An introduction to Higher Education

Choosing university courses and places.

Fred Binley, Schools & Colleges Liaison Officer
What will University mean to you?

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>usually ask for:</th>
<th>rarely ask for:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>good communication skills</td>
<td>named degree subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aptitude/a quick learner</td>
<td>named university</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>accurate literacy/numeracy</td>
<td>specialist knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>confidence/dynamism</td>
<td>ability to party all night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rational perspective/tenacity</td>
<td>#greatontwitter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a good class of degree/work experience</td>
<td>expert at taking selfies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Global graduates

Cambridge
Imperial
Oxford
Edinburgh
Kings
Bristol
Durham
Edinburgh
Leeds
LSE
Nottingham
Oxford
UCL
St. Andrews
Sheffield
York
Warwick

UK universities in the World Top 100

QS World University Ranking 2013-14

Southampton
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
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
Play your university cards right...

Let’s look at applications for some Russell Group Universities in 2013-14...

How many applications has each institution received?
How many places did each institution have?
What was the applicant to places ratio?
Play your university cards right...!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Applications (2013-14)</th>
<th>Places</th>
<th>Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oxford</td>
<td>18,143</td>
<td>3,281</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>15,831</td>
<td>3,401</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSE</td>
<td>16,221</td>
<td>1,416</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southampton</td>
<td>34,437</td>
<td>4,499</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York</td>
<td>23,570</td>
<td>3,749</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edinburgh</td>
<td>46,875</td>
<td>5,474</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King’s College</td>
<td>33,660</td>
<td>4,331</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warwick</td>
<td>28,485</td>
<td>3,828</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durham</td>
<td>26,200</td>
<td>4,026</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nottingham</td>
<td>52,271</td>
<td>7,160</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How do you apply?

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 2016 (Oct 15 for Oxbridge)

Universities offer places on you obtaining specified entry requirements

UCAS Extra

Deferred Entry – GAP Years
UCAS Apply

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