

WHY GO TO UNIVERSITY?

Benefits of university?

- To pursue a specific career path
- To challenge yourself
- To explore your subject in more depth
- For the student experience and personal development.

How to choose your course and university

Course

- What do you want to study and why?
- Use the UCAS course search to see what courses are available
- Have you considered subjects not taught in school/college? (eg Architecture, Pharmacy, Anthropology)
- How will you study? There are different alternatives:
 - joint honours (studying two subjects, e.g. Drama and English)
 - full time or part time
 - foundation year.

Content

- Does your preferred course cover the subject areas you are interested in?
- Is the course structured in a way that will suit you?
- Is it mainly exam or coursework based?
- How is it taught? Mainly seminars or lectures, or by other methods?

Campus

What do you want from your university experience?

- Do you want everything in one place? (campus university)
- Would you prefer to be in a city with academic buildings, the students' union and accommodation in different parts of the city? (city university)

City

- Do you want to move away or be near/stay at home?
- Do you want to be in a big city, a medium city or a town?
- Do you want to be in the countryside, near the sea or somewhere that combines these factors?
- If you want to move away, how much will it cost to live there? Will student loans cover it, or will you need to get a part-time job?
- How often will you want to go home? How much will it cost?

Additional costs

- Academic costs include: books, course materials, printing/photocopying costs etc.
- Living costs include accommodation, food, clothing and laundry, personal items, social life, mobile phone, TV licence.

Tuition fees

- Most universities have set their tuition fees at £9,250 per year.
- UK students do not have to pay tuition fees upfront; a tuition fee loan is available from the UK Government. You apply for this loan via Student Finance England.
- The tuition fee loan is paid directly to the university by Student Finance England.

This leaflet was updated in February 2023. The University of Kent makes every effort to ensure that the information contained in its publicity materials is fair and accurate and to provide educational services as described. However, the courses, services and other matters may be subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, see: www.kent.ac.uk Full details of our terms and conditions can be found at: www.kent.ac.uk/termsandconditions

Financial support available

- All UK students are entitled to tuition fee loan to cover the full amount of fees, for up to four years of study.
- Living cost loans (maintenance loans) are available to full-time and part-time UK students to help with living costs.
- Scholarships – check if the university you are looking at has any specialist scholarships.
 - Do you play a musical instrument or play sports at a high level? If so, you may be eligible for a sports or music scholarship.
 - Are you expecting to achieve very high grades that may qualify you for an academic excellence scholarship?

Repayments: the facts

- Repayments are linked to your earnings; not how much you borrow.
- Tuition fee loans and living cost loans are repaid as one.
- You repay 9% of anything you earn over £25,000.
- Repayments start from the April after you graduate*.
- If your salary falls below £25,000, your repayments stop.
- Any amount remaining after 40 years will be written off.

**If you are studying part-time, you may begin repayments the April three years after you started your course and once you are earning over £25,000 per year.*

How to get the most out of your time at university

Academic life

- You are responsible for your own work. Unlike school, nobody will be chasing you to meet a deadline; it's down to you.
- You learn in a variety of ways – from independent study, to attending large lectures, and participating in smaller seminar and group work sessions.
- You may not spend hours in the classroom. Some courses, such as Pharmacy, have a high number of contact hours, whereas courses such as English Literature may have fewer, but require more independent study.

Student life

- Consider a part time job, or spending a year abroad/in industry as part of your course – you can earn a salary and gain essential experience to add to your CV.
- Join clubs and societies – you will learn new skills and have the opportunity to try something new.

Graduate employment: invest in your future

- University offers unique opportunities:
 - you may get to go abroad for a year and live anywhere in the world
 - you may have the opportunity to take up a year in industry, where you can earn a salary before completing your final year.
- You gain many transferable skills, such as analytical thinking, formal writing and time management.
- You will have a greater choice of professions. For example, if you have a specific vocation it may well require a degree (doctor/architect/social worker).
- A graduate earns an average salary of £36,000 compared to an average of £26,000 for non-graduates. Source: *Graduate Labour Market Statistics 2021* (updated June 2022).

Useful links

- Fees and funding at Kent: www.kent.ac.uk/ugfunding/
- Kent's finance website: www.kent.ac.uk/finance-student/
- UCAS: www.ucas.com
- Discover Uni (for comparing courses): www.discoveruni.gov.uk/
- The Complete University Guide: www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk