

Year 13

UCAS: Making Informed Choices

Wednesday 20th February 2019

1. Student Ambassador01: Hi, my name is Alice and I am currently in my 2nd year studying LLB Law. The theme for today's forum is UCAS: Making Informed Choices. For those of you who are new to the forums, you are welcome to ask me questions either directly related to the theme or about any other aspect of university life. Anything I can't answer I will refer on and someone from the Exeter Scholars team will get back to you with a response in the next few days. For those of you that have logged on before, welcome back! Before we start I just want to give you a quick overview of how the session itself works in case you've not used one before. When you post a message it will be sent to me to reply to and will show on your wall as awaiting reply. When I reply to your message it will then post to the public wall for you and everyone else to see. Until I have replied, no-one else will see your message. Bear with me, as when it gets busy it will take me a few moments to reply – but don't worry, you won't have been forgotten!

* Student Ambassador02: Hi, my name is Katherine and I am currently in my 4th year studying bioscience and I'll also be answering your questions!

2. Student Ambassador01: I hope that all makes sense. To get us started, what courses are you interested in doing?

* Student Ambassador01: everyone,

I'll talk a bit about myself and my course. I do the LLB Law / Maitrise en Droit (Master 1) here at Exeter which means I get 2 qualifications and I get to go abroad in 4th year to Rennes University. If you have any questions about that or year abroads then let me know.

3. zara thompson: Hi, what key things do you think your decision on what course to study should be based on? Like enjoyment or how useful it is in life etc.

* Student Ambassador02: Zara, I think it's really important to consider both enjoyment and how useful the degree will be as they will both affect you after. However, I think from myself and others it's most important to make sure you're going to enjoy what you're studying! It is a big commitment with long hours needed at times so you need to love what you're doing! What courses are you looking at so far?

4. jack munday: Hi, I was wandering what factors I should be considering when finalising which uni I want to go to?

* Student Ambassador01: Hi Jack,

There are loads of different factors to look at when choosing which uni to go to. For me personally, I decided whether I would want to go to London first of all. I decided it would be too big for my liking. I then looked at

how far away from home I would like to go. Exeter Uni had a really good course for me and that was basically the main reason why I chose to come here. I was also really into sport and the facilities are so good here. Whether its campus or city uni is also something so keep in mind. I preferred campus unis as I thought they would be a nicer transition. Where are you thinking to go?

5. zara thompson: I've applied for Law and haven't really considered anything else

* Student Ambassador02: Zara, if law is what you're really interested in then there isn't anything wrong sticking with that I don't think. Personally I was sure I wanted to do bioscience and didn't apply for any other subjects and that was perfect for me. I would recommend potentially looking around at some other similar courses to make sure there aren't any other courses you may have missed though. Have you looked at a range of universities for law?

6. zara thompson: I just worry I will not find it interesting enough for the 3 years, does it get more interesting at degree level than A-Level? And yeah I have but chose Exeter as I like the university and it is close to home which suits me well.

* Student Ambassador01: zara,

For me personally I didn't do A-level Law. A lot of my friends that did it said that it was a lot more case-based than their A-Level studies and that it was very different. You have to do a lot of your own reading and be very motivated as I only have about 10 hours of uni a week, everything else is prep work and reading for seminars so you have definitely got to choose something that you are going to love doing.

7. jack munday: I'm thinking of going to between Exeter, Bristol or Southampton

* Student Ambassador02: Jack, they are all very good universities and very different so I understand your difficulties in deciding which to finalise. I think as Alice said considering whether you think a campus or city uni will suit you better will be important as Exeter is a campus unlike the others as far as I'm aware. Can I ask what course you're looking at studying? The specific course is often a big deciding factor between universities with modules available and facilities etc.

8. jack munday: I'm looking at studying physics at uni

* Student Ambassador02: Jack, from friends that study physics I have noticed that the content of courses does change depending on the university and specialisms of the staff there for example. Have you looked more closely at the differences in what's offered at the different places? Of course it's not just about the subject as well so it is definitely worth looking wider at sports/societies on offer as well and visiting if you haven't already!

* Student Ambassador01: have you done physics a-level or is there any reason why?

9. zara thompson: Is there lots of flexibility with choosing your modules in Law so you can do things that interest you?

* Student Ambassador01: so in first year you don't get to choose any of your modules. I did constitutional and administrative law, contract law, French administrative law and legal foundations. If you just do the traditional LLB Law you do criminal law instead of French administrative law. In 2nd year you get one 15 credit optional module which is a term, I chose human trafficking and modern slavery and I literally love it! In 4th year you get to choose 4 modules and there is such a variety like it can range from EU trade law to art and law and you can even do a module completely unrelated to law like a language module or a philosophy module. Such a range!

10. jack munday: I've been doing physics a-level and am finding very interesting, and I have looked at the differences in courses and they all offer attractive factors.

* Student Ambassador02: Jack, that's great you're already interested in physics and looked at the specific courses. If you can't see a best option from the course then I would say to look at the other facilities at each university e.g. sports and music, and also the surrounding area and what else there is to do outside of studying. You will have a lot of spare time to go and enjoy yourself over 3 years so it's important that you like the place you're living in.

* Student Ambassador01: would you ever think about doing a degree with a year abroad or a year in industry? Any last questions guys?

11. jack munday: I have considered doing a degree with a year in industry

* Student Ambassador02: Jack, a year in industry can be very valuable both to you and future employers so it's definitely something to consider. I know people that have done it and they return for their final year more prepared and with a better idea of what they wanted to do after uni and what is available to them. In this case it would be worth checking contacts in industry of the different universities as this could make a big difference if specific companies you're interested in often take students for example.

* Student Ambassador01: Thanks very much for taking part in today's online forum; I hope you've found it useful! Details of the next session can be found at www.exeter.ac.uk/exeterscholars/currentparticipants/liveonlineqforums/. If you have questions in the meantime, please contact the Exeter Scholars team, who will be happy to help: www.exeter.ac.uk/exeterscholars/contact/currentparticipants/.

12. * Student Ambassador02: Unfortunately that's the end of the session today. Thanks very much for taking part in today's online forum; I hope you've found it useful! Details of the next session can be found at www.exeter.ac.uk/exeterscholars/currentparticipants/liveonlineqforums/. If you have questions in the meantime, please contact the Exeter Scholars team, who will be happy to help: www.exeter.ac.uk/exeterscholars/contact/currentparticipants/.