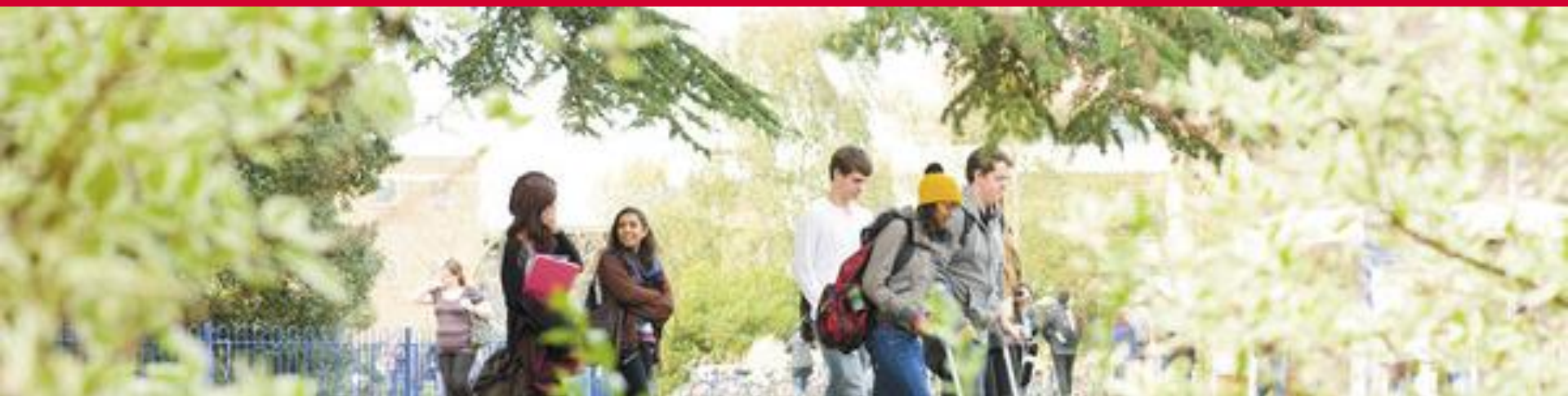


HOW TO CHOOSE A UNIVERSITY AND A COURSE



Sally Pardoe

Student Recruitment and Access Officer – South Wales

Today's Session

- Why go to university?
- **Choosing a subject and a university**
- Student Finance for Wales



WHAT IS HIGHER EDUCATION?

- Higher Education is the next step in education after 6th form/college
- A Higher Education qualification is known as a **degree** which you can study at **university**
- It's an opportunity for you to:
 - study something you are interested in further
 - develop new skills
 - gain independence and experience something different



WHY GO TO UNIVERSITY?

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

FOLLOW YOUR INTERESTS

BA History

BA or BSc
Archaeology

"I Enjoy
History"

BA Classics or
Classical Studies

BA Politics and
International
Relations

FOLLOW YOUR INTERESTS

BSc Computer Science

BSc Games Design

"I want to work
in gaming"

BA Creative Writing

BSc Architecture

CAREER PROGRESSION

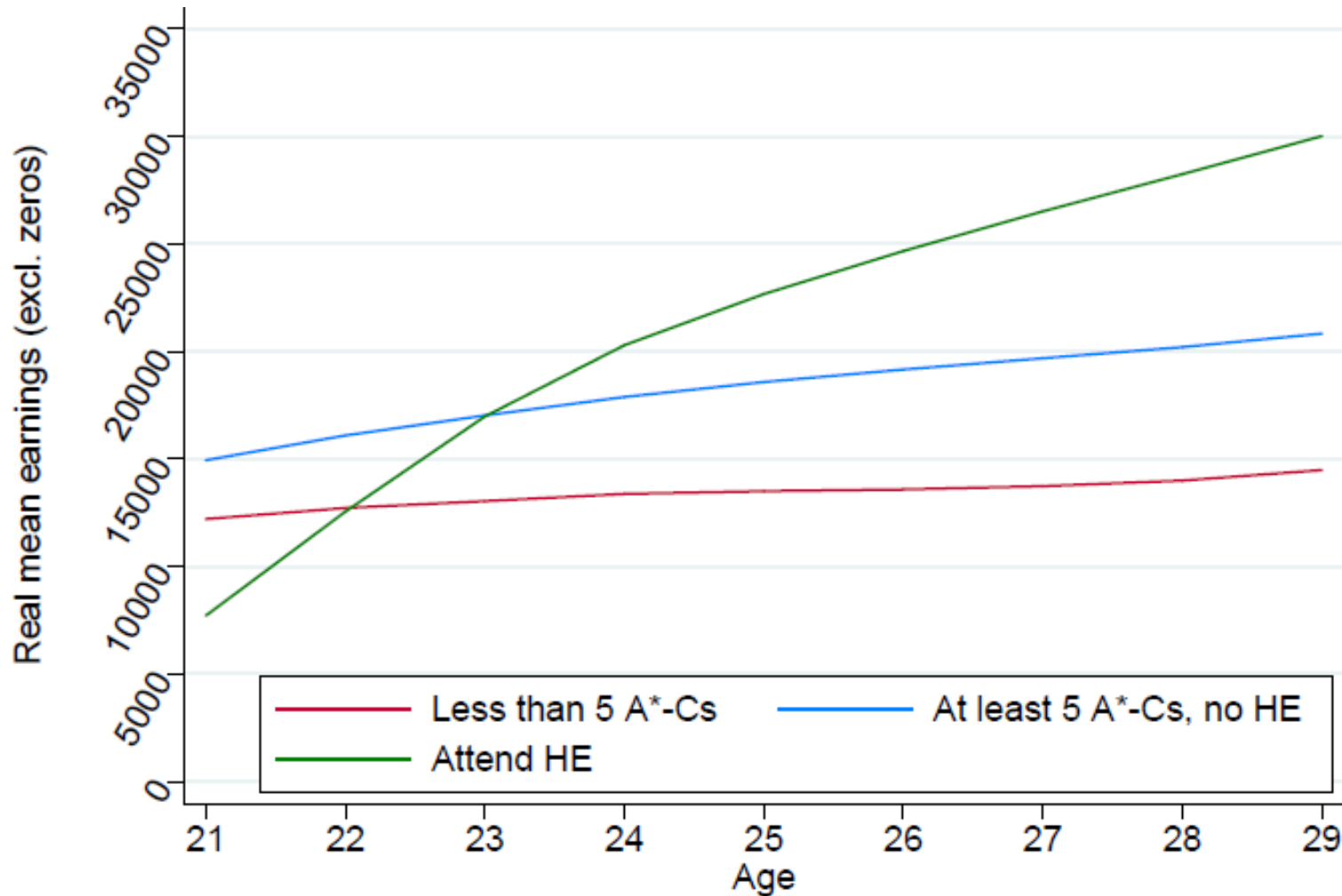
- BSc Agricultural Business Management
- LLB Law
- BSc Investment and Finance in Property
- BA Film and Theatre
- BA Business and Management

