



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Thinking about university



Edgbarrow
School

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To cover

- Benefits of Higher Education
- Choosing courses/universities
- Tips for the personal statement



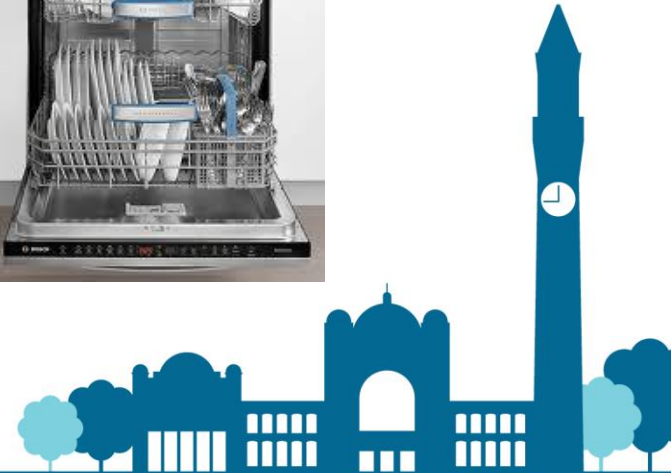
Benefits of Higher Education

- Study what they really enjoy/specialist/expert knowledge
- Intellectual challenge – make a difference to the world
- Opportunity to study abroad/ gain work experience
- Personal development/ ‘find themselves’
- Develop employability skills
- Become a ‘professional’
- Better job prospects and more choice
- Less likely to be unemployed
- More likely to receive training
- More likely to get promoted
- Have a good salary
- Happier and healthier life
- Live somewhere different
- Meet new people
- Have a good time/ new experiences/ broaden horizons



Plus.....

- More likely to vote
- More likely to read the Telegraph
- More likely to own a dishwasher





**Students must choose
the right course
at the right place
for them**



There are many choices

Where to go?

Over 165 universities/colleges (395 providers)

What to study?

Over 35,500 courses



Which subjects can they study?

- A subject specific to a career
- Subjects already studying at school
- Specific aspects of what they are already studying
- New subjects





More than
70%
of employers
do not specify a
degree subject
in their
graduate job
advertisements

Target jobs 2018




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The most targeted university by graduate recruiters
The Graduate Market in 2021 Report, produced by High Fliers Research



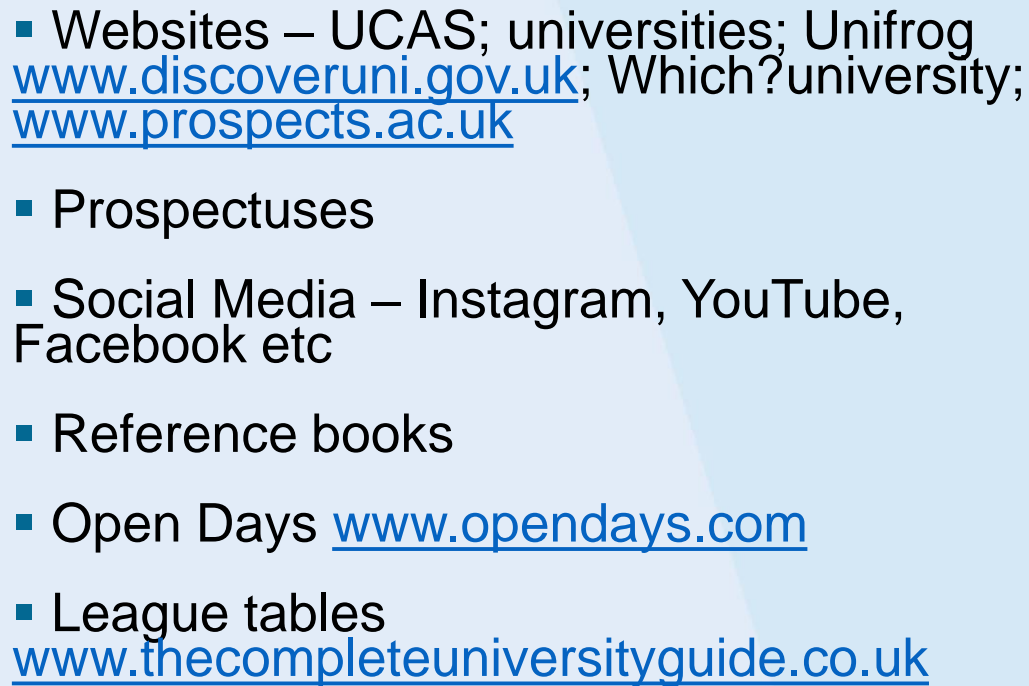
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Choosing courses – research:

- Course type
 - Course content
 - Entry requirements (aspirational and realistic)
 - Teaching and assessment methods
 - Graduate destinations
 - Location
 - Accommodation
 - Finance
 - Facilities
 - Student support
 - Student life
- 



Research

- 
- A tablet with a black bezel and a light blue screen. The screen displays a list of research resources. At the top of the screen, there is a status bar with signal strength bars, the time '14:30 PM', and a battery icon. The list consists of six items, each preceded by a small blue square bullet point. The first item is 'Websites – UCAS; universities; Unifrog' followed by two blue underlined URLs:
- www.discoveruni.gov.uk
- and
- www.prospects.ac.uk
- . The second item is 'Prospectuses'. The third item is 'Social Media – Instagram, YouTube, Facebook etc'. The fourth item is 'Reference books'. The fifth item is 'Open Days' followed by the blue underlined URL
- www.opendays.com
- . The sixth item is 'League tables' followed by the blue underlined URL
- www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk
- .
- Websites – UCAS; universities; Unifrog
www.discoveruni.gov.uk; Which?university;
www.prospects.ac.uk
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Personal statement



What do Admissions Tutors look for?

- Apply in time
- Reference
- Will they be able to cope with the academic demands of the course?
- Do they meet the entry requirements?



Personal statements - comments from Admissions Tutors

- 'Highly important'
- 'It's the only way to tell those that are interested in the subject from those that are just good at it'
- 'Forms the basis for the interview'
- 'Especially important in borderline cases'
- 'Important at confirmation/clearing'
- 'I look for students who will be interesting to teach'



Personal statement

- Reasons for course/subject choice
- What they enjoy in any related subjects now
- Current affairs/ reading around the subject/ MOOCs/ TED
- Career goals/ what hope to gain
- Interests/ hobbies
- School/college experience – positions of responsibility
- Involvement in Higher Education activities
- Work experience/ employment/ voluntary work
- Skills/personal qualities relevant to the course
- Gap year information, if applicable
- Motivation – Commitment - Enthusiasm



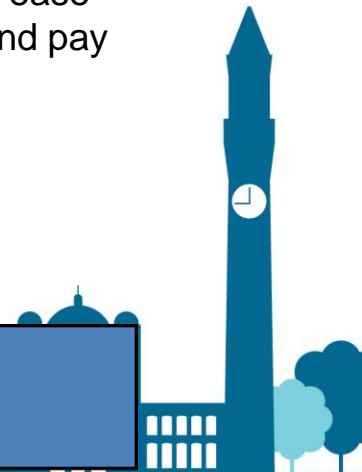
Key skills to do well - Medicine



- Sound academic background and study skills
- Interest in science
- Physical stamina
- Manual dexterity
- Desire to help people
- Cope with pressure
- Excellent communication skills
- Teamwork
- Self-motivation
- Patience
- Ability to relate to many different people
- Friendly, polite and helpful attitude towards people
- Ability to cope with anxious or difficult patients
- Ability to gain trust and put patients at ease
- Thorough and methodical approach and pay attention to detail
- Ability to work long hours

You may need a skeleton

COSTS AN ARM AND A LEG



Making a good impression with their personal statement

- Consistent course choice
- At least 75% should concentrate on course/subject related issues
- Grammar/spelling/vocabulary
- Be specific
- Be honest
- Be positive
- Be selective
- Take time – edits required
- Don't plagiarise – Similarity Detection Service
- Don't start every sentence with 'I'
- No lists – analyse their experiences



Top tips for students

- Do their research - get it right
- Visit
- Work hard
- Read/research around the subject
- Identify and evidence their skills/qualities
- Be organised and plan ahead



Top tips for parents

- Up to date information
- Encourage wise use of holiday time
- Help with research, visits, reading personal statement
- Be at home on A Level results day





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