What is university?
Everything you need to know about life at university
A university is where people study their chosen subject/s and gain a degree qualification. This is often after completing sixth-form or college.

**Why go to university?**

Many jobs require knowledge of specialist areas. Going to university gives you the chance to study a subject you’re interested in in-depth. It’s also a great place to meet like-minded people and enjoy making new friends and trying new hobbies.

**Who goes to university?**

Everyone has the potential to study at university. It’s important to work hard in school and college so that you achieve the grades you need to get a place at the university you would like to attend. You don’t need to have any money upfront to pay for university.
Jargon buster

**Degree**
The qualification you get for completing a university course.

**Graduation ceremony**
A ceremony where you receive and celebrate your degree qualification.

**Lecture**
An educational talk to an audience of university students.

**Seminar**
A class at university in which a topic is discussed by a teacher and a small group of students.

**Modules**
Different topics you will study within your degree.

**Dissertation**
A long essay on a piece of detailed research.

**Sandwich courses**
A year of work experience ‘sandwiched’ between your second and third year of study, also known as a placement year.

**Societies**
Where groups of students with the same interest get together.

**Combined degree**
Choose two or more subject areas as a joint degree.
What can I study?

There are over 40,000 degree courses on offer in the UK! ucas.com is a great place to start. Not all universities offer the same selection of courses and you need to be open-minded – your ideal course may be something you have never even heard of!

**Combined Honours**
If you’re struggling to decide between your favourite subjects, don’t worry – you may be able to do them as part of a Combined Honours degree. This allows you to choose two or more subject areas and study them as a joint course. This doesn’t mean you are awarded two degrees though – still just the one, but covering two or more subjects.

**Sandwich courses and placement years**
Some courses can be studied with a year’s work experience ‘sandwiched’ between the second and final years of study. This may be optional or compulsory but either way it’s a really valuable addition to your experience and is definitely worth considering.
Word search

Find the following words in the puzzle. Words are hidden in all directions.

ARCHITECTURE
DIGITAL SOCIAL MEDIA
BROADCAST JOURNALISM
EVENTS MANAGEMENT
FASHION DESIGN
GAMES DESIGN
MEDICAL GENETICS
MIDWIFERY
POLICING
ZOOLOGY
Is university different to school?

At school you study a range of subjects, whereas at university you choose to focus on a subject you love.

Universities pride themselves on giving students a great experience, so having high-quality specialist equipment, rooms and buildings is really important.

**Lab/practical work**
University is not just about sitting in lectures, it’s also about putting the knowledge you learn into practice. For example if you’re studying a Medical Genetics degree you will spend time in specialist labs conducting scientific experiments.

**Library**
Most university libraries have thousands of books, hundreds of computers, Skype suites and some have equipment for students to borrow, such as video cameras and laptops.

**Lecture recording**
This is a service where lectures are video recorded to watch back later or when you’re revising!

**Placements**
A chance to work in a job related to your degree as part of your time at university. This experience can boost your chance of getting a job once you finish your course.
A typical student’s day:

9:30am Leave student accommodation

9:45am Meet course mates for a quick breakfast in the university café

10am Attend a lecture

11am Study with course mates – working on a group project together in the library

12pm Meet friends in town for some lunch

1pm Attend a seminar

2pm Netball practice

3pm Free time

5pm Make burritos with friends at student accommodation

7:30pm Attend a house party with some friends from the Sci-Fi and Fantasy Society
Student life

University isn’t just about the subject you choose to study. There are lots of things to get involved in outside of your degree.

Freshers’ Week

Freshers’ Week is the first week of the university calendar. It’s a week full of fun and bursting with activities. Think live music, film nights and loads of freebies.
Sports clubs and societies

This is where groups of people with similar interests meet to enjoy their hobbies together. Some examples include the football club, Drama and Performing Arts Society and even a Gaming Society.

Advice and support

The Students’ Union understands that coming to university is a big change. It provides advice and support to students throughout their time at university. Universities also offer well-being and disability services.

Student discount card

As a student, you can apply for one of these cards. It allows you to get discounts in loads of your favourite shops, places to eat and websites.
Where will I live?

Some students are excited by the thought of moving away and gaining independence. Others prefer to stay at home. Read about Gemma and Joseph’s experiences:

Staying at home:

“\textquote{"I decided to stay at home and commute to uni to save money. I travel for an hour each way and I love the time to myself to just zone out, listen to music and podcasts, or just read."\textquote}"

\textit{Gemma Flynn}
\textit{Business and Marketing BA(Hons)}
Moving out:

“I moved into student accommodation because I wanted to be more independent, and live close to the University. I knew that everybody in my halls was in the same situation, and it was a really good way to make new friends.”

Joseph Arnott
Drama BA(Hons)
How will I afford it?

You don’t need to have any money upfront to pay for university. Student Finance England offer financial support to learners through student loans.

**Tuition Fee Loan**
This covers the teaching and support you get at university. The loan is paid straight to the university.

**Maintenance Loan**
This is the money you could get to help with any living costs whilst at university. Rent, books, food and of course socialising are all a big part of student life – the Maintenance Loan will help pay for all these things.
But how will I pay back the student loan?

You only pay back your student loan once you’ve left university and are earning over £25,000 a year.

£25,000

If you do earn over £25,000 you will only pay back 9% of whatever is over £25,000.※

30 years

But remember – your loan gets written off after 30 years.

※Figures correct at the time of printing.
Plan your future

Now that you know a bit more about university, you can start planning your journey.

Think about your dream job and how university can help you get there!

1. Dream jobs

2. Which courses link to my dream job?
   - Names of courses
   - Which universities offer these courses?
   - Are they offered as a sandwich course with a placement year?
3. Thinking about my GCSEs
- Which subjects do I enjoy?

4. Sixth-form or college
- What are the entry requirements for my chosen degree course(s) (A Levels, GCSEs, vocational qualifications)?

- Do I need certain grades at GCSE to get onto the course I want at college or sixth-form?

5. My experience
- Can I get work experience relevant to the course/job I want?

- How will I go about finding this work experience?
What to do next

Once you have completed your booklet, hand it to your teacher or careers advisor.

Your teacher or careers advisor can email schools.liaison@hud.ac.uk to confirm the booklet has been completed and get some University of Huddersfield freebies.

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