Choosing a University and a Course

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Resources:

Resources	Additional Resources	Useful websites
1. Student Pack (this document)	1. 5 things to think about when choosing a course.	UCAS—Choosing an Undergraduate Course
2. Choosing a University and Course Presentation	2. 5 things to think about when choosing a university.	UCAS—How to choose between undergraduate courses and unis
3. Choosing a University and Course 10 Minute Video	3. Choosing a university and a course worksheet.	
4. Choosing a University and Course Narrated PowerPoint	4. Choosing your course activity.	
5. Choosing a Course in 60 Seconds.	5. Pandemic Blog—exams and coursework during the pandemic.	
6. Choosing a University in 60 Seconds.	6. Pandemic Blog—Living in halls during lockdown.	
7. Kahoot	7. Pandemic Blog—returning to university in the pandemic.	
	8. Lily—My University Diaries.	
	9. Josephine—My First Year at University.	

Today's session:

- What is university all about?
- Choosing the right university for you
- Choosing the right course for you
- Next steps
- Q&A session



What is university all about?

What is university all about?

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Activity

Take a minute to think about some words that you associate with university…

Knowledge	Studying	Challenging	Degree
Friends	Debt	Fun	Independence

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 a life outside of education through developing skills and knowledge

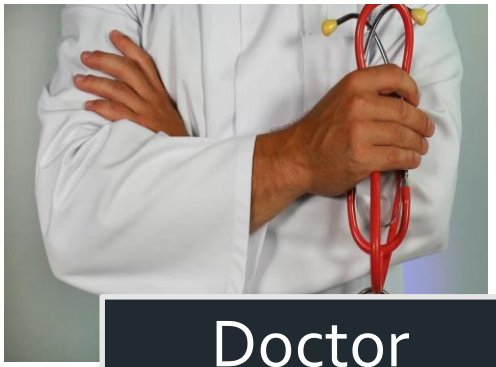


What is university all about?



What is university all about?

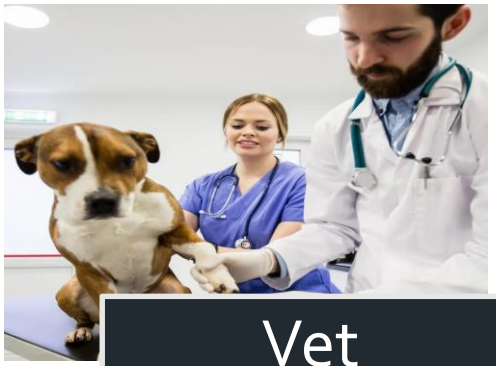
90% of working age graduates are in employment or further study within six months of completing their course. A university degree is a pre-requisite for certain jobs like:



Doctor



Lawyer



Vet



Teacher

Life outside the lecture theatre

There are so many more things to get involved with while at university….

- Part time jobs
- Travel
- Volunteering
- Sports clubs
- Societies
- Student Media
- Students Union
- Work experience

Things you may want to know

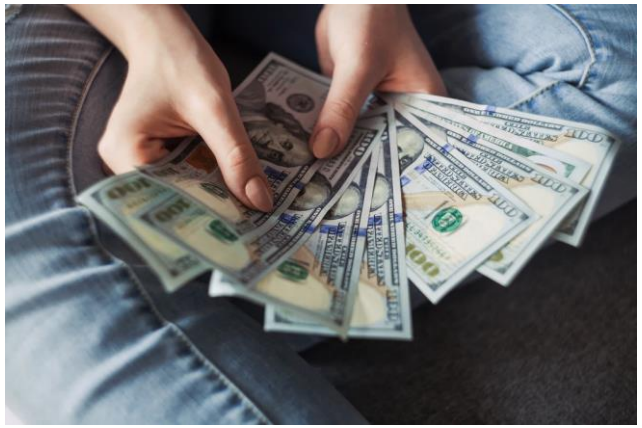
How much does university cost and how do I pay for it?

Currently £9,250 per year



Receive a loan from the government for tuition

Receive a loan from the government for living



Pay it back after university when you're earning

Things you may want to know

How is school different to university?

