

CHOOSING A UNI AND A COURSE



A VERY WARM WELCOME FROM



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Student Recruitment and
Access Officer

Presentation overview

1. Why consider university
2. Choosing the right course
3. Choosing a university
4. Where to find information
5. Applying to university
6. Useful links and contacts
7. Questions

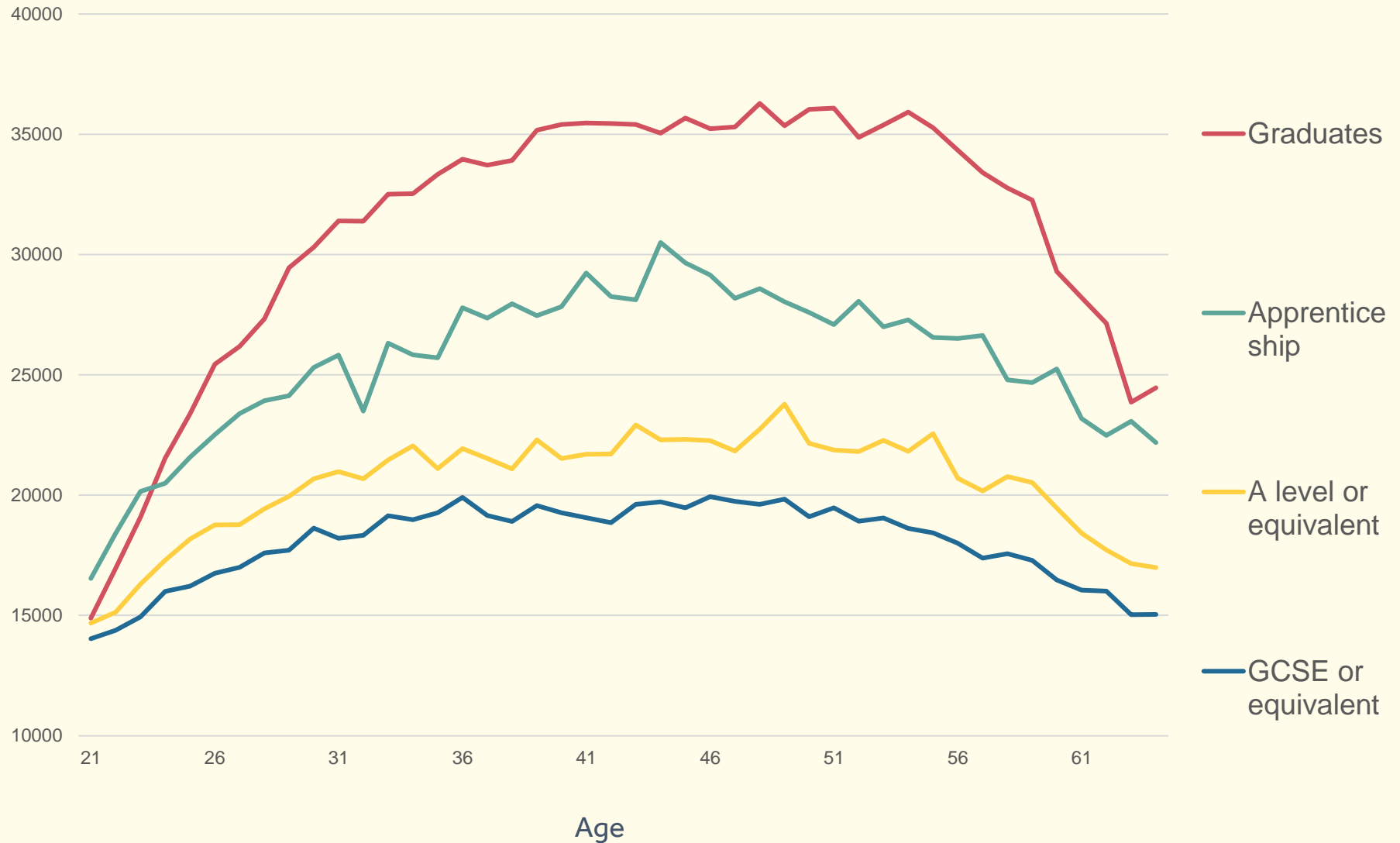
**WHY GO TO
UNIVERSITY?**



Why go to university?

- You need a degree for some jobs
- Study something you enjoy
- Better career prospects
- Transferable skills
- Develop confidence and independence

Graduates earn more



CHOOSING A COURSE

What can you study?

- **Traditional subjects**- English Literature, Mathematics, Geography
- **Vocational**-Teaching, Pharmacy, Speech and Language Therapy
- **Unusual courses**- Consumer Marketing and Behaviour, Meteorology & Climate
- **Combined Courses** – Art and Psychology, English Literature and French, Maths and Finance & Investment Banking

Options to look out for

Subject specifics

- Rankings
- Joint courses
- Facilities
- Accreditation
- Teaching and student reviews

Specialism

- Research
- Course modules and assessment types

Entry requirements

- Contextual offers
- Grade drops

Other opportunities

- Placement
- Sandwich years
- Year abroad
- Support
- Graduate outcomes


Wide range of subjects

- Placement opportunities on most courses
- Typical offers: **AAA-BBB**
- Contextualised offers depending on individual circumstances
- One grade drop if:
 - Reading is your firm choice
 - Achieve a grade B from EPQ



Choose your future

Explore your options, apply to university, and more

 Politics



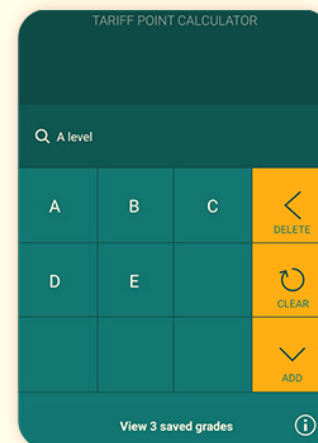
Explore and favourite options

Explore over 35,000 options and favourite subjects, locations, unis, colleges, and courses.



Turn your predicted grades into UCAS Tariff points

The easy way to calculate your Tariff points and store your predicted grades.

