

# Choosing University Courses

In this activity we're exploring how you could go about choosing the degree courses you'd like to apply for; from the subject you'd like to study, to the course content, to the universities you'll apply to. The key web pages we're using are [www.ox.ac.uk/courses](http://www.ox.ac.uk/courses), [www.search.ucas.com](http://www.search.ucas.com), [unistats.direct.gov.uk](http://unistats.direct.gov.uk) and [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)

## **Choosing a subject**

The most important thing to consider is simply what interests you and what you enjoy. You can use the grid below to get some of your thoughts down. Remember there are lots of university subjects that you don't study at school and you might love to study one of them, you just don't know it yet! Have a look at [UCAS](http://www.ucas.ac.uk) and university websites, e.g. [Oxford](http://www.ox.ac.uk), to get the bigger picture on subjects you can study.

### **Subject ideas**

<i>Subjects I enjoy at school</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>	<i>Interests I have outside of school</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>	<i>New subjects I've discovered that sound interesting</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>
<i>Topics I most enjoy reading/talking about</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>	<i>Types of learning/assessment that work best for me</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>	<i>Careers ideas</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>

Examples of types of learning/assessment: exams, coursework, group work, debating, problem-solving, essay-writing, practical work, experiments, reading, presentations, researching, creativity, using technology, etc.

### **Thinking about careers**

Some jobs require you to have a particular degree (e.g. Medicine), or further training (e.g. Law and teaching). However most degrees will qualify you for most graduate jobs, and there are lots of pathways into different careers later on (e.g. graduate entry medicine). Often employers are most interested in the class (grade) of your degree and the transferable skills you've developed, so actually simply doing something you enjoy, and therefore achieve well in, is a pretty sensible plan. If you already have some career ideas, look them up on the [Prospects website](http://www.prospects.ac.uk) to check if you need a particular degree course, and write what you find on the table on the next page. You can also use [Prospects](http://www.prospects.ac.uk) to find out [what kind of jobs you could do with each degree subject](#).

Career Idea	Qualification(s) needed (e.g. A levels, degree, masters, PhD, PGCE)	Degree subjects accepted/required

You can find out about the jobs [Oxford graduates go on to do](#) on the [Tableau database](#)

# Choosing University Courses

## Choosing courses & universities

Once you've decided what subject you'd like to study, the next step is to narrow down which university courses you'd be interested in applying for. There are quite a few things you could consider:

Which parts of your subject do you want to study the most?	
Do you want module options within your course?	
How many years do you want to study for? (e.g. 3, 4, 6)	
What qualification do you want at the end of your degree? (e.g. BA, MSc)	
What styles of teaching/learning work best for you?	
Are you better at exams or coursework?	
What grades are you expecting in Y13? What offer could you achieve? (e.g. AAA)	
Where do you want to live? (e.g. city, campus, collegiate, at home)	
Do you want to go to a high-ranking/ Russell Group university?	

You can look at course details on [UCAS](#) and university websites, e.g. [Oxford](#), compare statistics on [Unistats](#), and look at league tables (e.g. [The Guardian](#))

## **Choosing a college at Oxford**

College choice isn't something you need to worry about too much, as it won't affect your chances of getting in. You find out more about [how colleges work](#) at Oxford on the university website and [check which college offers your course](#). Other than that you can choose on features you like, e.g. the size, age, location, facilities etc. Come and have a look round and pick somewhere you feel comfortable! When you apply through UCAS you can put your college choice (or choice to make an open application) as a campus code.

**Based on all the research you've done so far, write down your top 3 subjects and your top 5 universities that offer courses in the subject**

Subject	University 1	University 2	University 3	University 4	University 5