School



- Taught all that you need to know
- Lessons all day
- Reminded about your homework

VS

University



- Learn independently
- Mixture of lessons and 'free' time
- Responsible for your work and deadlines

Things you may want to know

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Where do I live?

Home

Hall of Residence

Shared House

Choosing a University

Choosing a university

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Activity

How many universities are there to choose from in the UK?

A. 75

B. 130

C. 165

There are 165 institutions to choose from!

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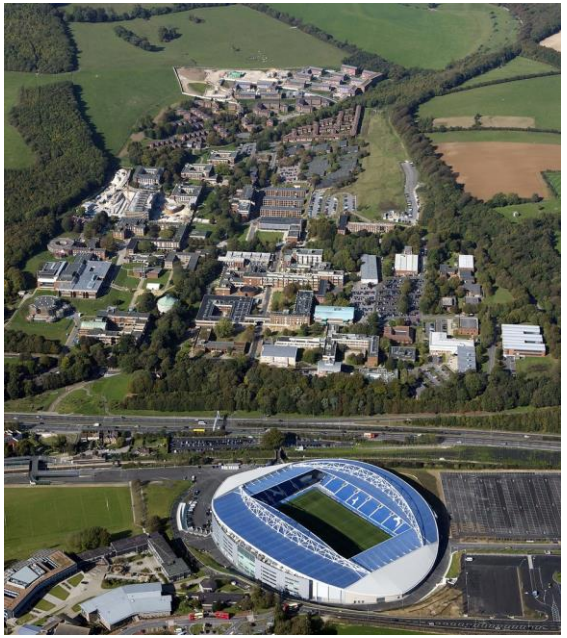
















Location

Think about…

- Where do you want to be in the country?
- Do you want to be close to home or further away?
- Do you want to be in a city, or more rural area?



Location continued

Think about…

- Cost of living
- Transport options
- Accommodation options
- Nightlife
- Safety



Types of university

Collegiate



Oxford University

Campus



Royal Holloway, University of London

City



Facilities



Accommodation



Study spaces



Sports facilities



Social areas



Food and drink



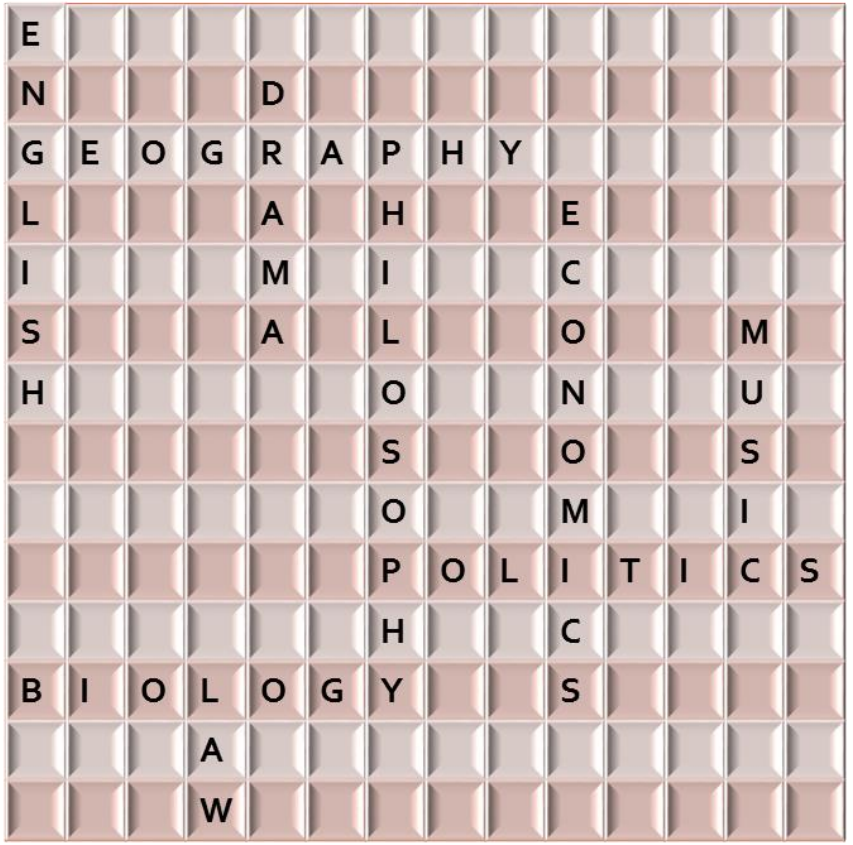
Support services

Choosing a Course

Choosing a course

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

There are over 50,000 courses on offer and the course you choose is just as important as the university.



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Activity

Degree or not degree?

Degree or not degree?



Baking technology management

London Southbank

Degree or not degree?



Football management

Southampton Solent

Degree or not degree?



Harry Potter studies

Not a degree

– module in education, University of Durham

Emotional considerations

- What subject(s) are you passionate about?
- What areas in that subject do you enjoy the most and do your chosen universities offer you the chance to study that area?
- What career do you want to go into?



Practical considerations

- What are your strongest subjects?
- Check the entry requirements – are they realistic?
- Does your course need to be accredited by a professional organisation for the career you want?

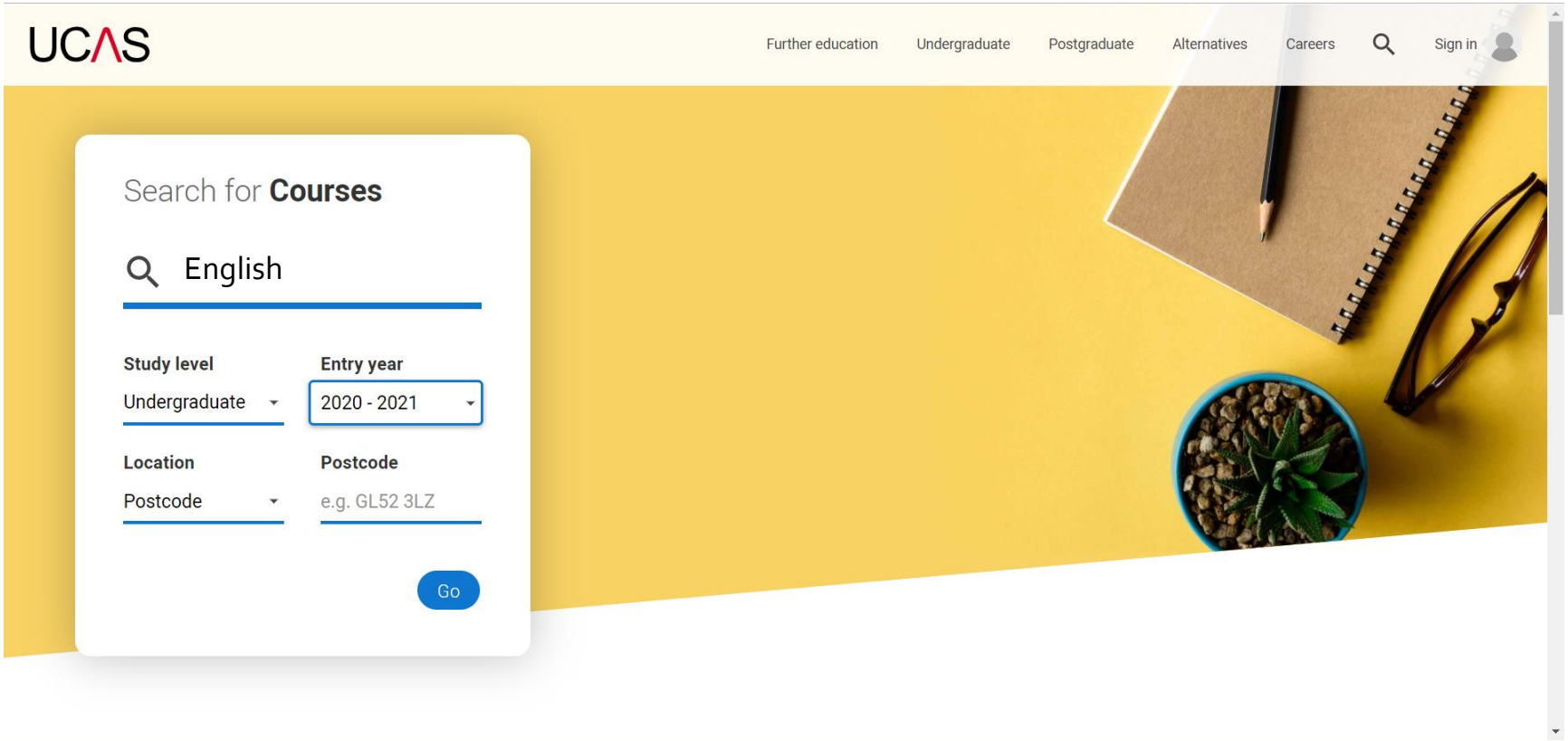


Further considerations