EMPLOYABILITY

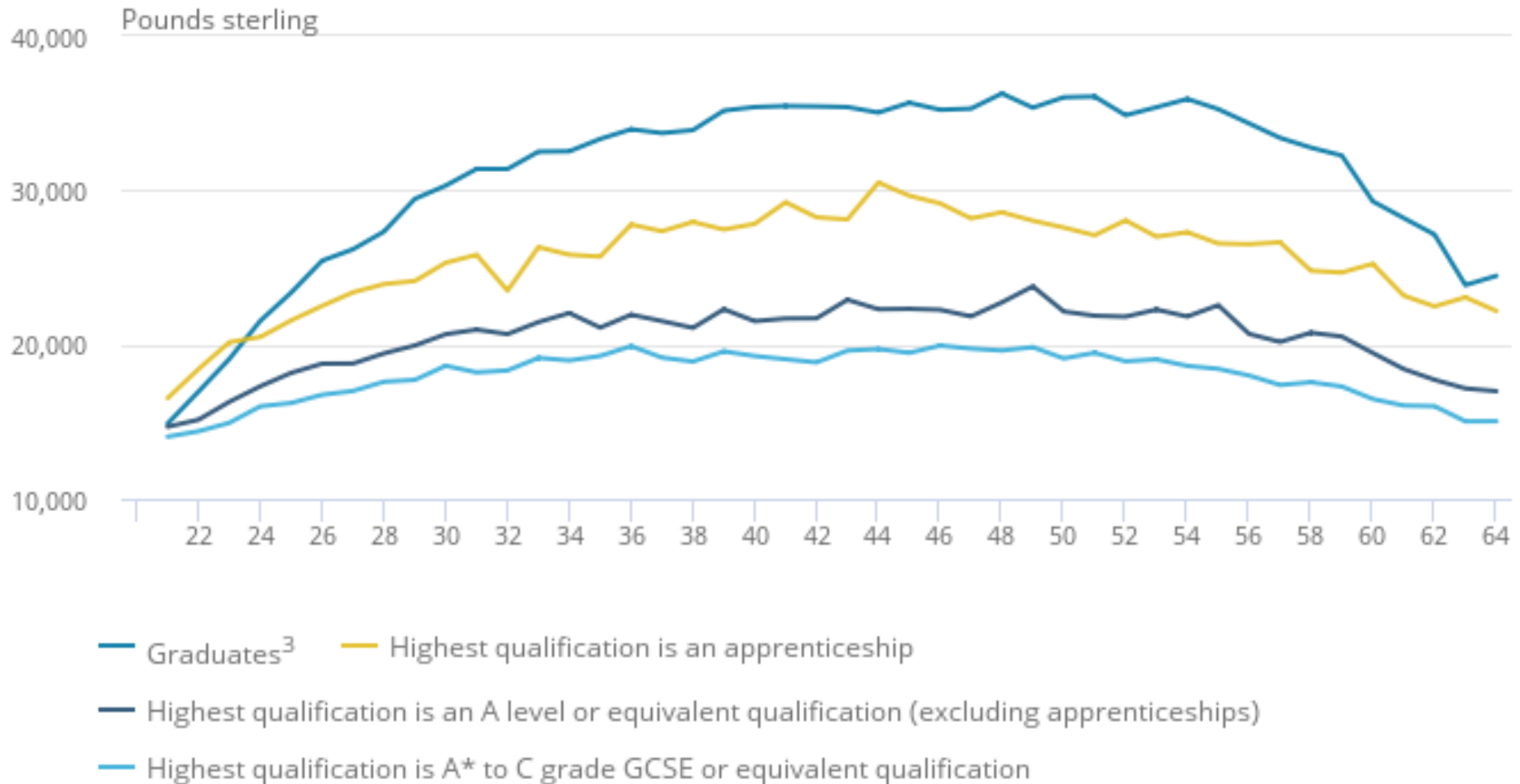
- Confidence
- Communication skills
- Time management
- Problem solving and flexibility
- Budgeting and money management
- Independence



FUTURE EARNINGS...



