

HOW TO MAKE UNIVERSITY CHOICES

It is important you decide on the type of course you intend to do – before the University.

You are strongly advised to do **Centigrade** online which costs £15 – by answering over 100 questions this suggests suitable courses, institutions etc, providing a good starting point.

Centigrade also provides background reading; especially for courses such as psychology, law etc.

Many institutions offer taster courses or weekend conferences for e.g. at Nottingham; physiotherapy, business and management, forensics, nursing, criminal law, medicine, and vets.

If you log onto the UCAS website you can do the Stamford test for free – a scaled down version of Centigrade

Things to consider:

Look to pick courses that suit your strengths, interests and career intentions.

Type of qualification; BA, BSc, BEng, BEd, MA, HND (two years), HNC, Diploma

Sandwich courses – with a work placement in industry as part of the course

Are they largely theoretical, practical or vocational?

What **kind of teaching** and the balance between them; lectures, seminars, practicals.

Type of assessment – balance between examinations and continuous assessment and in which years do they contribute to your final grade.

What flexibility of choice is there in the **options** you take – often it increases after the first year.

What type of Qualification.

Single Honours (one subject), Joint Honours (two separate but equal subjects), Combined Honours (several subjects), Interdisciplinary Courses (e.g. American Studies, Environmental Science, Media Studies), Modular Courses, Foundation Course (e.g. Art & Design)

Look very carefully at the wording of courses; Business Studies and German (both equal) is different to Business Studies with German (Business Studies is the major subject)

Length of Course: Whether it is a two, three year or four year course (the latter include Scottish Universities and courses with a year abroad, work places etc).

Size of Course: Find out how many places there are on each course – it is not a good idea to have all your choices with very small departments.

Entry Requirements: You can also get these on the University websites – **Entry Profiles**. Check out subject requirements carefully and also any GCSE requirements. It is unwise to pick courses that demand higher grades than those you have achieved at AS. Do take account of retakes – but do be realistic.

Do not presume high grade offers indicate the best courses and vice versa – they partly reflect popularity.

A guideline would be for two of your choices to be in line with predictions, one above and two below.– this includes the most able students – often the highest proportion of rejections are from students predicted grade A's and B's, particularly for courses in great demand like Medicine, Law, Physiotherapy, Psychology

University admissions tests

Some Universities now have separate Admissions Tests for certain courses so check carefully. Details of some of these are on school website. They apply in particular to Medicine and to Law and if you are applying to Oxford or Cambridge. But there are more Universities introducing such tests. It is your responsibility to sign up for these and also advise Mr Freeman as some can be taken in school.

UCAS tariff system

	AS	A2
120		A
100		B
80		C
60	A	D
50	B	
40	C	E
30	D	
20	E	

So for example, grades B, C, D at A2 level plus a grade D in a subject you dropped after AS $100 + 80 + 60 + 30 = 270$

Some courses and Universities will also count in things like music qualifications

Speak to subject teachers particularly those closely linked to the course you are applying for. Take on board their predicted grades

For University:

Art & Design Foundation:

Students wishing to follow a Foundation course in Art & Design need to also apply through UCAS. Once they start a year studying a Diploma in Foundation studies they can then apply for further courses via UCAS the following year. Please refer to the UCAS website for more information.

Careers Information on the web:

The best links are on Tring School Website >Post 16>Careers/Higher Education

More information on choosing universities, writing Personal Statements, key tips and Gap Years can be found on: Tring School Website>Post 16>Tring University Advice