Table Talk – Choosing a University and a Course

What is university all about?

- Being able to impact people's lives through education and research.
- Next step on the education ladder, broadening the knowledge of a subject you love.
- Preparing students for life outside of education through developing skills and knowledge.

University also equips students with a range of transferable skills, such as; communication, time-management, leadership, problem-solving, team work, etc. These skills ensure graduates are well-equipped to work in a variety of industries and sectors.



Students also have a chance to experience independence and freedom, which builds self-confidence and you have an opportunity to meet a whole range of new people and make lasting friendships.

Things to think about when choosing a university:

- Location – where do you want to be in the country? Close to home or further away? In a city or rural area?
- What type of university do you want to go to? Collegiate, Campus, City?
- What facilities do you require to enjoy your time there? Accommodation, study spaces, sports facilities, social areas, food and drink, support services, etc.

Things to think about when choosing a course:

Not every university offers every subject and the specific topics included in each course can vary greatly.

There are some considerations you may want to take before choosing a course:

- Emotional Considerations – what subjects are you passionate about? What career do you want?
- Practical Considerations – what are your strongest subjects? Check entry requirements.
- Further Considerations – How long do you want to study for? BSc/BA or Masters? Do you want to study abroad for a year or work in industry?

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Conversation Starters

- Have you thought about if you want to go to university yet?
- If not university then what do you think you would like to do next? Apprenticeship?
- Have you considered what type of university you would like to go to? In a city or a campus?
- Have you thought about what course you want to study?
- What is your favourite subject at school or the one you are best at?
- Do you know what career you would like when you are older?
- Have you done any research online? Perhaps research courses and think about going to Open Days at universities you think you might like?

Key Dates

Spring / summer – UCAS search tool live and Apply opens.

September - Applications can be submitted to UCAS

October - UCAS deadline for Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine.

January - UCAS deadline for most undergraduate courses

February— UCAS Extra opens.

Spring - Deadline to choose your firm and insurance. There are different deadlines depending on when you applied.

July– UCAS Clearing opens.

Useful Websites

- UCAS Course Search - https://digital.ucas.com/search - this tool searches for courses across every single UK university, so is a great starting place.
- Royal Holloway Main-Page: https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/
- Royal Holloway Schools and Colleges webpage: https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/schools-and-colleges/ - a variety of online resources available.
- Office for Students Main-Page: https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/