FUTURE EARNINGS...



CHOOSING A COURSE AND UNIVERSITY

Choosing a University and Course

Realistic Requirements

The
Right
Choice

Suitable Course

Great Location

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HOW MANY DEGREE COURSES CAN YOU CHOOSE FROM?

490

49,000

4,900

WHAT MAKES A SUITABLE COURSE?

- 
1. What do you enjoy?
 2. What are you good at?
 3. What do you want to do after uni?
 4. What other opportunities do you want?

WHAT CAN YOU STUDY?

- **Traditional subjects**- English Literature, Mathematics, Geography, Chemistry, History
- **Vocational**-Teaching, Pharmacy, Speech and Language Therapy, Nursing
- **Unusual courses**- Ethical hacking, Meteorology, Theatre Practice & Puppetry
- **Combined Courses** – Art and Psychology, English Literature and French, Philosophy, Politics and Economics

TYPES OF DEGREES

Single Honours

1. **One subject** for 3 years, maybe 4 if it includes a placement year, study abroad or combined masters
2. Choose modules specific to your chosen school.
3. Specific outcome in mind?
4. Specialist degree programmes, e.g. Psychology with Neuroscience, Entrepreneurship...


Joint Honours

1. Modules choices from **two schools** within the university.
2. Spend time with friends and lecturers in two subject areas
3. More flexibility and options to choose from
4. Not double the work, but you'll need to be organised.
5. Can still choose to study abroad, or do a placement year.
6. More skills in more areas?


EXPECTED OUTCOMES/SKILLS?

- BA Art and Psychology 
- BA Spanish and Management Studies 
- BA English Literature and Theatre 
- BSc Mathematics and Computer Science 

SOME EXAMPLES

- BA Art and Psychology 
 - BA Spanish and Management Studies
 - BA English Literature and Theatre
 - BSc Mathematics and Computer Science
- A career in art therapy?
 - Skills working with people and developing artistic flair
 - Experience writing academic essays and practical development


SOME EXAMPLES

- BA Art and Psychology
 - BA Spanish and Management Studies
 - BA English Literature and Theatre
 - BSc Mathematics and Computer Science
- 
- A career in business?
 - Language skills make you very employable, not matter what sector
 - A year abroad and business experience.

SOME EXAMPLES

- BA Art and Psychology
- BA Spanish and Management Studies
- BA English Literature and Theatre
 - Practical skills and written analysis skills
 - Script writing, stage direction
 - Teamwork, independent study...
 - Immersion in something you love
- BSc Mathematics and Computer Science

SOME EXAMPLES

- BA Art and Psychology
 - BA Spanish and Management Studies
 - BA English Literature and Theatre
 - BSc Mathematics and Computer Science
- 
- Very employable..!
 - Analytical skills will be strong.
 - Could work within financial sector, IT jobs within companies, software development... teaching!?

WHAT MAKES A SUITABLE COURSE?

- What module choices are there?
 - Is there **flexibility to choose** modules that you're interested in?
 - Is the course accredited? **Teaching, Psychology, Architecture, Law**

What more does the course offer me?

- Do they offer careers fairs/employment skills?
- Field trips
- Can I choose to take a placement year/study abroad year?



WHAT MAKES A SUITABLE COURSE?

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PLACEMENT YEARS

Also called 'Sandwich Years' or 'Year in industry'

- Offers the opportunity within your course to go and **work with a company or business**, usually between your 2nd and 3rd year.
- Some universities have **dedicated placement officers**, who have links with local businesses and companies who will take on undergraduates and have an organised year long programme.
- You will get support/direction from the university to check how you're getting on, and make sure that the programme is suitable.
- The university may help, but ultimately it'll be your responsibility to find work.
- Some universities also offer work placement modules, or career skills, in addition to, or instead of the one year placement.

EXAMPLE PLACEMENTS IN PSYCHOLOGY



CENTRE *for* **AUTISM**

Great Ormond Street
Hospital for Children



NHS Foundation Trust



NCA
National Crime Agency

CAMHS



East London



NHS Foundation Trust

Sussex Partnership 
NHS Foundation Trust



Central and
North West London
NHS Foundation Trust




SIEMENS

Ingenuity for life



**CARDINAL
CLINIC**

Better Mental Health for a Brighter F

West London Mental Health 
NHS Trust

Broadmoor Hospital

West London
Mental Health



NHS Trust



CINN

Centre for Integrative
Neuroscience and
Neurodynamics

**catch
22**

STUDY ABROAD

- You can **combine this with a placement year!** E.g. languages courses, geography.
- Can be in Europe (Erasmus) or further afield to Australia, USA, Canada, Japan...
- Can be a year, or a term – You may get the opportunity to just do one semester abroad



Aimee Horton, BSc Psychology
University of Mississippi (USA)

Choosing a University and Course

Realistic Requirements

The
Right
Choice

Suitable Course

Great Location

WHAT COULD ENTRY REQUIREMENTS BE?



