An Introduction to Higher Education

Choosing university courses and places.

Fred Binley, Schools & Colleges Liaison Officer
Where are we?
The University of Southampton

Founded 1952
19,000 undergraduates
4,000 postgraduates
5,500 staff
Why choose Southampton?

A world-class university and a founding member of the Russell Group, ranked Top 1% universities worldwide

Ranked in the Top 20 universities in the UK, Top 100 in the world QS Rankings

Over 200 courses in 65 subject areas across 8 faculties of excellence
Why choose Southampton?

Inspirational, award winning teaching by academic world leaders

Opportunities to study abroad with over 400 links and 233 partnerships in 54 countries across the world

Flexible and Innovative approaches to study

Excellent employment prospects
Can you rank the following 7 Universities as listed in the latest 2016 Complete University Guide league table?

- Bath ....?
- Birmingham ....?
- Cambridge ....?
- Essex ....?
- Southampton ....?
- Manchester ....?
- Newcastle ....?
Can you rank the following 7 Universities as listed in the latest 2016 Complete University Guide league table?

Bath 12
Birmingham 18
Cambridge 1
Essex 34
Southampton 14
Manchester 27
Newcastle 26
What will University mean to you?

- Opportunity for new experiences
- Unlimited academic possibilities
- Independence and freedom
- An investment for the future
- A great graduate job/career
- The most exciting time of your life...
- Cheap beer and good nights out
University: home or away?

“Students who leave home get the best jobs”

“Students who stay at home choose from a limited selection then should select the course that best suits their interests, not the best locally available”

“Students who study away from home have better job prospects...graduates who attend a local university are less likely to move and find work”

“Graduates who migrate earn more than those employed in their home region”
What should I study to get a good job?

Chemistry  Music
Geography  Accounting & Finance

which has the **highest % of students** entering **employment** on graduation?
What should I study to get a good job?

Chemistry = 85%
Music = 90%
Geography = 79%
Accounting = 80%

which has the highest % of students entering employment on graduation?
Targeted by top employers
“…last year, almost half our graduate recruits had degrees in arts & humanities, science, law or social sciences.

Surprised? Don’t be. We see your degree as just the start…”
What can I do with a degree in...

**Art:** television, arts admin, web page design, tourism

**Biochemistry:** forensic science, management, IT, sales

**Biology:** environmental consultancy, finance, marketing

**Geography:** journalism, banking, accountancy, law, sales

**History:** law, finance, IT, management, computing

**Law:** accountancy, banking, the media, industry, sales

**Languages:** law, tourism, civil service, diplomatic service

**Media Studies:** personnel, marketing, public relations

**Philosophy:** law, finance, local government
Do I need to choose a vocational subject?

**Yes:** for the professions: teaching, medicine, nursing, social work, engineering, occupational therapy…

**No:** it's having a good degree, from a good university that gets you a good graduate career; not the subject you read.

**Usually ask for:**
- good communication skills
- aptitude/a quick learner
- accurate literacy/numeracy
- confidence/dynamism
- rational perspective/tenacity
- a good class of degree/work experience

**Rarely ask for:**
- named degree subject
- named university
- specialist knowledge
- ability to party all night
- #greatontwitter
- expert at taking selfies
Guess the graduate?

Clue 1
Born in 1961

Clue 2
He studied Zoology at the University of Southampton

Clue 3
He’s been a TV presenter on nature programmes since the late 1980s think Spring Watch...The Really Wild Show

Chris Packham
TV Presenter, Photographer Naturalist
Guess the graduate?

Clue 1
Born in 1987

Clue 2
He studied Politics at the University of Southampton

Clue 3
You can hear him daily on the BBC Radio 1 Scott Mills Show and his interview with Mila Kunis went viral in March 2013

Chris Stark
BBC Radio 1 DJ
Guess the graduate?

Clue 1: Born in Chepstow 1965

Clue 2: She studied French and Classics at the University of Exeter

Clue 3: Her wizardly books have been translated into 42 different languages...

JK Rowling
Author
Guess the graduate?

Clue 1
Born in London 1971

Clue 2
He studied Economics at the University Cambridge

Clue 3
Think Bruno, Borat, Ali-G In-da-House..