- How long do you want to study at University for (3, 4, 5 years)?
- Do I want to study at Undergraduate level or Masters level?
- Do you want to be able to study abroad for a year, or work in industry for a year?
- Do you want to study one subject (single honours) or two (joint honours or major/minor)?



Choosing a course



English & French

English & Music

English Literature

English & Education

English & Drama

English

English & Creative Writing

English & German

English & Anthropology

English & American Literature

Types of university degrees

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Foundation

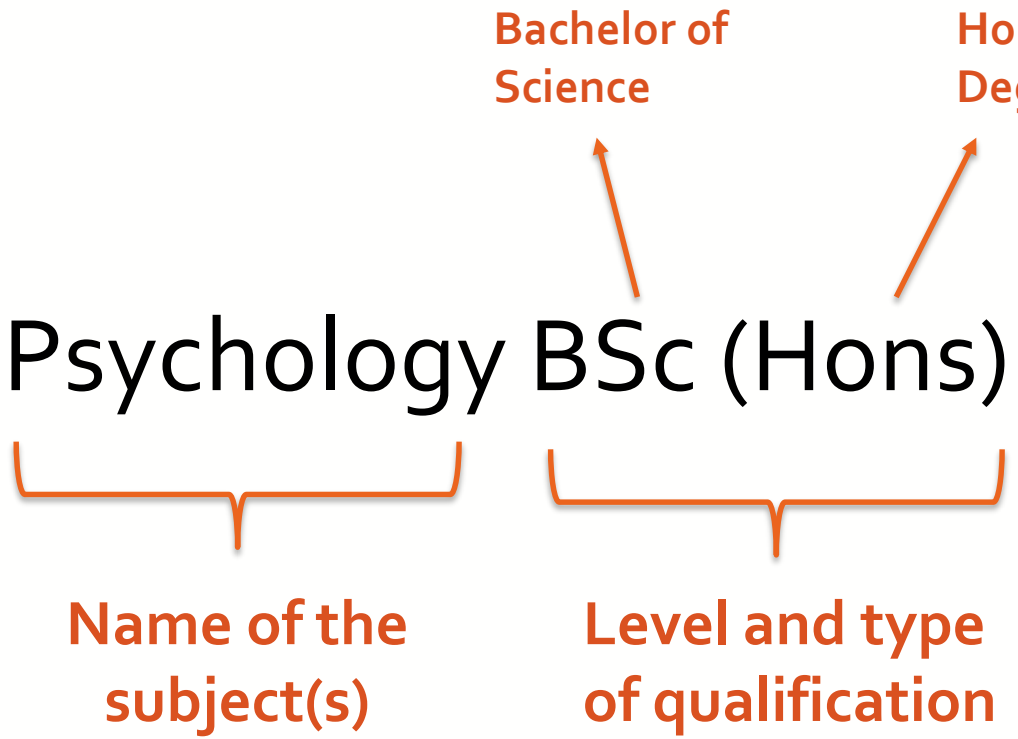
Undergraduate

- BA – Arts
- BSc – Science
- BEng – Engineering
- BMus – Music
- LLB - Law

Graduate

Types of university degrees





Top Tips

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Don't be afraid to explore new subjects