University of Oxford, History BA

A-Levels: AAA, 'Highly recommended this includes History'

University of Reading, History BA

A-Levels: AAB-ABB, including History or similar at B



University of
South Wales
Prifysgol
De Cymru

University of South Wales, BA History

A-Levels: BCC-CDD

BTECs: DMM

WHAT COULD ENTRY REQUIREMENTS BE?

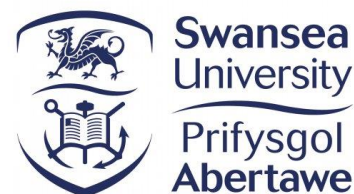


University of Reading, BA English Literature

A-Levels: ABB-BBB, including English Literature or similar at B

University of Swansea, English Literature BA

A-Levels: BBB (UCAS tariff points 120) or equivalent



**UWE
Bristol**

University of the West of England

Tariff points: 112

UWE Bristol welcomes interest from applicants who may not have the standard entry requirements.

WHAT ELSE HAVE YOU GOT TO OFFER?

- Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
- Welsh Baccalaureate
- Work experience
- Contextualised offers – will the university give you a slightly lowered offer for any reason?
 - E.g. Firm vs. insurance offer
 - E.g. Taking part in any university run programmes
 - E.g. Family circumstance/background

Choosing a University and Course

Realistic Requirements

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Great Location





READING TOWN

- Kennet and Avon Canal – restaurants and pubs along the riverside
- Beach bar in the summer and crazy golf in the town centre
- Oracle shopping centre, and high street



READING TOWN

- River Thames – walks along the Thames, clubs and societies, e.g. Canoe club, Reading Rowing Club
- Reading festival in August
- Comedy clubs, live music venues
- Football team – Championship at the moment...



CAMPUS UNIVERSITIES

- Sports fields, and gym on campus
- Student Union on campus
- Living on campus?
- Teaching spaces on campus
- Bank, shop, restaurants and cafes, print services on campus
- Library on campus
- Student 'bubble' – How far away is the town?



CITY UNIVERSITIES

- 'City living'
- Close to city amenities?
- Fully integrated into a new area, independent of a 'student bubble'
- May be spread out – for lectures you may have to take a bus around, or tube/tram
- Living accommodation may be a long way from the university buildings

CITY UNIVERSITIES

Campus map

City buildings ▾

Student services ▾

Computer rooms ▾

Libraries ▾

Lecture theatres ▴

Atkin Building Lecture Theatre

Birley Lecture Theatre

Gearly Lecture Theatre

Great Hall

Oakden Lecture Theatre

Oliver Thompson Lecture Theatre

Poynton Lecture Theatre

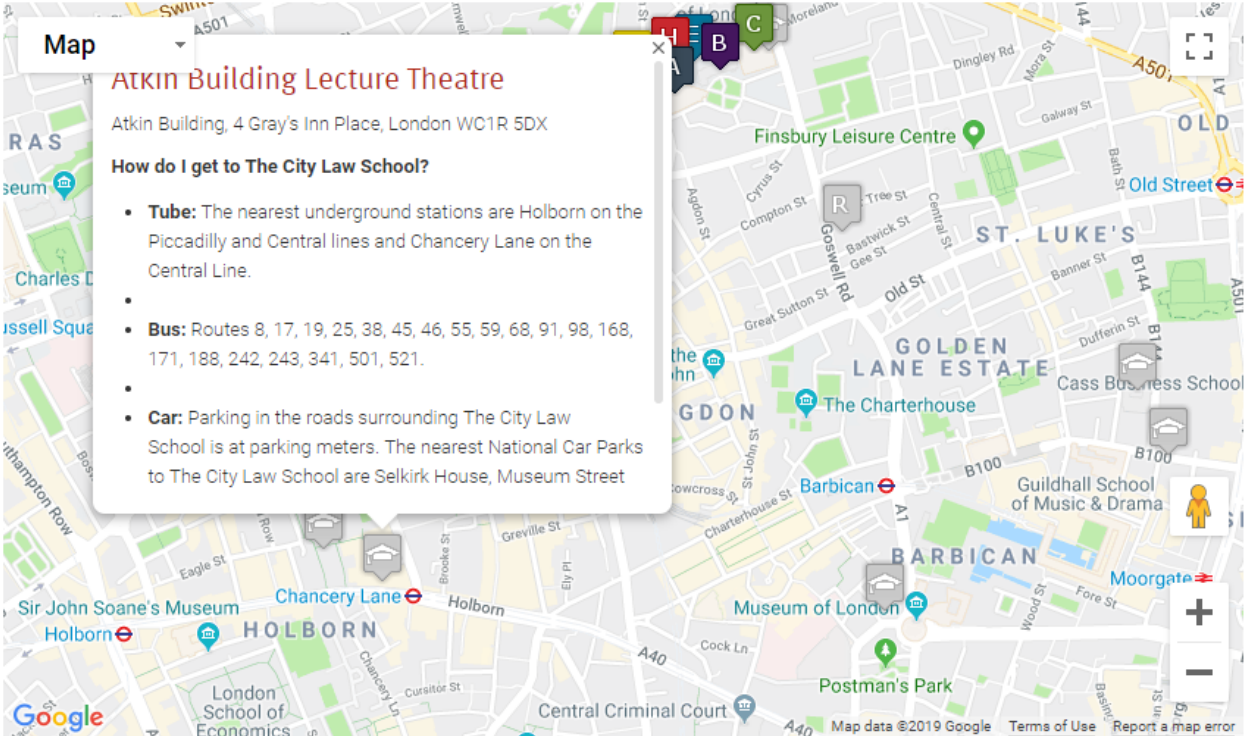
Map

Atkin Building Lecture Theatre

Atkin Building, 4 Gray's Inn Place, London WC1R 5DX

How do I get to The City Law School?

- **Tube:** The nearest underground stations are Holborn on the Piccadilly and Central lines and Chancery Lane on the Central Line.
- **Bus:** Routes 8, 17, 19, 25, 38, 45, 46, 55, 59, 68, 91, 98, 168, 171, 188, 242, 243, 341, 501, 521.
- **Car:** Parking in the roads surrounding The City Law School is at parking meters. The nearest National Car Parks to The City Law School are Selkirk House, Museum Street



WHAT MATTERS TO YOU?

- Campus vs. City,
- Course modules
- University 'status'
- The city itself
- Accommodation offered
- Sport clubs
- The journey home
- Sense of community
- Green spaces
- Research
- Employability
- Placement years
- Student Union
- Part time work opportunities...

COURSE CONTENT

EXAMPLES

1. 'I want to be a professional psychologist. I love live music, but want to live somewhere quiet'
2. 'My favourite bit of History is Russian History, and my hobby is mountain biking'
3. I love English, and would quite like to become a journalist. I want to see the world.

STUDENT FINANCE

- How much?
- Where from?
- When do I repay?



THE BASICS

- Student Finance Wales (SFWales) provide financial support on behalf of the UK government to students from Wales entering higher education in the UK
- There's student finance available to help full time students with
 - Tuition Fees
 - Living Costs

student finance wales

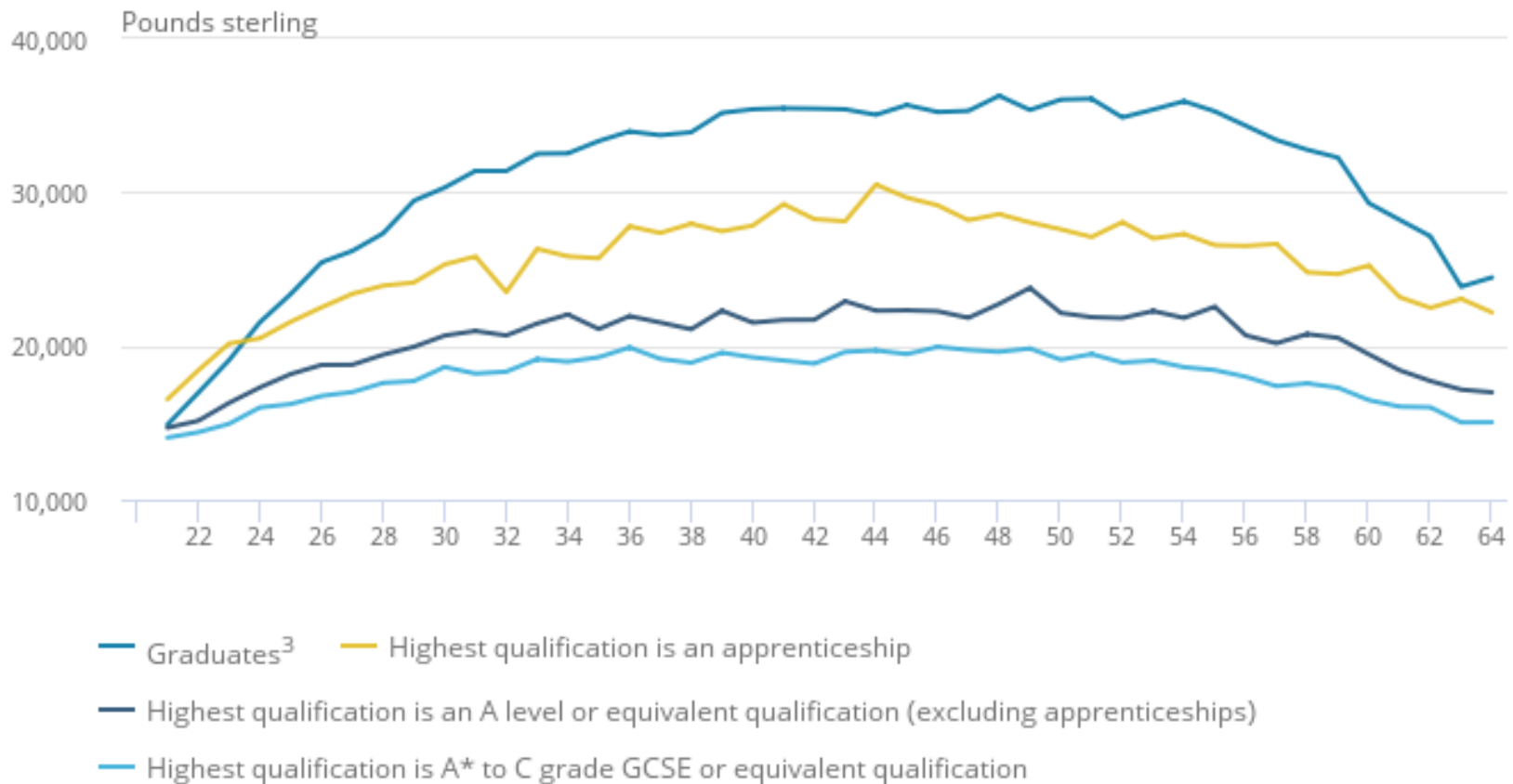
WHAT IS THE MAXIMUM COST OF UNIVERSITY TUITION FOR 2019/2020?

£9,250

£9,000

£7,000

THAT SOUND LIKE A LOT OF MONEY – IS IT WORTH IT?!



"STILL NOT SURE IF I CAN AFFORD IT..."

- Grants and loans are available to make sure that **no student** is unable to go to university because of financial reasons.
- These are offered by the UK government, and extra grants are provided by the Welsh government.





TUITION FEES

- What's the maximum tuition fee universities or colleges can currently charge new students*?
 - £9,250
- How much of this would you need to pay up front before going to uni or college*?
 - £0



TUITION FEE LOANS

- Cover the fee charged by a university or college - nothing is paid up front!
- **Not dependent on household income.**
- Paid directly to your university or college.
- Repayable, but only when your income is over £25,000 a year.



MAINTENANCE LOANS

- To help with your living costs while you're studying
- The amount you get is dependant on where you live – e.g. with parents, London, etc.
- Paid directly into your bank account each term
- Repayable, but only when your income is over £25,000 a year



**MAINTENANCE LOAN AND WELSH GOVERNMENT
LEARNING GRANT**

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A LOAN AND A GRANT?




WELSH GOVERNMENT LEARNING GRANT

- A **minimum** of £1000 for all eligible students
- Additional grants based on your household income

MAINTENANCE SUPPORT

Income	Living away from home, outside of London			Living with parents			Living away from home, studying in London		
	Grant	Loan	Total	Grant	Loan	Total	Grant	Loan	Total
£18,370 or less	£8,100	£1,125	£9,225	£6,885	£955	£7,840	£10,124	£1,406	£11,530
£20,000	£7,817	£1,408		£6,651	£1,189		£9,760	£1,770	
£25,000	£6,947	£2,278		£5,930	£1,910		£8,643	£2,887	
£30,000	£6,078	£3,147		£5,209	£2,631		£7,526	£4,004	
£35,000	£5,208	£4,017		£4,488	£3,352		£6,408	£5,122	
£40,000	£4,339	£4,886		£3,767	£4,073		£5,291	£6,239	
£45,000	£3,469	£5,756		£3,047	£4,793		£4,174	£7,356	
£50,000	£2,600	£6,625		£2,326	£5,514		£3,056	£8,474	
£55,000	£1,730	£7,495		£1,605	£6,235		£1,939	£9,591	
£59,200 or over	£1,000	£8,225		£1,000	£6,840		£1,000	£10,530	

MAINTENANCE SUPPORT

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£35,000	£5,208	£4,017	
£40,000	£4,339	£4,886	
£45,000	£3,469	£5,756	
£50,000	£2,600	£6,625	
£55,000	£1,730	£7,495	
£59,200 or over	£1,000	£8,225	

WHAT'S YOUR MONTHLY BUDGET?

Income:

- Student Loan: £3200 per term*
- Part-time job: £200 per month

What is your monthly budget?

