

## A LEVEL CHOICE AND FINDING OUT ABOUT UNIVERSITY

### When choosing your A levels consider the following:

- Don't assume that a subject's title will tell you exactly what it involves. Prospectuses will give the subject titles and Exam Boards; their websites will give full details.
- Entry to many careers demand a specific degree. Degree courses will have essential entry requirements in terms of two or three subjects that have to be studied to A Level – and sometimes will require certain others to AS. The best source of up-to-date information is the UCAS web site: [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)
- What really interests you? After your GCSEs you have more control over what you can study – it's important to enjoy what you're doing.
- Are you sure that you know enough about the course? Do plenty of research to make sure you know what you will be studying.
- Take a look at what's available; some A levels do not need you to have studied the subject at GCSE and there might be new subjects available so something you hadn't thought of could be the right course for you.
- Do you want to continue with 'traditional' subjects or would you like to give a vocational option a go?
- Do you need to achieve a certain standard to get where you want to be in the future – do you need a qualification for a particular job or do you need a certain number of points to go to university?
- Many vocational degrees (Nursing, Medicine, Teaching) also expect you to have gained some relevant experience in the work area before you apply to Uni in Year 13. You need to arrange to do this and consider how you will fit this in with A Level study.

- Make up your own mind. Talk to family, friends, teachers and advisers; their help and advice is important but remember that only you know what you really want to do, what's right for your friends might not be right for you.

## Careers Information

Need more information on the job you are thinking about? Unsure what jobs you'd like to do? Need more information on your post-16 options? These websites will help:



**Kudos**  
CASCAD

[www.kudos-online.co.uk](http://www.kudos-online.co.uk)

'Kudos will give you all the information you need to make important decisions about future careers and training you can do to reach your career destination'. It includes a questionnaire, **My Future**, that helps young people to 'match' their interests and qualification aspirations to a list of suitable careers.

**License code is: cookopen20 – then create your own username and password.**



<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/>

The national careers service provides information, advice and guidance to help you make decisions on learning, training and work opportunities. See **Job Profiles** for: 'information on over 800 jobs and make sure you have the right skills and qualifications.'



icould

[www.icould.com](http://www.icould.com)

**icould** provides career inspiration and information for young people: 'We show what is possible in work and offer different ways to think about careers through free access to over **1000 personal video stories**, detailed job information, plus practical tips, insight and advice.



**TARGET**  
careers

<https://targetcareers.co.uk>

Inspiring possibilities for school leavers – 'Investigate careers that interest you and decide whether to do an apprenticeship or go to university, then get applying'.

## Higher Education

These websites provide general information on what University is about and how to apply to help you find the best course and University for you.



[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

You apply for university through the **UCAS** website but it is also packed with information about options after Year 11, what university is about and the mechanics of applying. You can search for courses that interest you across the UK using the UCAS 'Search Tool'.



[www.push.co.uk](http://www.push.co.uk)

'the leading independent guide to UK universities' which

'provides a guide to UK universities, student life, gap years, open days, student finance and all things studentish.'



<https://www.gov.uk/education/funding-and-finance-for-students>

Information on student fees and loans



<http://university.which.co.uk>

Search and compare **universities** to find the right one for you. Includes **A-Level Explorer** which suggests degree courses linked to your A Level choices.



<http://sacu-student.com>

SACU offers a great independent & impartial source of careers information to students, parents and teachers. Includes the **Spartan Test**, a visual quiz that matches you to HE courses and careers.

## What do Graduates do after their degree?

You can use these websites to show trends in graduates' employment and give ideas on what you can do after Uni.



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

What do graduates do? presents findings from the Higher Education Statistics Agency's Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey (DLHE). It examines first degree graduate destinations six months after they



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

'Prospects are the experts in graduate careers. We help to guide students and graduates to a bright future with unrivalled information, advice and opportunities' check out '**What can I do with my degree?**' '**What jobs would suit me?**' and also '**Job Sectors**' and '**Job Profiles**'

## Websites for specific careers/professions:



E.g. British Psychological Society, British Medical Association, Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons – contain useful information on how to train for these careers and will link to accredited courses.

## University websites



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH

Course details will usually contain information on the careers/job areas their graduates move into, under headings such as 'Careers'/'Employability'/'Opportunities' or on UCAS search page: '**After the**

**FOR MORE HELP AND INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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