



# HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR DEGREE

## a student's guide



Thinking about going into higher education? There are more than 1,200 separate degree subjects and over 50,000 Joint and Combined Honours courses across over 150 UK universities, so making a decision can be tricky. Here's a good starting point for what to consider when choosing your degree.

### PICK A SUBJECT

Do you already know what you want to do for a career?

#### I KNOW MY CAREER

Pick your subject based on qualification requirements or a course that complements this.

**Be aware** that a degree course isn't necessarily a training path for a career. Its purpose is also to teach you how to learn through self-directed study, decision-making and research.

#### I'M UNSURE

Pick a subject or a few subjects based on what you enjoy or excel at, either as a school subject or outside of your studies.

### CHOOSE A COURSE TYPE

Do you have one subject in mind or are you considering a few?

#### ONE SUBJECT

A Single Honours degree sounds like the right thing for you. Check the qualification expectations of your chosen profession to be sure it's the right fit.

**Sandwich courses** are a variation on Single Honours courses in which students will spend part of their degree course on professional, industrial or commercial placements, usually in the third year of a four-year degree course.

#### MANY SUBJECTS

A two-subject (Joint Honours degree) or three- or four-subject course (Combined Honours degree) will allow you to keep your options open and extend your employability skills. You could also opt for a major/minor degree (75% and 25% of each subject respectively).

### CHOOSE A UNIVERSITY

Start with which unis have your chosen course, looking at their entry requirements and the quality of the course. You can then narrow it down by considering what other factors are important to you. Be sure to attend an open day and read the prospectus to get a feel for each university.

#### LOCATION

How close do you want to be to your home? Are you looking for a big city or a rural feel? Have you considered studying abroad?

**Remember,** one course is not better than another - it's just different. The best course for you is the one which best suits you.

#### LIFESTYLE

Take a look at what the university or city is known for. You may be particularly interested in the uni's sports programme on offer, or wild about the music extra-curricular activities. Perhaps you are looking for a booming nightlife or are keen to be by the beach to suit your interests and lifestyle choices.



### STILL NOT SURE?

A university education isn't the only choice and not necessarily the best one for you. You may prefer to learn on the job or study via an online course. A gap year is also a great way to gain new experiences while enhancing your CV!