Sacha Baron Cohen
Actor
Choosing a university: it’s complicated...

600,000 applicants, chasing...

450,000 places, on over...

60,000 different degree courses at...

350 higher education institutions.
Making an educated choice

Doing the research and find the **right university**...

...offering you the **right course**

The good news is the UK is one of the **best** places to study in the world!
The globalization of Higher Education

Not all universities are the same...

“So should I just apply to Russell Group Universities?”

The Russell Group represents 24 leading UK universities

Committed to maintaining the very best research, an offering outstanding teaching and learning experiences

Strong links with business and the public sector
University Challenge

Which of the following Universities are not in the Russell Group?

Which of the following Universities are not in the Russell Group?
Which universities are not Russell Group?

Birmingham
Bath
Birkbeck
Cardiff
Durham
Exeter
Glasgow
Goldsmith’s
Imperial
Leicester
Liverpool
Lancaster
Royal Holloway
Oxford
Queen Mary
Southampton
St Andrew’s
Sussex
Warwick
York
University Challenge

Come on!
Come on!
The results...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birmingham</td>
<td>Liverpool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bath</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birkbeck</td>
<td>Royal Holloway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiff</td>
<td>Oxford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durham</td>
<td>Queen Mary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exeter</td>
<td>Southampton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glasgow</td>
<td>St Andrew’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goldsmith’s</td>
<td>Sussex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imperial</td>
<td>Warwick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leicester</td>
<td>York</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Does this mean then universities in **red** are no good!?

If not **Russell Group**....which ‘group’ do they belong to?
Not all Universities are the same

Type 1: **Research** Intensive Universities

Academic, ‘traditional’ subjects, 21st century research, solving world problems, Russell Group and others

Type 2: **Regional** Universities

Vocationally focused, greater emphasis on teaching skills and sector focused, Millennium Plus Group and others
Research intensive universities

- Campus based
- City based
- National reputation
- Research Universities
- International reputation
- Highly competitive
- High grades
What size of research university?

**Campus** based – *(10 –to 15,000 students)*
York, Durham, Oxford, Warwick, St Andrew’s...

**City/Campus-based** – *(20 –to 40,000 students)*:
Manchester, Southampton, Bristol, Newcastle
Leeds, Nottingham, Edinburgh...
Regional Universities
Regional Universities

- Often vocational
- Accessible
- Large range of courses
- Serve local community
- Teaching based
- Local employer links

Regional Universities
The grades game...

Selectors

Lots of applicants
high entry grades

Medics / Vets/Nursing

Law /Psychology

Management / Business/ Economics

Oxbridge & Russell Group...

Recruiters

Fewer applicants
lower entry grades

Lots of places to fill....

Environmental Chemistry/Biology

Statistics

Unconditional Offers?
Play your university cards right...

Let’s look at applications for some Russell Group Universities in 2015...
Play your university cards right...!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Applications (2015)</th>
<th>Places</th>
<th>Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oxford</td>
<td>17,980</td>
<td>3,165</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>16,970</td>
<td>3,420</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSE</td>
<td>17,175</td>
<td>1,675</td>
<td>10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southampton</td>
<td>36,600</td>
<td>4,410</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York</td>
<td>25,300</td>
<td>3,445</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edinburgh</td>
<td>55,060</td>
<td>4,410</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King's College</td>
<td>41,270</td>
<td>4,770</td>
<td>8.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warwick</td>
<td>29,845</td>
<td>3,830</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durham</td>
<td>26,635</td>
<td>4,010</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liverpool</td>
<td>36,130</td>
<td>4,420</td>
<td>8.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Will you be qualified?

