Choosing the Right Course and University

Choosing the right course

Top tips...

- **Passion**: Are you genuinely passionate about this subject? A degree is for at least three years, and will set you up for the rest of your life, so make sure you will enjoy it!

- **Career**: Will this course provide you with the qualifications you need for your future career? Is the course recognised by the relevant professional association?

- **Check Modules**: Courses with the same title do not necessarily contain the same content at different universities.

- **How will you learn?** Will the style of teaching and assessment suit you? Are you going to be taught by a leading academic, or a junior member of staff?

- **Will you get in?** Can you realistically achieve the admissions requirements? You have five spaces on your UCAS form so choose one course to aspire to, two that you are confident in achieving an offer for, and one or two with slightly lower grades to be your safety-net.

UCAS Course Search

- If you already know what subject you are interested in you can enter it into search.ucas.com and a list of universities who offer the course will be provided.

Researching universities

How to create a shortlist

- **League Tables**: These are updated annually and are indicators of the reputation of a university e.g. Guardian, The Times and Sunday Times, The Complete University Guide, QS World University Ranking.

- **Guides**: The following guides are useful sources of information with a focus on the student experience:
  - unistats.direct.gov.uk (compares ‘Key Information Sets’ for different courses)
  - www.ucas.com/connect/videos (particularly useful for lots of ‘How to’ video guides)
  - www.push.co.uk (good for lifestyle information)

- **University websites**: Every university has its own website where you can learn about the content and grade requirements of its courses, as well as information about accommodation, sports and student support services e.g. www.le.ac.uk

- **Student networking websites**: These sites are useful for informal information, but use the chat-rooms with caution if you are unsure of the true identity of the person you are chatting to:
  - www.thestudentroom.co.uk
  - www.whatuni.com

Things to keep in mind...

- It is never too early to start your research. Look online, order prospectuses, and visit HE fairs.

- University facilities and reputation can change dramatically over just a few years so ensure your information is up to date.

- It is vital to visit your short-listed universities. Can you imagine living and studying there?

- Does the university have good student services? Will they help you find accommodation? If you have any disabilities will you receive support? What are the library services like?

- Is there a welfare service?

- Can you afford to live in the area for the duration of your degree? University accommodation is not always a true reflection, so do some research.

Ask parents, teachers and friends for input but remember it is your decision!