a range of different needs. See if you are eligible for any support.	

## WHICH COURSE ?

<b>Entry Requirements</b>	You will need to check the entry requirements for your course. These can be quite specific and so you must be careful to check the detail. You can find this information via the UCAS course search page, at university websites or in <i>Heap 2015: University Degree Course Offers</i> , available in the LRC.	<a href="http://search.ucas.com">http://search.ucas.com</a> <a href="http://www.heaponline.co.uk">http://www.heaponline.co.uk</a>
<b>Reputation</b>	Consider the academic standing of the department you are applying to. Are they good at teaching and research? You can find out more through looking at subject league tables online at the <i>Guardian</i> and the <i>Complete University Guide</i> . You can also look in the <i>Times Good University Guide</i> and <i>The Virgin Guide to British Universities</i> in the LRC.	<a href="http://www.theguardian.com/education/ng-interactive/2014/jun/03/university-league-tables-2015-by-subject">http://www.theguardian.com/education/ng-interactive/2014/jun/03/university-league-tables-2015-by-subject</a> <a href="http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings">http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings</a>
<b>Course Size &amp; Structure</b>	Courses can vary a great deal in their structure. You need to consider the different subject modules available. Which ones interest you the most? Which link to your career aims? Does your course give professional accreditation? Look at university websites and prospectuses. Also look at the number of places available for a particular course. The bigger the intake target, usually the better your chances.	
<b>Assessment</b>	Consider the way the course is assessed. Again, courses vary. Do you prefer assessment through examinations, coursework or presentations? Many courses are assessed in a range of ways, be sure that you know what to expect.	<a href="http://university.which.co.uk/search/course">http://university.which.co.uk/search/course</a>
<b>Cost</b>	Make sure that you look at the cost of the course. Universities can charge up to £9,000 per year for a course. Ensure you are aware of this cost. To find out more look at the <i>Which? University</i> website and sort courses by level of fees. You could also be eligible for a bursary, check with the university you are considering.	<a href="http://university.which.co.uk/search/course">http://university.which.co.uk/search/course</a> <a href="http://www.slc.co.uk">http://www.slc.co.uk</a>
<b>Employability</b>	Some courses have a clear vocational relevance, such as Social Work or Midwifery, however you can utilise all courses to enhance your employment opportunities. Use the UNISTATS and the <i>Which? University</i> websites to look at graduate employment rates.	<a href="http://unistats.direct.gov.uk">http://unistats.direct.gov.uk</a> <a href="http://university.which.co.uk/search/course">http://university.which.co.uk/search/course</a>

## WHAT NEXT?

Once you have a list of courses that interest you, book open days and campus tours. These will let you get a real feel for the university you are considering and enable you to find out more.