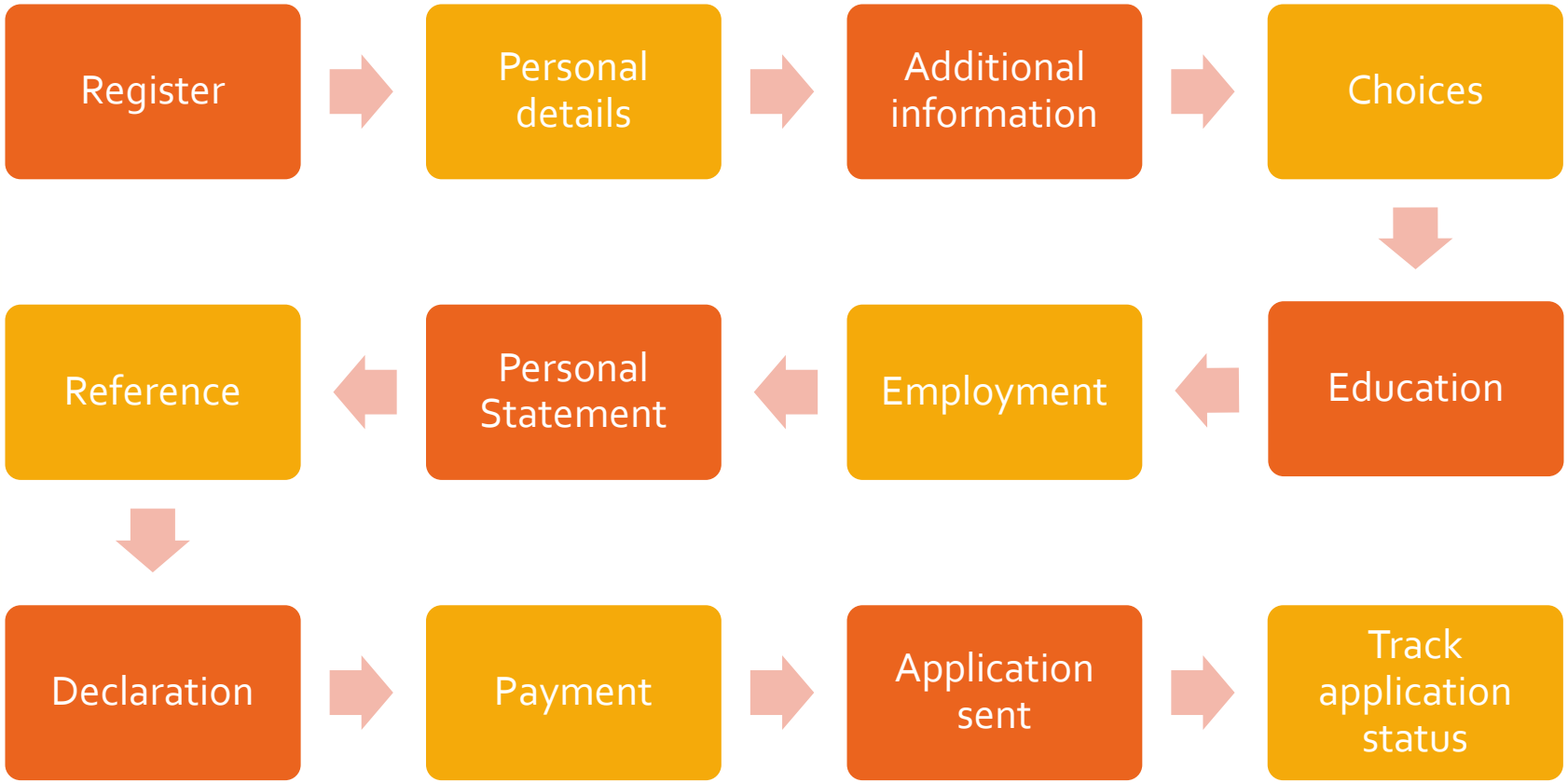
Read into details about modules and topics on offer

Consider if you will still be motivated to study this subject in 1/2/3 years time

Look at the teaching and assessment methods

New Steps

The UCAS Process



Step 1: Reflect

Take some time to reflect on the subjects that you are interested in, what you want to do in the future, and what is important to you in a university.

Remember, this is a very personal choice.

There are some great resources you can use including:

https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/a-level-explorer

https://www.ucas.com/careers/buzz-quiz

https://www.ucas.com/explore/subjects

https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/student-life/which-student-city

Step 2: Research



UCAS Course Finder

THE COMPLETE UNIVERSITY GUID
INDEPENDENT • TRUSTE

League tables



Prospectuses

NSS

Student reviews

Where to look



"…is the official site that allows you to search for and compare data and information on university and college courses from across the UK."

