

# Choosing a course to study at university

## How to choose a course to study at university

When supporting someone to choose a course to study at university, remember it is not just the school subjects that universities offer. Courses can relate to the world of work as well as academic subjects e.g. Sound engineering, accountancy and pharmacy.

- Students can explore subjects using the [UCAS website](#). This means that your young person can do a deep dive and compare courses at different universities.
- Using the UCAS course search the young person can filter according to location, distance, style of delivery and entry requirements (tariff points).
- Further information about courses can be found on the university website – this will give details of the modules and assessments. Remember courses with a similar title can be very different!
- It's a great idea to do a couple of university visits as early as possible in the application process to get a feel of the different types of universities e.g. some universities are campus based, while others can be in the middle of a town or city.
- Once young people have decided on their area of interest, they can start writing their personal statement. There is lots of guidance from the UCAS website and students can also seek advice and support from their school or college.
- The young person will have to pick five course choices. It's very important to think about the entry requirements and be realistic about predicted grades. It's good to have choices with a variety of entry requirements.

Once the UCAS application is submitted and offers received, students will need to pick a firm choice (first choice) and an insurance choice (second choice). The insurance choice should have lower entry requirements than the firm choice

## Useful links

*Open days available*

[Open Day.com](#)

[UCAS University Open Days](#)

*Glossary*

[UCAS Terms and Abbreviations Explained](#)

[UCAS - How to write a personal statement](#)

[UCAS - Making the right decision](#)

[The Uni Guide - Don't know what to study](#)

[The Uni Guide - Comparing Courses](#)

[The Uni Guide - Choosing your first and insurance choices](#)