

University

Helping your child achieve their dreams

At Isaac Newton Academy, our aim is to equip every child with the knowledge, learning power and character necessary to succeed at university and beyond.

May 2015

Why is going to university a good thing?

Earnings and career prospects

Personal benefits

Entry to the professions

...plus the fun stuff

Why is going to university a good thing?

Studying at university, irrespective of what degree you choose, teaches you more than mere information on your chosen subject. It teaches you to look beyond the surface of whatever confronts you, and consider the unconsidered.

University has helped me to grow and mature. And to my joy, I've done this at the same that I've learned more and more about a subject that has always captivated me.

<https://www.ucas.com/corporate/news-and-key-documents/love-learning-%E2%80%93-winners-are>

https://d3lkew8zknjt1t.cloudfront.net/butotv/live/videos/gPFHK/1/v4wyx/v4wyx_1200.mp4

What next?

- How do I apply?
- Which university?
- Which course?
- What subjects do I need?
- What else do I need?

How to apply?

www.ucas.com

5 choices

Year 12

Prepare application

Year 13

September:

Applications can be submitted

15 October:

Deadline for applications to Oxford and Cambridge

Deadline for medicine, dentistry, veterinary science

15 January:

Deadline for all courses

(24 March:

Deadline for art & design courses)

August:

Results released

Extra – Clearing – Adjustment

Which university?

- **Domestic** league tables in the *Guardian*, *Times*, *Sunday Times* and *Independent*. There is no single agreed-upon or officially-sanctioned version.
- **International** league tables like the *Times Higher Education World University Rankings*, the *QS World University Rankings*, and the *Academic Ranking of World Universities*. All three focus on research quality.

Questions to consider:

- What is the university like?
- What is the city like?
- What is the course like?
- What is the travel like?
- What is the accommodation like?

There is no such thing as an objectively good university.

'Good' universities

	Guardian 2015	Complete University Guide 2015	TES 'table of tables' 2015
1	Cambridge	Cambridge	Cambridge
2	Oxford	Oxford	Oxford
3	St Andrews	LSE	St Andrews
4	Bath	St Andrews	LSE
5	Imperial	Durham	Imperial
6	Surrey	Imperial	Durham
7	LSE	Warwick	Bath
8	Durham	Bath	Warwick
9	Warwick	UCL	Exeter
10	Lancaster	Exeter	Surrey
11	UCL	Lancaster	UCL
12	Exeter	Surrey	Lancaster
13	Heriot-Watt	Loughborough	Loughborough
14	UEA	York	East Anglia
15	Loughborough	East Anglia	York
16	York	Southampton	Birmingham
17	Birmingham	Birmingham	Southampton
18	Edinburgh	Bristol	Leicester
19	Southampton	Leicester	Edinburgh
20	Kent	Newcastle	Nottingham
21	Leicester	Edinburgh	Bristol
22	Aston	Kent	Leeds
23	Nottingham	Cardiff	Newcastle
24	SOAS	Leeds	Kent
25	Glasgow	Nottingham	Heriot-Watt

Given a particular course, which university?

CUG Rank		University Name	Entry Standards	Student Satisfaction	Research Quality	Graduate Prospects	Overall Score
2016	2015						
1	1	Cambridge	567	4.03	3.26	79	100.0
2	2	Durham	521	4.18	3.18	83	99.7
3	5	Oxford	549	4.27	3.23	79	99.6
4	4	Bristol	475	4.13	3.33	83	98.4
5	3	London School of Economics	484	4.18	3.25	83	98.1
6	6	St Andrews	498	4.29	3.24	71	96.5
7	12	Cardiff	383	4.58	3.18	83	96.0
8	8	Glasgow	435	4.07	3.23	77	95.3
9	11	Exeter	448	4.12	3.05	74	94.7
10	19	Newcastle	408	4.12	3.17	74	93.4
11	7	University College London	488	3.31	3.19	76	93.4
12	16	Nottingham	424	4.09	2.92	73	93.2
13	9	Lancaster	418	4.09	3.08	70	92.9
14	21	Southampton	399	4.08	3.13	73	92.9
15	18	Birmingham	404	3.94	3.04	75	92.6

Geography and Environmental Science - Complete University Guide May 2015

'Good' universities

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/ng-interactive/2014/jun/02/university-league-tables-2015-the-complete-list>

<http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings>

<http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/news/cambridge-tops-table-of-tables-for-fourth-year/2016236.article>

Which course?

- Over 35 000 courses available!
- Research - ask people, look on the web, taster sessions
- Passion, interest, inspiration, goal

Questions to consider:

- Why choose this course?
- How is it taught?
- How is it assessed?

“When choosing a course, remember that not all courses with the same name are identical.”