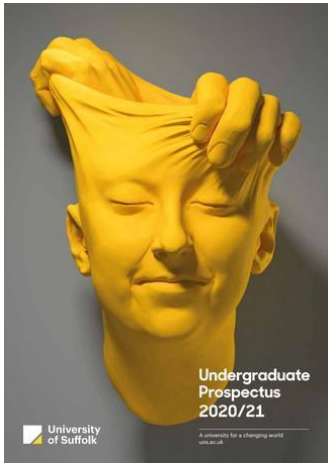
- Data is drawn from national surveys of students and information collected from providers of higher education.
- Student views from the National Student Survey

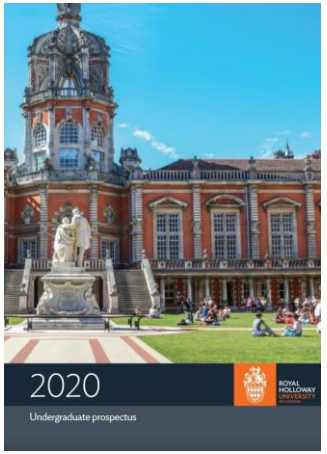
•Graduate destinations and salary from the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey
•The percentage of students continuing on the course after a year
•The tariff points held by students who have entered the course previously
•Accreditation or professional recognition of the course

NSS
National Student Survey

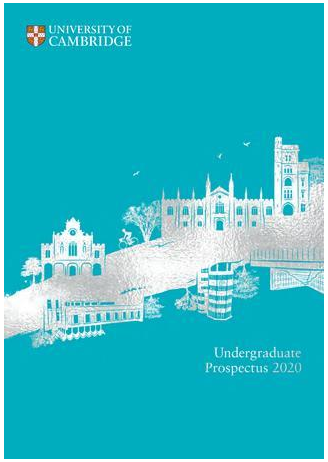
Using prospectuses

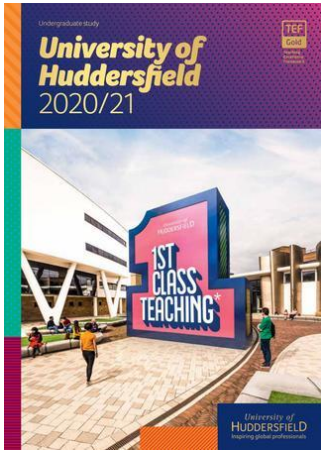
- Course Modules
- Entry Requirements
- If the course is accredited
- Accommodation options
- Extra curricular choices





