

# CHOOSING UNIVERSITY

IS IT FOR YOU?

University is an opportunity to increase your knowledge – study what you love, you're interested in and often with the top experts in their fields. You can focus on subjects you've studied at school, extending and deepening your knowledge in a subject you have a passion for, or a career you're aiming for. Some subjects will be new to you and could be your new passion. Many courses offer opportunities to combine subjects to suit your interests and preferences. You can also get your first true taste of independence and freedom, building self-confidence. Whatever your interests, there are a huge range of clubs, societies and a diverse social life on offer.

There are alternative ways you can qualify for certain careers than the traditional degree. For example, if you want to become a lawyer, you don't necessarily have to do a law degree. You can take the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (CILEx) training programme and study to the same level as solicitors. Or do a degree apprenticeship where you study part time while working full time. You can become a chartered accountant without a degree too, so check out alternative training routes if you have a particular career in mind.

Doing a degree does not guarantee you a job in your chosen field. While it can give you a competitive edge over non-degree holders, that doesn't mean you'll be able to secure employment once you graduate from university. It's important to remember that you'll be competing with other recent grads (and everyone else in between) for the exact same jobs. It's important to think about building employability skills through work experience and volunteering to maximise your chances of landing the job you want.



Watch this video for some help thinking through the options.

The average bachelor's student in England pays up to £9,250 a year – that's £27,750 for a typical three-year course. Then there are living costs to think about, which vary depending on your lifestyle, spending habits, and where you live and study. You can find out more about costs [here](#).

University is an investment, and there can be a financial pay-off known as the graduate premium. This tends to hold truest for technical subjects. For example, if you are a computer science graduate, you can expect to earn a little under £7000 more a year than a none graduate, which over a 40 year career worklife is over £275,000. If you get a degree in mathematics, it's even more than that, nearly £8,500 a year. You can compare graduate earnings and employability rates between courses [here](#).