Section 1
- personal details
- chosen courses

Section 2
- your qualifications
- grades obtained – do you meet the pre-requisites
- predicted grades

Section 3
- personal statement

Section 4
- reference
Choosing a course

Archaeology
Art
Biological Sciences
Biomedical Science
Chemistry
Computer Science
Criminology
Earth Science
Economics
Education
Electronics
Engineering
English
Environmental Science
Fashion & Textile Design
Fashion Management
Film
Geography
Graphics
Health Sciences
History
Law
Management
Mathematics
Medicine
Midwifery
Modern Languages
Music
Nursing
Occupational Therapy
Oceanography
Philosophy
Physics & Astronomy
Physiotherapy
Podiatry
Politics & International Relations
Psychology
Sociology
Statistics
Web Science
Zoology
It’s not just about the course...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facilities:</th>
<th>Accommodation, library, computer labs, teaching rooms etc - 24 hour access?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social life:</td>
<td>Cafes, restaurants, bars, night-clubs, sports, societies, shops...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Will you find someone to love you?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Start researching
### University guide 2014: University league table

All UK universities ranked by the Guardian

#### The Guardian, Monday 3 June 2013 18.00 BST

**Times Higher Education Table of Tables 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank 101-200</th>
<th>Rank 201-300</th>
<th>Rank 301-400</th>
<th>Rank 401-500</th>
<th>Rank 501-600</th>
<th>Rank 601-700</th>
<th>Rank 701-800</th>
<th>Rank 801-900</th>
<th>Rank 901-1000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Glasgow</td>
<td>Oxford</td>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>University of London</td>
<td>University of Edinburgh</td>
<td>University of Manchester</td>
<td>University of Birmingham</td>
<td>University of Leeds</td>
<td>University of Exeter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**THE TIMES AND THE SUNDAY TIMES GOOD UNIVERSITY GUIDE LEAGUE TABLE 2014**

The definitive university rankings measure global reputation, research, teaching, student feedback, graduate prospects, entry standards, entry qualifications, degree levels, achieved, full-time, part-time, masters, PhD and masters by research, and research excellence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank 101-200</th>
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<th>Rank 301-400</th>
<th>Rank 401-500</th>
<th>Rank 501-600</th>
<th>Rank 601-700</th>
<th>Rank 701-800</th>
<th>Rank 801-900</th>
<th>Rank 901-1000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Imperial</td>
<td>Warwick</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>Exeter</td>
<td>Leicester</td>
<td>Loughborough</td>
<td>Birmingham</td>
<td>York</td>
<td>UEA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**World University Rankings 2012-2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank 101-200</th>
<th>Rank 201-300</th>
<th>Rank 301-400</th>
<th>Rank 401-500</th>
<th>Rank 501-600</th>
<th>Rank 601-700</th>
<th>Rank 701-800</th>
<th>Rank 801-900</th>
<th>Rank 901-1000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rank</td>
<td>University Name</td>
<td>Q Score</td>
<td>Research Assessment</td>
<td>Student Satisfaction</td>
<td>Employability</td>
<td>International Outlook</td>
<td>Overall Score</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Imperial College London</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>4.22</td>
<td>4.21</td>
<td>3.89</td>
<td>2.98</td>
<td>75.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>University of Cambridge</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>4.28</td>
<td>4.40</td>
<td>3.94</td>
<td>3.22</td>
<td>74.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>University of Oxford</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>4.28</td>
<td>4.52</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>3.48</td>
<td>74.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UCAS website

UCAS: At the heart of connecting people to higher education

Struggling with your personal statement?

1. Getting started
   - The undergraduate experience
   - Thinking about uni?
   - What to study
   - International and EU students

2. Find a course
   - Find out how to choose courses
   - Compare courses and unis
   - Browse through our search tool
   - Visit unis and colleges

3. Apply and Track
   - Filling in your application
   - Writing a personal statement
   - Interview invitations
   - Tracking your application

4. Finance and support
   - Tuition fees and student loans
   - Extra funding
   - Getting student support
   - Students' unions
Which University?

What to study, where to go and how to get there...

Search for courses, unis or advice
Which University

We have 95 results for 'medicine'.

Keele University
Medicine 1 of 29 related courses

UCAS Points % applicants receiving offers Student satisfaction score Average graduate salary
420 92% HIGH £28k LOW
How do you apply?

