

## Choosing a degree

If you think that university is the right choice for you, the decision-making process unfortunately does not end there. There are tens of thousands of courses to choose from at more than 395 institutions – and that's just within the United Kingdom!

There will be courses and combinations that you would never have been able to think of, so it is important to research the different options thoroughly to ensure you make well-informed decisions.

1. Choose a Subject
2. Choose a Course
3. Choose a University

The most important factor to consider is what you are looking to study. Whilst you may have an idea of which higher education institutions you wish to aspire to, there's no use in deciding on a university until you've chosen what you want to study.

A subject is a term for a broader group of subject areas which include a number of individual courses that can be studied. Subjects include areas such as biology, geography, marketing, and medicine, for example.

A course is the specific degree that you will study at university, with its own title and code. Courses with the same title will inevitably vary in content and therefore are unique to each university.

Whilst it is possible to study a subject as a whole, you will also encounter more specialised courses under the subject umbrella. Take the example of biology: on the one hand a degree in biology can be found, however you will also come across specialise courses like Marine Biology, Biomedical Sciences, Forensic Biology, and Mathematical Biology, for example.

### Important things to remember

- You will often be studying this subject for several years. University study is requires a lot of independence and self-motivation; you must ensure that you have a strong interest and enthusiasm for the subject, regardless of your career plans afterwards.
- Think about what your current academic strengths are. If you find the subject difficult at A level, you will need to consider whether it is appropriate to study it at university.
- It is helpful to have an idea of where you want this degree to lead you, however this is often easier said than done. Remember that your degree does not have to be directly related to your job. There are several routes into the same job, e.g. you do not have to study law to become a lawyer

## Useful links

[www.indigo.trotman.co.uk](http://www.indigo.trotman.co.uk)

[www.ucas.com/what-are-my-options/thinking-about-uni](http://www.ucas.com/what-are-my-options/thinking-about-uni)

<https://digital.ucas.com/search>

<http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk>

<http://www.prospects.ac.uk>