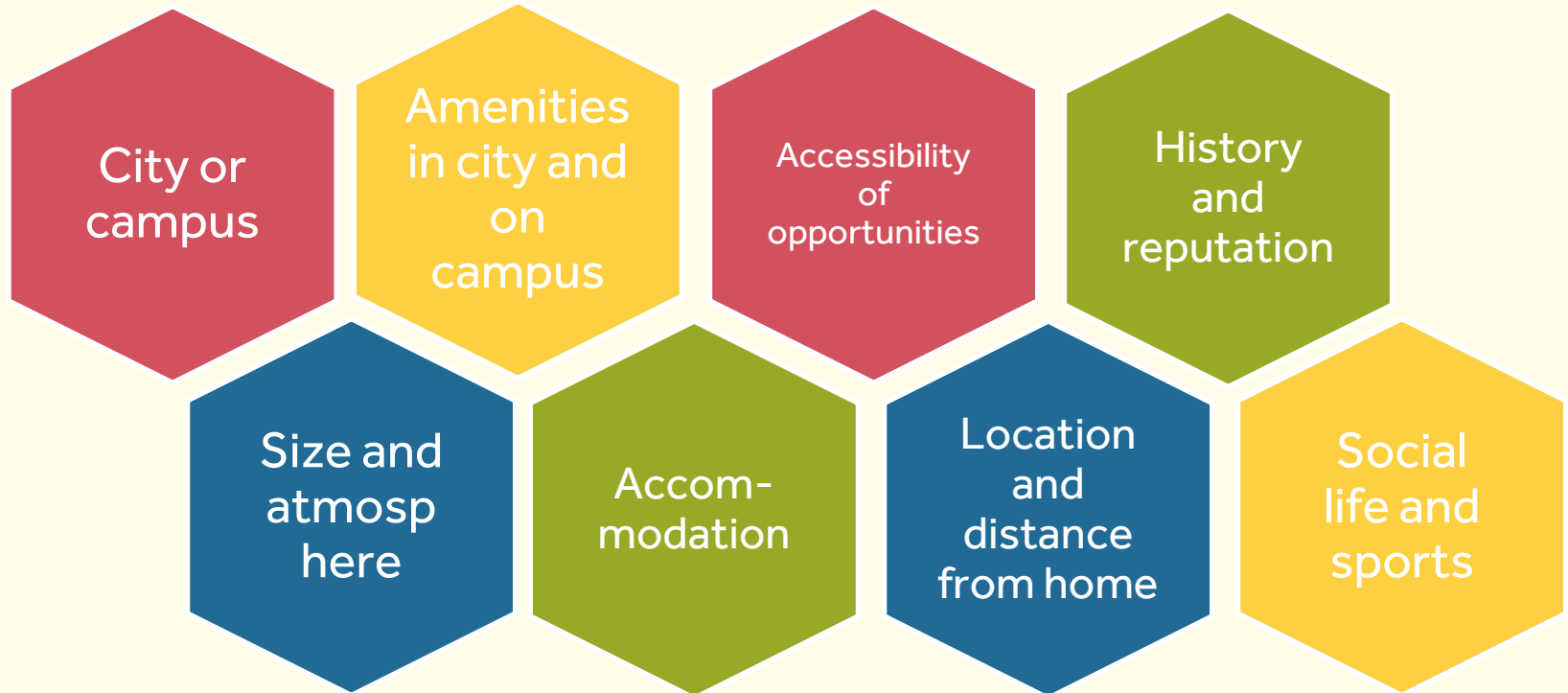


CHOOSING A UNIVERSITY



Over 300
Higher
education
institutions in
the UK

Options to look out for



Location - Life on campus

- 30mins from London by train
- Transform 2026 - Recently refurbished Library
- Nearly 5,000 Halls spaces
- Lots going on – eateries, bars, film theatre, museums, food markets and eco-friendly marketplaces
- Dedicated support building
- Aim to be the greenest campus by 2030



Ask yourself.....

Why am I going to uni?

What would make my uni experience happier? What would make me proud of my uni?

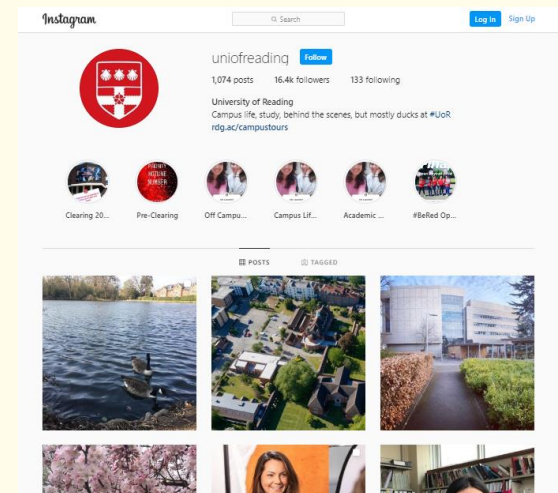
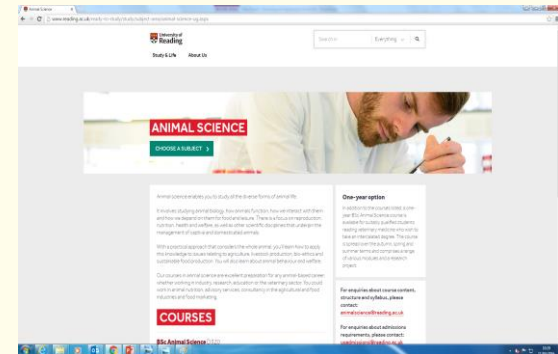
Out of all your answers, what matters to you the most?

Student life? Careers? Support? Making an impact? Sustainability?