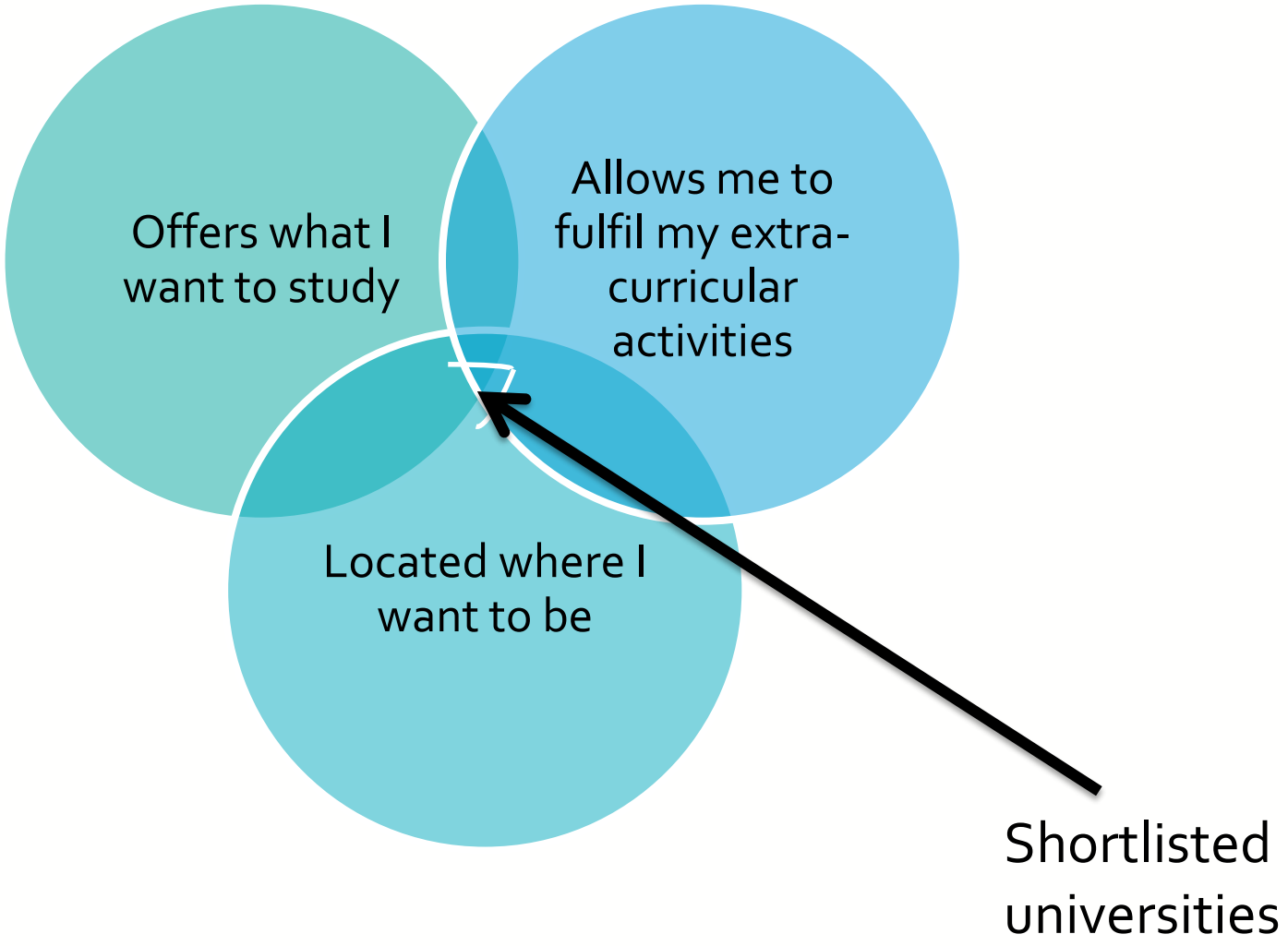








Step 3: Create a shortlist



Step 4: Explore your shortlisted choices



Open days



Taster days

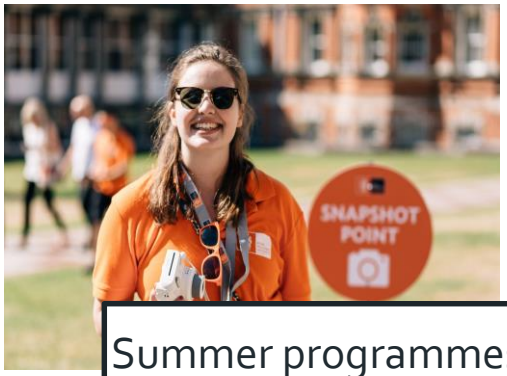
Course structure

Core Modules

Year 1

- Introduction to Creative Writing
- Why Write? The History and Theory of Creative Writing
- Reorienting the Novel
- Introduction to Poetry
- Critica

Further research



Summer programmes



Online events



Free lectures

Taster days

- Most taster courses include lectures, discussions, and tutorial sessions.
- Give you the chance to talk to departmental staff and use the facilities.
- Give you an important insight into how the university works
- Can even be used in your personal statement.



Open days

Think about…

- What departments do you want to visit & what are their entry requirements?
- What are the league tables suggesting & student satisfaction ratings saying?
- Do the facilities meet your expectations?
- What is the surrounding area like?

Trust your instincts!



Step 5: Apply!

You can have a maximum of 5 choices with UCAS

These choices can be at 5 individual institutions **or** can include multiple choices at the same institution.