Universities & Colleges
Admissions Service

Get a signed up with **UCAS** Apply in school/college

Apply to up to FIVE Universities (4 for some courses)

**UCAS** deadline is January 15th 2017 (Oct 16 for Oxbridge)

Universities offer places

**UCAS Extra**

Deferred Entry – GAP Years
Student holds final 2 university offers as:

**FIRM** = 1st choice, or

**INSURANCE** = 2nd choice
An ideal timeline:

Now

- Decide on criteria for choosing
- Start researching universities

June

- Visit a HE convention
- Investigate finance

July

- Start to draw up a shortlist of courses and places you like

August

- Visit universities
- Look at www.opendays.com
Come and visit US!

Undergraduate **Open days**

Saturday 9 & Sunday 10 July 2016

Saturday 3 & Sunday 4 September 2016
An ideal timeline:

- **October**: Complete your online UCAS application
- **Autumn**: Attend open days/ interviews conditional/unconditional offers
- **Easter**: Decide your first and second choice university
- **Summer**: A-level results/Clearing
  - Celebrate and head off to Uni!
“...I’m not sure it’s worth all that debt...”
“...and my family can’t afford it...”
Key facts 2016/17

No upfront payment = study first and pay later!

A package of financial support:

**Maintenance Loans**

**Tuition Fee Loans**

**University Scholarships & Bursaries**
Maintenance Loans

Students from England can take out maintenance loan.

There are 4 rates of student loan:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Student Loan Rates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>up to £10,702 living away in London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elsewhere</td>
<td>up to £8,200 living away in a city/campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home</td>
<td>up to £6,904 living with parents/guardians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studying abroad</td>
<td>up to £9,391 Spend a year of UK course studying abroad</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tuition Fee Loan

To cover the tuition fees charged by your university or college.

Not means tested and paid directly on your behalf to your university or college.

How much can you get?

Up to £9,000 to cover the tuition fee your university or college charges you

Up to £6,000 towards your tuition fees if you’re studying an approved course at a private university or college
Other financial support

Special Support Grant  Disabled Students Allowances
Childcare Grant       Travel Grant
Adult Dependent Grant Parents Learning Allowance

Plus....

University Bursaries and Scholarships

University of Southampton -

Up to £3,000 a year in support
What about the repayment?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Salary</th>
<th>Monthly repayment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£25,000</td>
<td>£30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£30,000</td>
<td>£67.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£35,000</td>
<td>£105.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£40,000</td>
<td>£142.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£45,000</td>
<td>£180.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£50,000</td>
<td>£217.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£55,000</td>
<td>£255.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£60,000</td>
<td>£292.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After 30 years loan is written off!
## What about the interest rates?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Earnings</th>
<th>Interest rate is:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>During Study</td>
<td>Retail Price Index (RPI) +3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earnings under £21,000</td>
<td>RPI only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earnings £21,000 - £41,000</td>
<td>RPI plus up to 3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earnings over £41,000</td>
<td>RPI plus 3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How do I apply for support

Apply by **May 2017** if starting University in September/October 2017

Register with UCAS for updates

Download the finance guide from Student Finance England:

[www.gov.uk/student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance)
Apply online for student finance

Apply online for help with finance, including:

- Tuition Fee Loans
- Maintenance Loans
- Maintenance Grants

This service is for English full-time and part-time students (new and continuing).

Start now

on the Student Finance England website

Student finance

Student finance: how to apply
Student finance forms
Student finance login
Student finance
Contact Student Finance England
More
University - is it worth it?

‘Graduate outlook best since 2008’

‘A review of the job market suggests that top employers have increased their vacancies for recent graduates by 4.6 per cent this year...’

‘Only 10% of UK students remained unemployed six months after graduating in 2015...’
Graduate earnings

Average non-graduate salary 2015:

£13 – 16,000

Average starting graduate salary 2015:

£29,000

Annual survey conducted by Association of Graduate Recruiters
University of Southampton

“...Southampton is in the top 75 universities in the world, QS World University Rankings......”

“...World leading, internationally excellent...a university firmly entrenched among the research elite...”

“Ranked in the Top 20 in the UK”
The University of Southampton

- Founding member of the Russell Group research intensive universities
- Ranked in the Top 100 universities in the QS world rankings 2015/16
- Ranked in the Top 20 in the UK - 2016
- Ranked in the Top 20 in the UK - 2015