All unis will do most of these but check what they highlight and their priorities

Where to find information

- Prospectuses and subject brochures
- Websites
- University guides and League tables (Times, Guardian, Unistats, The Student Room, Complete University Guide)
- Taster and Masterclasses
- Social Media



UCAS HUB

Further educationUndergraduatePostgraduateAlternativesCareers

Katie

0% Your **to do list**
Open to do list >

2 Your **preferences**
Update for a better experience >

2 Your **notifications**
Open notifications >

Favourite courses

Advice, courses, and locations

TOP FIVE COURSES

- Select a favourite
- Select a favourite
- Select a favourite
- Select a favourite
- Select a favourite

VIEW FAVOURITES

Explore Courses for you

MUSI BA (HONS)

MATHS BSC (HONS)

GET STARTED

This is your place

Apply online today

It's hard not to recommend Perlego

The Student Room

Find out why >

Advertisement. Why the ads?

Chat with Students at uni

TARIFF POINT CALCULATOR

A level

A*	A	B	CLEAR
C	D	E	DELETE
			SAVE

Dates and deadlines

1 APR 2020

UP NEXT

19 May 2020
2020 entry: If you receive all decisions by 31 March, r...

20 May 2020
2020 entry: Uni/college decisions due on application...

4 Jun 2020
2020 entry: If you receive all decisions by 20 May, re...

Undergraduate

Apply and Track 2021

Choose a uni, degree subject or select by their home country, and find out what life's really like at uni

Subjects ▾

Universities ▾¹

Buddies ▾

Reset Filters



Hope



Early Childhood
Studies BA
Honours

ABOUT ME

Hello, I'm Hope and I am in my third year of
Early Childhood Studies! ...

[Read more about Hope](#)

Chat with Hope



Dawn



Psychology with a
Placement Year - ...

ABOUT ME

Hello! I am a Chinese international student from
Brunei (Southeast Asi...

[Read more about Dawn](#)

Chat with Dawn



Jonathon



BA (Hons)
Education

ABOUT ME

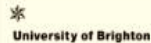
I'm a third year Education Studies student
planning to become a resear...

[Read more about Jonathon](#)

Chat with Jonathon



Indigo



BA(Hons) Fashion
Communication
with...

ABOUT ME

My name is Indigo I am from Somerset/Bristol, I
am currently about to ...

[Read more about Indigo](#)

Chat with Indigo



Rasheedat



BSc Psychology
with Cognitive
Neuro...

ABOUT ME

I enjoyed studying Psychology at the
undergraduate level, I had studie...

[Read more about Rasheedat](#)

Chat with Rashee...



Caitlin



BA Fine Art W101

ABOUT ME

I am interested in opening my store or brand to
sell my art in the fut...

[Read more about Caitlin](#)

Chat with Caitlin

Ask questions. Chat to friends, family, teachers and current students



Attend a university open day and campus tour

Taster sessions, webinars and lectures



**APPLYING TO
UNIVERSITY**

Choose your future

Explore your options, apply to university, and more



Find courses, information, and more



Unsure about a course, university or student life?

Talk to students who are already studying... they know the provider, the courses, the accommodation, and what the city or town has to offer.



UNIVERSITY OF
PLYMOUTH

START THIS SEPTEMBER
APPLY NOW

Advertisement. [Why the ads?](#)



**GET
READY**

APPLY NOW

Advertisement. [Why the ads?](#)



Going to university?

Studying at a university, college, or conservatoire?



Coronavirus (COVID-19) latest updates

We're closely monitoring the ongoing outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) to ensure we do all



Create your UCAS Hub

Explore your options, favourite your interests, and discover your next steps. Get started with



Applications made viaucas

Apply

- **Mid September** – Applications open
- **Mid October** – Deadline for applications to Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science
- **Mid January** – Deadline for applications to most courses

Offers

- Universities process applications
- Applicants invited to interview
- **End March** – Majority of offers made by this date

Decisions

- **May/ June** – reply to your offers
- Decide on a firm and insurance choice institution
- **End August** – A level results day (clearing and adjustment)



Admissions tutors look for

- Academic results eg. A levels, IB, BTECs, GCSEs
- Certain subjects (if required)
- Work experience (if required)
- Pre-admissions tests
- Personal statements
- Teacher's reference

Summary

- Many courses all varying on entry requirement, content, accreditation, support, assessment, etc.
- Many universities with different facilities, location, living cost, support, opportunities, etc
- **DO YOUR RESEARCH!**
- Use UCAS, go to open days, speak to students, university websites, etc

