

Guiding University Choice

Session one: Introduction

Exercise: Reading

This course introduces you to some of the issues you will need to consider when planning your journey into university and aims to help you to start answering some of the questions you will be asking yourself. Questions you'll be thinking about include: What subject do I want to study? How do I want to study the subject? What university would I want to attend and how will a degree help me with my future career plans?

As you have seen from the introduction everybody will have their own reasons for studying at university but in general terms you can approach this from different angles such as:

Academic – it will provide you with the opportunity to study a subject that you really like in more depth or pick up a new subject that really interests you.

Career – for some careers a degree (e.g. Law and Medicine) is essential to follow a career.

Developing Skills – you are already using skills in your current studies that are in high demand by employers (e.g. research, communication, evaluation, problem-solving). These will be developed to a really high level by studying for a degree.

Future Employment – gaining a degree will certainly open up new and wider career opportunities for you.

Personal Development – university offers you independence, the opportunity to meet new people, and to study and socialise in a diverse environment.

Subjects such as Business Studies and Biological Sciences traditionally receive the most applications. But remember what is on offer in terms of degree opportunity is a real A to Z of subjects.

How many of these degrees have you heard about?

Astrophysics, Bakery and Patisserie Technology, Cartoon and Comic Arts, Dance with the study of Religions, Egyptology, Film and Television Studies, Green Technology, Hair and Make-up for Fashion, Interactive and Electronic Design, Journalism, Korean Studies, Latin American Studies,

Musicology, Nutrition and Food Design, Performance Car Technology, Quantity Surveying, Rural Estate Management, Shipping and Port Management, Theatre Studies, Urban Planning, Viking Studies, Welsh, X-ray (well, Radiology is near enough), Yacht and Power Craft Design, Zoo Management.

You may also want to develop your interest in a particular aspect of a subject. For example, if you have an interest in a subject like Sociology which is made up of different topics you will find that you would have the opportunity to focus on just one area such as Criminology, Education, or Politics for example.

You will find that some courses offer you the opportunity to study abroad for a year – this is very common if you are interested in studying a language or a particular thematic degree like American Studies. Schemes like Erasmus also offer the opportunity to study abroad for a while even if you are doing non-related degrees. In fact, you could study your whole degree abroad and many UK students attend universities full time in North America and Europe. You will find more information on this at the end of this session.

During your research you will also come across various titles of degrees. Among others you will find degrees titles such as:

BA – Bachelor of Arts associated with Fine Arts, Humanities, Languages and Social Science Degrees

BSc – Bachelor of Science associated with traditional science degrees (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) but also some social science degrees (Economics, Politics and Psychology)

BEd – Bachelor of Education – you will find some teaching degrees use this title

BEng – Bachelor of Engineering – some Engineering degrees use this title, while others you will find use BSc in Engineering as the title

BMus – Bachelor of Music

LLB – Used by some Law degrees

Further Information

For general advice on applying to university – [Universities and Colleges Admissions Service \(UCAS\)](#)

For advice about choosing a degree – [Which University](#)

For information on studying in the USA – [The Fulbright Commission](#)

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