

My guide to University

Years 7-11



University of
HUDDERSFIELD
Inspiring global professionals

What is Higher Education?

University, or Higher Education, is where you can go to study a subject that interests you to gain a degree qualification.

You are here.

Secondary school
14+ GCSEs, BTECs
(Level 2)

Your next steps.

College or Sixth form
16+ Further Education (FE)
A-Levels,
BTECs, T-Levels,
Cache Diploma (Level 3)

And then...

University 18+
Higher Education (HE)
Degree

Who goes to university?

University is an option for anyone who wants to go and who can meet the entry requirements. You will usually need to have level 3 qualifications gained from college or sixth form. These can be A levels or the equivalent, such as BTECs.

Is university right for me?

There are lots of options for you to consider whilst at school, so you'll need to do lots of research. If you decide that university's not for you then there are plenty of alternatives at 18 such as apprenticeships and School Leavers Programmes.

Fact: Many graduate jobs don't require a specific degree

Top 5 reasons to go to university

1

Study a subject you love

At university you can continue to study a subject that you already love at school, or you can try something completely new!

2

Some careers will require you to have a degree

For many careers you will need to have a degree. For example, if you want to be a nurse, a teacher, a solicitor or a pharmacist, you'll need a degree.

3

Improve your employability and future earnings

With a degree you are more likely to be in employment and to earn more during your working life.*

4

You'll have some amazing opportunities

You'll have the opportunity to gain valuable work experience, take part in volunteering as well as join clubs and societies.

5

Make friends for life

At university you'll get to meet people from all over the world and make lifelong friends.

Jargon Buster

HE

Higher Education is another term for university. HE (university) is the level above FE (college / sixth form).

Undergraduate

A student studying towards their degree.

UCAS

The Universities and Admissions Service. UCAS processes UK applications for university courses.

Degree

The qualification you get for successfully completing a university course. You can obtain different types of degree. For example a BA = Bachelor of Arts, BSc = Bachelor of Science, BEng = Bachelor of Engineering and BMus = Bachelor of Music.

Prospectus

A printed or online brochure of all of a university's courses and entry requirements.

Module

A module is a different topic that you study as part of your degree course. Some modules are compulsory (you have to study them) and others are optional (you get to choose).

Sandwich course

A year of optional work experience in the middle of your degree. Also known as a placement year.

Lecture

A subject talk delivered by a lecturer as part of your course. Students take notes to obtain subject information.

Seminar

A class (lesson) at university where a topic is discussed by a tutor and a small group of students.

Graduate

Someone who has successfully completed a degree.

Student Life

University isn't just about the course you choose to study. There are lots of activities to get involved in too, including clubs and societies, volunteering, and loads of social activities.

Freshers Week

Freshers' week is the first week of the university calendar. It's a week packed with social events including live music, competitions, film nights, and loads of freebies!

Scan the **QR code** to take a tour of campus:



Accommodation

As a university student you can choose to live at home or move away – the choice is yours. If you choose to move away, you can live in halls of residence or a shared house or flat with friends. Living in a shared house is a great way to make friends, gain independence and have fun!

Scan the **QR code** to view student accommodation in Huddersfield:



Subjects at the University of Huddersfield

There are more than 50,000 HE courses to choose from in around 400 institutions. Here are just some of the courses on offer at the University of Huddersfield.

Scan the **QR code** to view the course finder:



Typical Entry Requirements

3 A levels at grade B, a BTEC at grade DDM or 120 UCAS points

Computing and Engineering

e.g. Software Engineering, Computer Science with Cyber Security

Education

Primary and Early Years Education (QTS)

Business

e.g. Accounting and Finance, Law

Human and Health Sciences

e.g. Speech and Language Therapy, Midwifery

Arts and Humanities

e.g. Costume with Textiles, Film Making

Applied Sciences

e.g. Optometry, Medical Genetics

Did you know?

Some courses require qualifications in specific subjects. For example, to study Physiotherapy you'll need a biological science.

For Primary Education (QTS) you'll need GCSE Science in addition to Maths and English.

Degree Apprenticeships:

An alternative, work-based route to gaining a degree.

Scan the **QR code** to read more about degree apprenticeships:



You need to already be in employment or apply directly to an employer before you can start a degree apprenticeship.



Student Finance

You don't need to have money upfront to pay for university. Instead, you can apply for student loans to pay for your course and living costs. You will only repay this once you've graduated and are earning over a certain amount.

Tuition Fee Loan

This loan will cover the cost of your course fees and will be paid directly to the university where you study.

Maintenance Loan

This loan is to pay for your living costs including rent, books, food shopping and anything else such as clothes and socialising.

Additional Support

As well as financial support there's a range of other support services available for students. These include disability support and wellbeing services, a careers service and faith centre.

Scan the **QR code** to read more about fees and finance:



Did you know?

Graduate salaries are likely to be higher than non-graduate salaries.
Graduate employment rates are better than for non-graduates.

Tips and Advice

Top tips from University of Huddersfield students on everything from how to choose a course to making the most of university life.

Don't be afraid if you're confused: university is all about discovering yourself.

Maab,
Artificial-Intelligence MSc, 1st Year

Get a diary to plan your days but also make time for yourself and have some fun!"

Jinea,
Podiatry BSc, 1st Year

Uni may seem overwhelming but it's just as simple as school. You just need to do your work and keep an open mind to wanting to learn.

Karim,
Computer Science, 4th Year

Make a list comparing different universities including entry requirements and accommodation to help you make a decision.

Samar,
Psychology MSc, 3rd Year

Choose a course which suits your needs best; not one your friends are on and not one based on the town or city.

Andrew,
Musicology, MMus

Go to Open Days and ask as many questions as possible.

Hattie,
English Literature, MA

Living away from home isn't as scary as it may seem! There's still plenty of support available.

Anette,
Special Educations Needs, Disability and Inclusion BA, 2nd year

Questions to ask myself

What subjects at school am I good at and enjoy?

What careers am I interested in?

What are my post-16 options?

What could I study at university?

Can I gain the qualifications required?

Do I need to choose specific post-16 subjects?

Are there any other entry requirements?

What are my next steps?



Keep working hard at school to gain good GCSE grades (including Maths and English at grade 4+).



Do lots of research: Talk to staff at careers fairs, teachers and advisers in school and your friends and family. You can also carry out course and careers research online.



Try to gain some work experience and participate in extra-curricular activities to develop your transferable skills.

Websites for researching course and career options

You can research career and course options online. Here are a few websites to get you started:

<https://courses.hud.ac.uk/>

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk>

www.ucas.com

www.apprenticeships.org.uk

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