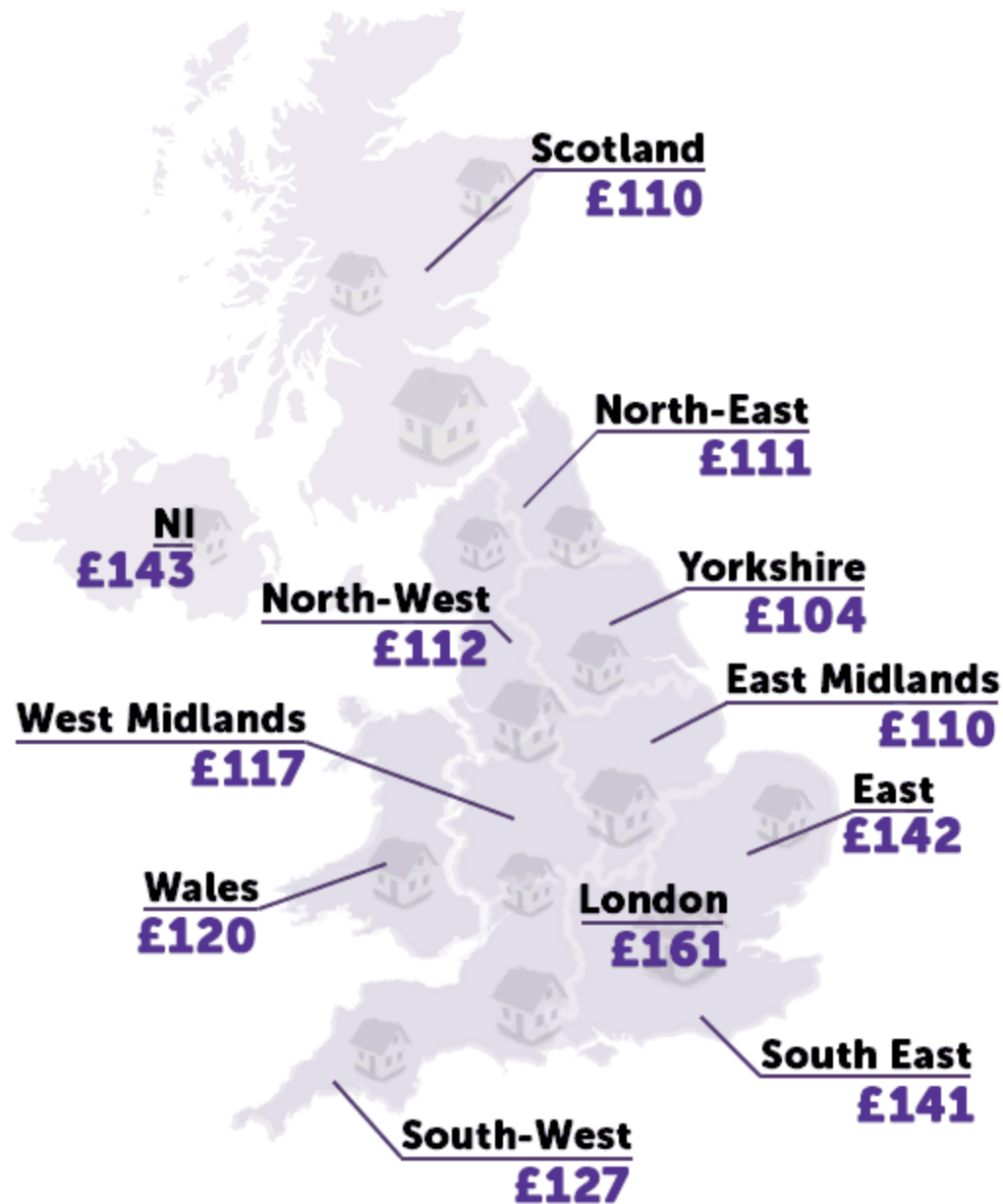


* A term is roughly 4 months

LIVING COSTS

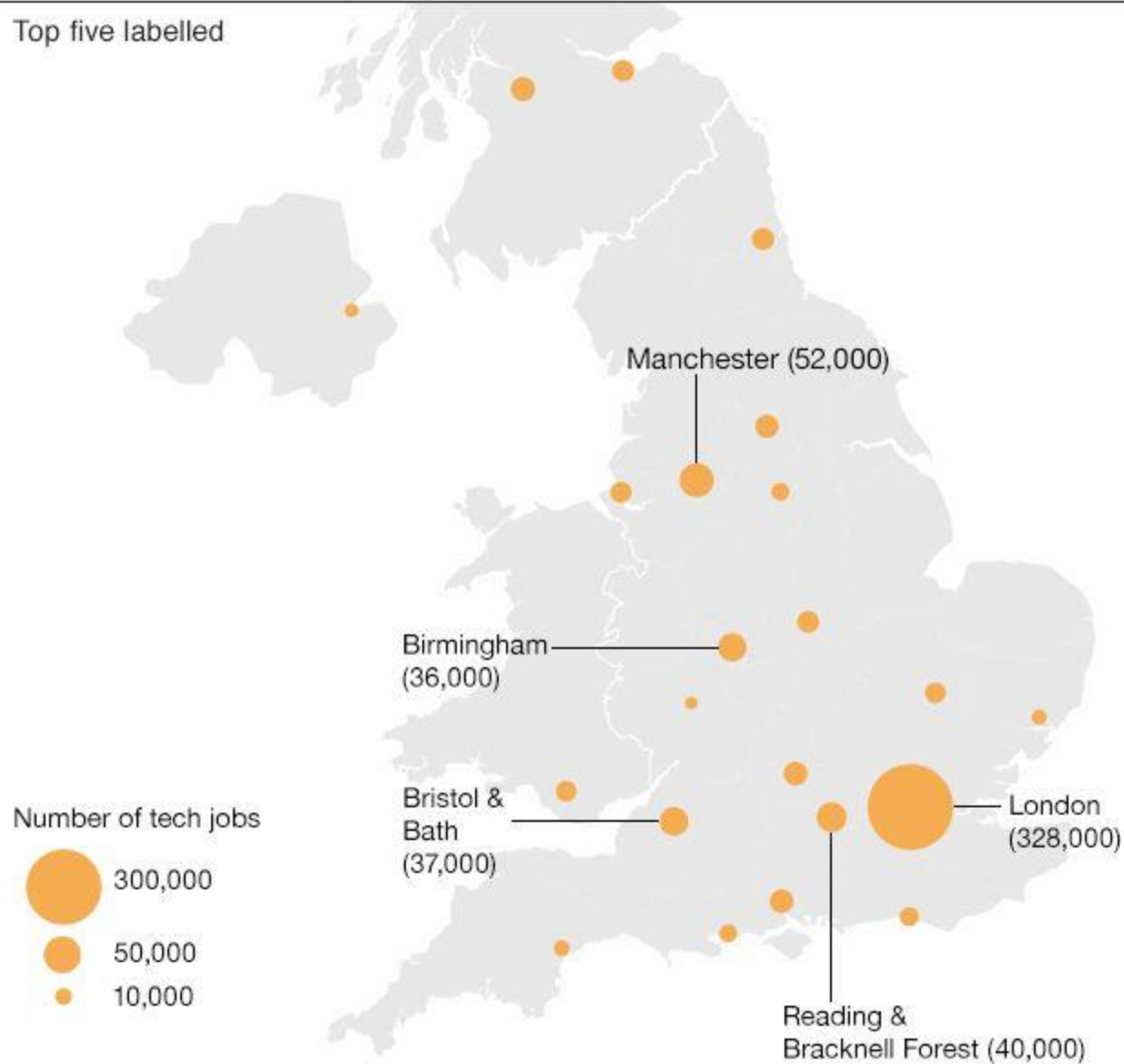
- What types of things might you need to pay for while studying at university?
 - Rent – depends where in the country you're living
 - Utility bills (heating, electricity, water) if not included in rent
 - Food
 - Books/stationary/field trips
 - Travel
 - Phone bill
 - Social/entertainment
 - Clothing/personal items





