



**University Guide**

# Introduction

This booklet aims to introduce you to some of the reasons why people decide to go to university and contains some activities for you to do.

Hopefully you've picked up this booklet as you are interested in going to university in the future, or you may have heard about university and you are curious as to what it is all about.

Throughout this booklet you may come across some words or terms that you are unfamiliar with. Look out for our Jargon Busters throughout the booklet which will explain these terms for you.

**JARGON BUSTER!**  
Look out for this logo...



## DID YOU KNOW?

You can go directly to university at any time in your life. Although, most students come directly from school or college at the age of 18.

## Who goes to University?



**Degree:** The qualification you get once you have completed your studies at university.

**Do you know anyone who has gone to university?** Even if you don't think you do, you may be surprised how many people you have met whose jobs have required them to go to university to get a degree. We've hidden some jobs, which require you to have studied a degree, in the word search below. Can you find all of them?

S	S	E	B	O	T	S	Z	Y	T	Y	P
J	O	U	S	Q	E	C	P	E	J	L	L
H	L	C	B	R	V	C	A	K	Z	S	G
T	I	S	I	J	J	U	C	W	M	E	L
Z	C	R	C	A	H	N	I	O	V	Z	Y
I	I	C	Y	E	L	Y	Y	V	J	H	E
I	T	L	R	P	G	W	O	T	X	Q	O
J	O	H	C	Q	U	E	O	Z	L	M	L
Q	R	O	T	C	O	D	J	R	I	H	G
K	S	P	W	B	Q	Q	K	K	Z	T	
H	T	F	M	A	E	J	X	I	P	E	B
F	N	X	X	P	Y	L	G	D	Y	R	R

**DOCTOR**  
**NURSE**  
**SOCIALWORKER**  
**SOLICITOR**  
**TEACHER**  
**VET**

# Why would you go?

There are lots of different reasons why people decide to go to university.  
Here are just a few examples...

- ✓ **To study a subject they really enjoy** – Many people go to university to find out more about a subject that they already like. Sometimes, students might study a subject that they have never studied before but are interested in furthering their knowledge about.
- ✓ **To gain the skills needed to do a particular job** – Some jobs such as Doctor, Teacher, Accountant or Scientist will require you to have studied a degree in a relevant subject first. So for some people going to university is the only way for them to get into a certain job.
- ✓ **To meet new people** – You may choose to go to university to meet new people as students from all across the world could be studying there. It is a great way to meet people from different cultures and backgrounds.
- ✓ **To gain new experiences** – Going to a university allows you to experience things that you may not have done before or be able to do easily elsewhere. You can join clubs and societies, do a work placement or choose to study abroad.
- ✓ **To become more independent** – Going to a university will make you become more independent as you'll be responsible for attending *lectures* and *seminars*, handing your assignments in on time, feeding yourself, looking after your income and doing your own chores.

**> Question:**

**Are any of these reasons the same as why you might want to go to university?**

**Can you think of any other reasons why someone might go to university?**



**Societies:** Clubs of likeminded students who regularly meet up because they share a common interest in something such as acting, singing, computer gaming, watching films, etc.

**Work Placement:** Similar to work experience at school, a work placement lets students spend up to a year working for a company whilst gaining skills and experience which will help them to get a job.

**Study Abroad:** Lets you spend some time studying your subject at another university overseas. It's a great way to learn all about a new country.

**Lectures:** A method of teaching used at university. A lecture is similar to a school assembly as they involve a teacher talking to a large group of students about a subject related to their course.

**Seminars:** Similar to a lesson at school, seminars are small group sessions where you discuss in more detail what was learnt in a lecture.

**Income:** This is money which is received on a regular basis by someone. Student's main source of income are often student loans from the government.

# What would you study?

Unlike school, where you have to learn several different subjects throughout the year, at university you tend to only study one subject. This is known as a *single honours* degree, or you can study two subjects together, which is called a *joint honours* degree.

You would normally spend three years at university as this allows you enough time to become a specialist. During these years you will learn new and exciting things about your subject as you progress in your studies.

## Activity No.1

Match these subjects to their descriptions:

### A. Criminology

- 1 The study of stars, planets and other objects in space.
- 2 The study of the human mind focusing on areas such as behaviour and memory.
- 3 The study of film and cinema involves looking at the history of cinema and analysing films to try and figure out why they were made in that way.
- 4 The study of human beings including topics such as evolution and comparison of different cultures.
- 5 The study of why crime happens. How it impacts society and how it can be prevented.

### B. Film Studies

### C. Astronomy

### D. Psychology

### E. Anthropology



**Single Honours:** A degree where you only study one subject, for example English.

**Joint Honours:** A degree where you study two subjects together, for example English and French.

# How do I get into university?

In order to go to a university you will need to have obtained certain qualifications. What qualifications you would need will vary on the university you apply to or the subject you decide to study. For example, subjects such as Engineering, Physics and Economics may require you to have studied Maths.

## Activity No.2

Can you correctly identify which of the following qualifications are essential and which are not when applying to go to university?

QUALIFICATION	ESSENTIAL	NOT ESSENTIAL
1. School reports	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. A driving licence	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. A Levels/BTEC/National Diploma/IB	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. 100% attendance certificate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. A passport	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. A portfolio of work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. GCSEs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. Work experience	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9. Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## DID YOU KNOW?

Some university degrees, such as Medicine can take up to six years to complete!

## > Question:

Do you have a favourite subject at school? If so, what do you enjoy about it?

## DID YOU KNOW?

Some universities may interview you. Why do you think they may do this?

- Activity No.1**
- A. Criminology (5) The study of why crime happens. How it impacts society and how it can be prevented.
  - B. Film Studies (3) The study of film and cinema involves looking at the history and figure out why they were made in that way.
  - C. Astronomy (1) The study of stars, planets and other objects in space.
  - D. Psychology (2) The study of the human mind focusing on areas such as behaviour and memory.
  - E. Anthropology (4) The study of cultures.
- Activity No.2**
- 3. A Level/BTEC/National Diploma/IB.
  - 6. A Portfolio of work.
  - 7. GCSEs.
  - These are all essential when applying to go to university.

## How to find out more

[www.careerpilot.org.uk](http://www.careerpilot.org.uk)

[www.exeter.ac.uk](http://www.exeter.ac.uk)

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)



[www.exeter.ac.uk](http://www.exeter.ac.uk)

Student Recruitment Office, University of Exeter,  
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*Information is correct at time of going to print.*



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