Rachel Lister, Head of Admissions, Cambridge University

Open Days and Taster Sessions

King's College: <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/ug/openday/pre-application.aspx>

UCL: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/widening-participation/openday>

Brunel: <http://www.brunel.ac.uk/courses/open-days/undergraduate-open-days>

Exscitec: <https://www.exscitec.com/news/index.asp>

Sutton Trust Summer School – open to students in Year 12

Types of degree

- Most undergraduate degree courses lead to an honours degree in three years.
- Modern foreign languages – four years including a year overseas.
- Some subjects, e.g. medicine and architecture, take longer.
- Most degrees: Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BSc)
- Other degrees: BEd, LLB, BEng, MA, MSci, MEng, MChem, MPhys

The long (but accurate) way round – Key Information Sets

1. Go to the course page on the university website and look for this widget:

BA History
University Of Leeds

Compare this course with other courses at

UNISTATS

KIS KEY INFORMATION SET
Official data collected by HEFCE

46%
Assessed by coursework

97%
Students agreed staff are good at explaining things

98%
Students agreed staff made the subject interesting

2. Go to Unistats and look up a course:

BA Honours in History

University Of Bristol

See this course at the University Of Bristol website

+ Shortlist



Your measures Overview Employment & accreditation Student satisfaction Cost & accommodation Study information Entry information

KIS stands for Key Information Set. The KIS is an official overview of comparable information on higher education courses for prospective students.

KIS KEY INFORMATION SET

UCAS code: V100

86%

Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of the course

3. Or compare several courses:

Information set	BA History Royal Holloway, University of London	BA Honours in History University Of Bristol	BA History University Of Leeds
Overview			
KIS KEY INFORMATION SET			
Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of the course	98%	86%	94%
I have been able to access general IT resources when I needed to	82%	87%	87%
The library resources and services are good enough for my needs	59%	81%	81%

What subjects do I need?

Pre-A-level:

- English and maths GCSE at at least C (B is even better).
- Some medical courses require 5 (or more) A* grades at GCSE.
- UCL requires a C grade in MFL GCSE for all its courses
(if a student hasn't got it at school, they need to study it at university)
- Lots of universities don't accept GCSE re-takes.

What subjects do I need?

A level:

- Plan on 4 AS levels in year 12, and 3 A levels in year 13.
- ‘Facilitating subjects’: **Maths & Further Maths, English (Lit), Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Geography, History, Languages**. Take two of these to be competitive; the third is up to you, based on interest and aptitude.
- **Economics** is seen as a subject that is generally good preparation, but isn’t included as ‘facilitating’ since not many courses require it.
- **Art** and **music** A levels are generally required for degrees in those subjects.
- **General Studies** and **Critical Thinking** are best only taken as extras.

<http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/informed-choices.aspx>

How well do you need to do?

UCAS

University of Bath
Mechanical Engineering
4 year full-time Degree

Volume and depth of study/Tariff points and Grades

Volume and depth of study (GCE A level or equivalent)	Minimum number required: 3 Number preferred: 3
Tariff score	
GCE A/AS level grade range	A*AA

GCE AS

Acceptability	Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications
Excluded Subjects	General Studies

GCE A level

Acceptability	Acceptable on its own & combined with other qualifications
Subjects and grades required	Mathematics and Physics.
Excluded Subjects	General Studies.
Additional Information	Mathematics and Physics are required at A2 with an A* in either Mathematics or Physics. Grade C in GCSE English also required.

The university itself

Mechanical Engineering



Entry requirements

A Levels

Typical Offer: A2: A*AA

In exceptional circumstances we may make a slightly lower offer.

Essential:

- ◊ Mathematics and Physics are required at A2 with an A* in either Mathematics or Physics
- ◊ General Studies is excluded
- ◊ grade C in GCSE English

NOTE: check what people *actually* get. A*AA is 380 UCAS points. But the average first year Mech. Eng. student at Bath in 2012 got 496 UCAS points – equivalent to A*A*A* at A2, plus an A at AS level.

How well do you need to do?

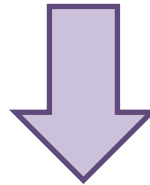
UCAS points/ Tariff score

A level grade	Current tariff	New tariff
A*	140	56
A	120	48
B	100	40
C	80	32
D	60	24
E	40	16

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What else do I need?

- Relevant experience
- Enrichment
- Responsibilities
- Out of school activities



Personal Statement

Studying abroad

<http://www.fulbright.org.uk/study-in-the-usa/undergraduate-study/applying>

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

Navigating student finance (note: 2015/16 information, and for UK students only)

Tuition fee loans

Up to £9k per year. No-one ever has to pay upfront – loans are available to everyone.

Maintenance loans

A proportion goes to everyone, while the rest is means-tested on household income.

Maintenance grants

Means-tested on household income – full below £25k, sliding scale between £25k and c. £42k, no grant is available above that.

Repaid – but **not like normal debt**. Interest is charged at inflation plus 3%. Payments are **income-contingent** and only start **after graduation**. Graduates repay the total amount due at 9% of income over £21,000. Stop earning = stop paying. No-one will ever come asking for the money. It doesn't affect credit histories.

Never has to be repaid.