Option 1

1. History at Royal Holloway
2. History at Queen Mary
3. History at Kings College London
4. History at Kingston University
5. History at Brunel University

OR

Option2

1. History at Royal Holloway
2. Ancient History at Royal Holloway
3. Classics at Royal Holloway
4. History at Queen Mary
5. History at Kings College London

Preparing for UCAS

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Go to…

www.ucas.com to locate courses

Attend…

Open Days and get a feel for the university in person

Get…

prospectuses for different universities and read them

Make…

a shortlist of five universities you would like to go to

Read…

alternative reviews, such as The Student Room or www.push.co.uk

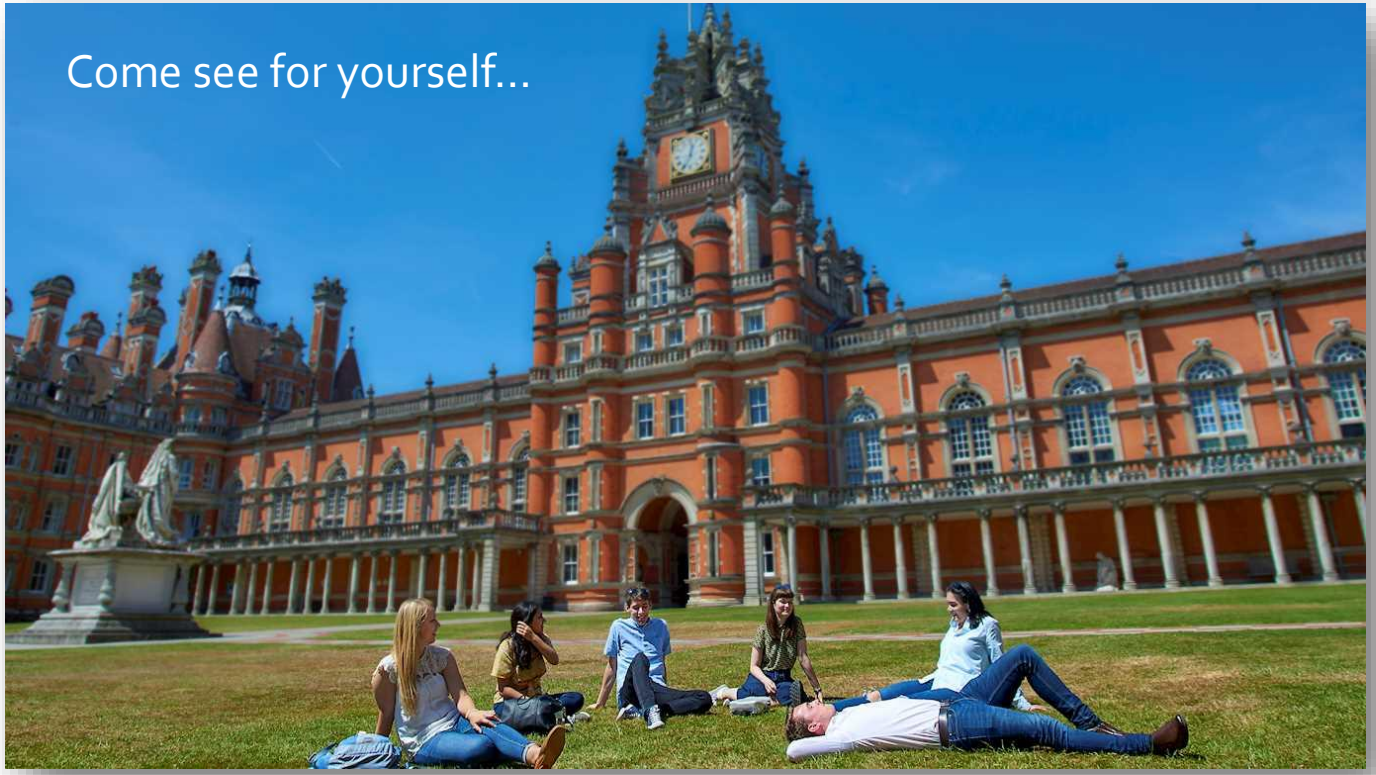
Prepare…

to fill out your UCAS application and write your personal statement

Find out more about Royal Holloway…

ROYAL HOLLOWAY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

www.royalholloway.ac.uk



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Thanks for listening!