

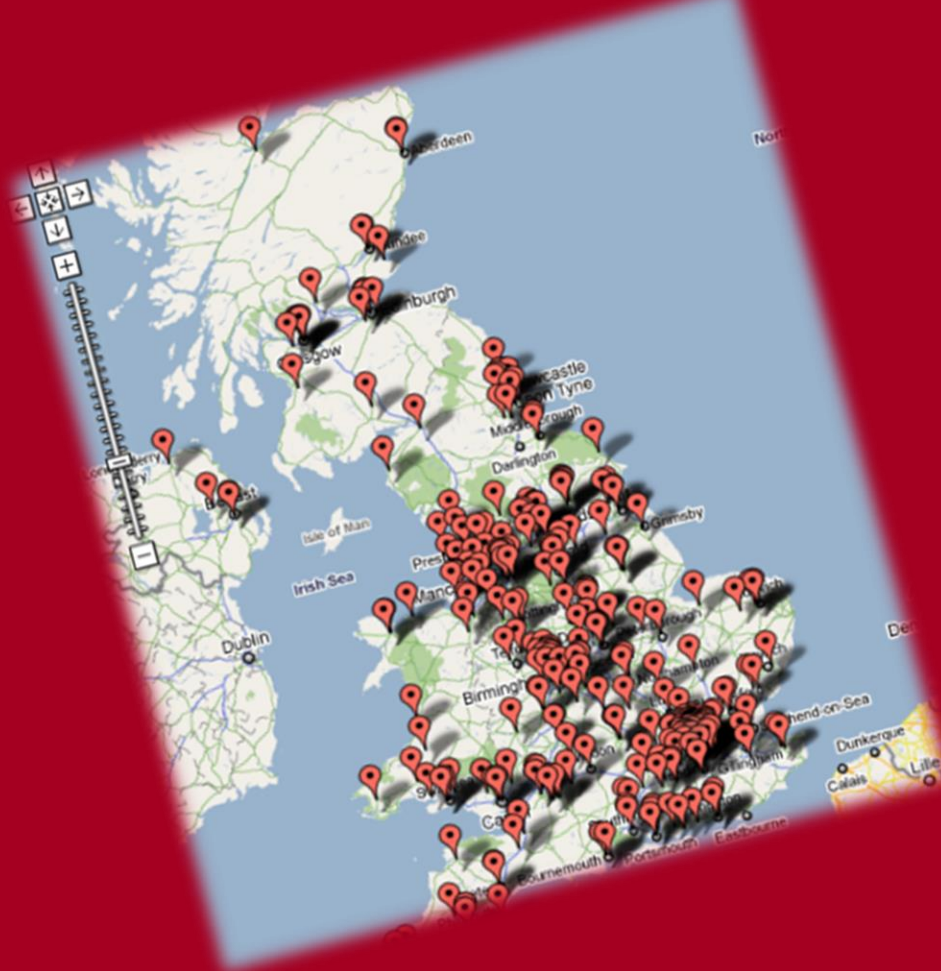
# UCAS Student Guide 2015

## – What to Study

# Choice!

- 315 Universities and Colleges
- 50,000 courses

# The provision of higher education in the UK



# Where Can I Study?

University, Higher Education College or Further Education College

BA, BSc or B Ed

Single Honours/ Joint Honours

Vocational or non vocational

# Why study for a degree?

- ❑ Increased opportunities for personal development
- ❑ Think width as well as depth
- ❑ High quality training in specialist and transferable skills
- ❑ Employers prefer graduates
- ❑ Degrees increasingly needed in the job market
- ❑ Graduate earnings and employment opportunities greater than those of non graduates

# Transferable Skills Developed During Typical Degree Course

- ❑ How to find relevant information
- ❑ Independent working and team work
- ❑ First hand research experience
- ❑ Monitoring personal learning
- ❑ Improved communication
- ❑ Development and practice of
  - specialist skills and knowledge
  - general critical and analytical skills

# What shall I study?

## Prospectuses

□ Prospectuses have two aims:

➤ to inform

➤ to persuade

□ Read them critically

# Prospectuses

## Points to look for:

- Selecting or recruiting?
- Marketing tactics
- Tone: e.g., clear, open, friendly, informative or distant and dry
- What features the college highlights to sell itself
- QAA inspection report extracts
- OFSTED inspection report extracts
- Student comments



# Open Days

- ❑ Decide on your aim for the day
- ❑ Prepare questions based on your aims

# UCAS Fairs

- ❑ Decide on your aim for the day
- ❑ Prepare questions based on your aims

# Open days

## Points to think about

- OFSTED and QAA reports
- Student support
- Assessment methods
- Employability and drop out rates
- Study, sports, social facilities
- Campus and accommodation

# Open days

- Friendly and welcoming
- Sense of community
- Attitude to P/T employment
- Attitude to gap year
- Talk to students -Do they back up what staff and prospectus say?

# UCAS Fairs

Points to think about:

- Subject option and combinations
- Career ambitions
- Area of country
- Distance from home
- Size of institution
- Accommodation location and costs

# Issues which are important to me

- Drop out rates
- Student employment on campus
- Assessment methods
- Teaching style
- Employment rates
- QAA or OFSTED reports
- Being happy here
- Anything else

# Choosing a course

- A traditional subject –mathematics, French, history etc.
- A vocational subject –nursing, law, pharmacy, teaching
- A completely new subject
- A combination of subjects

# Sources of Information

- ❑ Seek assistance
- ❑ Careers service
- ❑ Where Next Guide
- ❑ UCAS ([www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)) information on every course at every institution
- ❑ Guides
  - Degree course offers
  - Ecctis CD
  - WHICH degree
- ❑ Internet websites



# Choosing a course

- Subject and course content
- Type of job
- Entry requirements
- Opportunities in Europe and abroad
- Professional accreditation and recognition
- Career prospects

# Which is the right course?

- A very important and personal decision
- Choose a subject or combination of subjects you enjoy
- Have you a career in mind?
- Research the courses you are interested in
- Be realistic when applying
- Start early
- Apply through UCAS

# Choosing an Institution

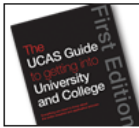
- A big institution or a small one
- Central campus or dispersed
- Moving away or studying near home
- Student views of pastoral support
- Facilities which are attractive to you
- A social scene you will enjoy

# Questions which are important to me

- Are all first year students guaranteed accommodation in halls?
- How much will it cost to live away?
- Can I get home easily?
- What student support is available?
- What is the quality rating for the institution?
- What is the reputation of the institution?
- What is the course content

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Everything you need to know about the entire applicant journey

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<http://ow.ly/8E9CB>



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@MrJackDonny I'm afraid if it's not on the table then it won't get Tariff points. Uni's will still consider the (cont) <http://t.co/2z3dbKhC>  
9 minutes ago



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# Unistats

Staff are good at explaining things- % agree	85%
Staff have made the subject interesting- % agree	68%
Feedback on my work has been prompt- % agree	66%
Feedback on my work has helped me clarify things I did not understand- % agree	57%
I have received sufficient advice and support with my studies- % agree	76%
The library resources are good enough for my needs- % agree	90%
I have been able to access general IT resources when I needed to- % agree	89%
Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of my course- % agree	91%
<b>Graduate Salary Data</b> (visit the <a href="#">Employment prospects</a> section for more)	
<u>This Institution's Median Salary (6</u>	£23,000

# Statistics for entry

## **Most popular courses:**

- Law
- Design studies
- Psychology
- Management studies
- Business Studies
- Computer science
- English
- Pre-clinical medicine
- Social Work
- Sports studies

More Vocational degrees

Need to get job and pay back debt

# Statistics for entry

## **Five most popular universities:**

- Nottingham
- Bristol
- Manchester
- Leeds
- Birmingham



# Drop Out Rate

- 21.7% of students dropped out of university  
In 2012/13 in their first year!

# Why students drop out

In some major studies students identify seven main causes:

1. Finance
2. Wrong choice of course
3. Not have researched the course content sufficiently
4. Finding the course work too hard
5. Poor teaching
6. Inadequate support
7. Disliking the location

# Make sure its not you!

- Study Skills – Independent Study skills so you can handle the workload
- UCAS – IAG – so you make informed choices