Locations with at least 7,000 tech jobs

Top five labelled



Source: Tech City, ONS

DIFFERENT LOCATIONS, DIFFERENT OPPORTUNITIES



Cultural Place,
Business Space,
Living Base

[Reading UK](#)[Visitor](#)[Business](#)[Transport](#)[Investment](#)[Sign-up](#)

Reading set to be UK's fastest growing city economy



Reading is set to be the UK's fastest growing city economy over the next three years according to [EY's UK Region and City economic forecast 2016](#), published today (5 December 2016)

The EY report forecasts a growth in Reading's GVA (productivity) of 2.5% over the next three years, growing faster than London's 1.9% per year to 2019. EY estimate that employment in Reading will grow at a rate of 0.9% between 2017-19 in key sectors, the fastest of any UK city, creating potentially 3000 additional jobs.

Nigel Horton Baker, Executive Director, Reading UK CIC, said: "Strong location advantages, massive investment in office stock and transport infrastructure, high wages and a highly-skilled workforce are making Reading increasingly attractive as a base for companies and their employees, forced out of London by spiralling prices.

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT READING...

LOCATION


- 1hr 30 mins train journey from Cardiff Central Station
- 30 mins from London





LIMITLESS **POTENTIAL** | LIMITLESS **OPPORTUNITIES** | LIMITLESS **IMPACT**

Courses

95% 

of graduates in work or
further study six months
after graduating



WHAT CAN YOU STUDY?

- **Research led** university – lecturers are experts at what they do
- Regularly, subject departments at the University of Reading are rated as **top 10** in the country.
 - Building degrees
 - Agriculture, ecology and the environment
 - Food sciences
 - Biosciences
 - Education – Primary teaching

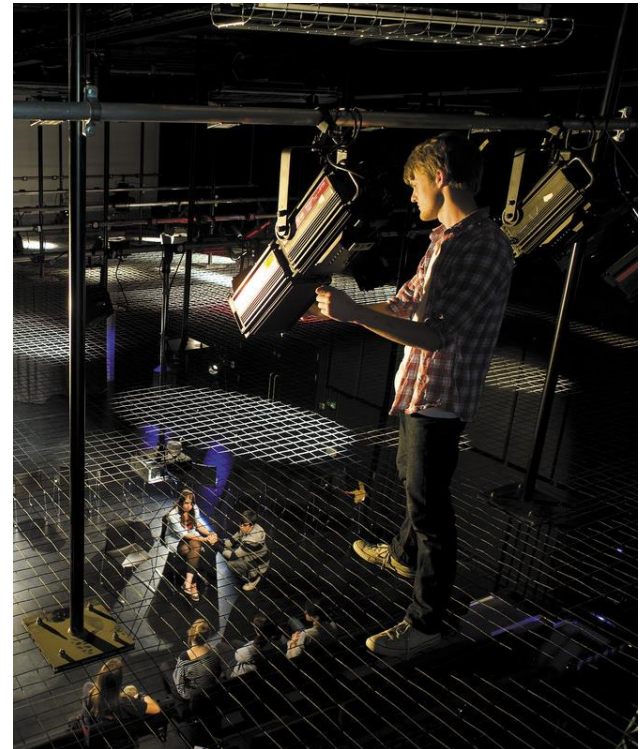
MORE UNUSUAL COURSES?

- Museum studies
- Zoology
- Graphic communication
- Meteorology
- Creative Writing
- Psychology with Neuroscience



JOINT HONOURS DEGREES

- Art with Psychology/Philosophy
- Ancient History with Archaeology
- Creative Writing with Film and Theatre
- International Management and Business Administration with French.



Entry Requirements



LIMITLESS **POTENTIAL** | LIMITLESS **OPPORTUNITIES** | LIMITLESS **IMPACT**

OUR OFFER

- Typically, our courses require AAB – ABB
- Personal statement very important when making an offer
- One grade drop if made firm choice
- One grade drop if studying an Extended Project Qualification
- Contextualised offers

READING OPEN DAYS

- Friday 21st 2019
- Saturday 22nd June 2019
- Saturday 5th October 2019
- Saturday 12th October 2019

Sally Pardoe
University of Reading

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