USEFUL LINKS

- Talk to a student platform:

www.reading.ac.uk/about/chat-to-our-students.aspx

- UCAS Hub:

www.ucas.com/what-are-my-options/create-your-ucas-hub-today

- Request a University of Reading prospectus

www.reading.ac.uk/prospectus

**THANK YOU
ANY
QUESTIONS?**

COSTS

Tuition Fee

- **Tuition Fee Loan**

Living Costs

- **Maintenance Loan**
- **Extra funding**
- **Part-time work**
- **Scholarships/Bursaries**
- **Bank of Mum and Dad**



Tuition fees for 2021/22 entry

Tuition fees for new, full-time undergraduate students are currently **£9,250**.

Eligible students **will not** have to pay any tuition fees up front.

A tuition fee loan does not depend on household income.

Student Finance pays your tuition fee loan directly to the University.

The loan is repayable, but only when your income is over £27,295 a year (threshold implemented from April 6 2021)

Living cost support

- All eligible students are entitled to receive a **maintenance loan**
- The amount you will receive depends on where you live and study and your assessed household income
- In 2021/22 a maximum maintenance loan of **£9,488*** is available. The first £4,422* is non-income assessed and the remainder is based on assessed household income
- The maintenance loan is paid directly into your bank account each term

* Students who are studying outside of London and not living with parents during the 2021/22 academic year

Maintenance support 2021/22

These are the maximum maintenance loan amounts available. The higher the household income, the less support you will be eligible for.

Household Income (£)	Living at home	Living elsewhere	Living in London	Overseas (study overseas as part of UK course)
£25,000 and under	£7,987	£9,488	£12,382	£10,866

Estimate your Student Finance entitlement using the calculator on www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator

You can be assessed as an independent if:

- Are 25 or over before the start of the academic year
- Married/divorced/civil partnership
- Have care of a child
- Have no living parents
- Are estranged from your parents
- Are a care leaver
- Have no means of contacting your parents or it is not safe to do so
- Have supported yourself financially for at least 3 years

Payment process

Tuition Fee Loans: Are paid directly to the institution in separate instalments

Maintenance Loans/Grants/Bursaries/Scholarships: Are paid directly to the student*

Core Student Finance is paid in **3** instalments:

- The 1st instalment is triggered by enrolment
- The 2nd and 3rd instalments are automatically paid at the start of each subsequent term

*The payment process for bursaries, scholarships and grants will differ according to each institution



Take a look at Blackbullion Money Ready for Uni at moneyreadyforuni.com



Apply to your Student Finance Authority, as early as possible! Start thinking about this in December as the portal for applications usually opens in February.



Prepare your information and documentation required for your Student Finance application in advance so that you are ready to submit.



Be prepared to chase Student Finance for application progress updates in Spring 2021.



Check with the department you are going to be studying with to see if they have any bursaries or scholarships that are specific to your course of study.



Please look at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/life/life-moneymatters.aspx> for managing your money, costs and budgets.



Your loan from Student Finance may not be available on Day 1 of your course so please ensure you have sufficient funds to cover the early weeks of your course.

Repayments



Repayments start from April after graduating or leaving university



Only when your income is over £27,295 a year



Repay 9% of your income over £27,295



Deductions made from your pay through the HMRC tax system



If your income falls to £27,295 or below your repayments will stop



Any outstanding loan balance will be written off 30 years after entering repayment

How much will I repay?

Salary	Income from which 9% is deducted	Monthly Repayment
£27,295	£0	£0
£30,000	£2,705	£20
£35,000	£7,705	£58
£40,000	£12,705	£95
£45,000	£17,705	£133



Income
£28,000

9% Deducted
from?

£705



Monthly
repayment?

£5

Interest is applied to your loan. More info can be found on www.slc.co.uk/repayment

Get money-ready for uni online

- UoR have partnered with Blackbullion.
- Money Ready for Uni is Blackbullion's learning course filled with short videos, quizzes, and tools to help you prepare financially for university life.
- It covers everything from student funding and the cost of living on campus to estimating your loan repayments and planning for the future.

