



Gillingham School

FOUNDED 1516

Choosing a University & Course

What are my options after Sixth Form?

- University
- Apprenticeship
- College
- Employment
- Degree Apprenticeship
- Gap Year



Choosing the Right University

Before you start, have a think about the following:

- What kind of university - Modern or Traditional?
- How near or far from home do I want to be?
- UK or Abroad
- Do I want to live in a large city or a smaller town?
- Do I want a campus university where everything is on a university site?
- Or a university with facilities spread across a city?
- Living costs - different areas of the UK have very different living costs and it is important to consider this
- Transport Links - how easy is it to get to and from my university?
- Accommodation - what is the university accommodation like and what is the student accommodation like - you will probably move out of halls of residence and in to some kind of shared student accommodation after Year One.

Which Universities are the Best?

Some people may automatically say Oxford or Cambridge, or one of the 24 Russell Group Universities. Whilst it is true to say that these universities have an excellent reputation and are well regarded by employers, you should not feel that it is essential to aspire to go to one of them. There are 164 universities to choose from spread all across the UK. Then, of course, there are universities abroad!

The most important thing is to find a course that you are interested in at a university that meets your needs, both academically, environmentally and socially. You will be spending your next 3 or 4 years here immersed in your subject and in the extra-curricular life of the university.

Choose wisely and for the right reasons, visit each University if you can before making your choice and again before accepting an offer.

Choosing the Right Course - Traditional

There are over 50,000 courses to choose from ranging from

More traditional subjects such as:

- Mathematics
- Physics
- History
- Modern Foreign Languages
- English Literature
- Fine Art
- Engineering
- Business
- Law

To more unusual courses such as:

- Viticulture and Oenology
- Horology
- Air Transport with Helicopter Training
- Ethical Hacking
- Brewing and Distilling
- Ethnobotany
- Baking Science and Technology
- Animal Behaviour & Psychology
- Surf Science

Which type of degree?

- Single Honours Degree - one subject
- Combined honours degree - two subjects studied in equal measure - one degree
- Foundation Degree - usually over 4 years - these degrees often have a DD grade or 48 tariff point entry level because you will use the first year to acquire the knowledge you need
- Joint/Dual Honours Degree - essentially two degrees in one with a workload to match
- Major/Minor degree - a 65/35 balance between two subjects
- Degrees with Placement Years - a year spent working in an arranged placement
- Study Abroad Option - spend a year studying in another country

DIFFERENT DEGREES HAVE DIFFERENT DURATIONS FROM 2 YEARS UPWARDS - DO CHECK THIS!!

Course Content Information

- Always take the time to read carefully the details of every course you are considering - Geography at one university can cover very different areas to the same subject elsewhere....
- Carefully consider alternative courses - remember there are huge variations and you may be able to find something that fits with your specific area of interest - ie 'Geography and Environmental Science' or 'Anthropology & Geography'
- Unless you absolutely know the subject you wish to study, use broad search terms - ie searching for 'Art' will bring up more course options than searching for 'Fine Art'

How good is the course?

There are lots of places to look, offering league tables by subject, information about future prospects and student feedback covering not only course content, but other things such as quality and amount of support and teaching....

Here are some places to look:

<https://www.whatuni.com/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/ng-interactive/2021/sep/11/the-best-uk-universities-2022-rankings>

<https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/>

<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings>

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings>

Course Entry Requirements & Predicted Grades

- At the bottom of the information about each individual course, you will find **COURSE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**
- When choosing your courses - and eventually you will need to choose FIVE for your application - it is so important to check that the courses you have chosen are in the right range for the grades you hope to achieve.
- It is also essential to check any specific requirements - some courses may stipulate that you have to have two science A Levels or Maths GCSE Grade A - if you apply for a course and do not meet these criteria, your application will probably automatically be turned down.
- So, if you apply for a course requiring AAB and you are expected to get CCD, it is unlikely that you will get an offer.
- And, if you apply for a course requiring CCD and you are expecting A*A*A* - this may not be a suitable course for you!

Predicted Grades

Universities will either use A Level / BTEC Grades or Tariff Points for their entry requirements.

To establish your predicted grades, speak personally with your subject teachers about what you are hoping to study and what they feel you will achieve in your final exams. This is your predicted grade and teachers will confirm this alongside a reference only when you submit your UCAS Application.

Once you have got a predicted grade from each teacher, you can check that the courses you are looking at broadly match these grades. **If you want to go to a course or university with higher entry grades, speak to your teacher about what you can do to improve your predicted grade as soon as possible.**

You could also consider adding an EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) to your A Level studies to gain extra points.

Tariff Table

Some universities will show A Level or BTEC Grades, ie BBC and others will use tariff points or they may use both.

To work out how many tariff points you could achieve, use this table (BBC equates to 112 Tariff Points)

You can also use some extra-curricular qualifications in music (Grade 6+) for additional points.

2022 UCAS TARIFF POINTS

(Please ask Mrs Whyntie for any other qualifications, ie music, dance, theatre etc...)

A level

A ⁺	-	56
A	-	48
B	-	40
C	-	32
D	-	24
E	-	16

AS Level and Core Maths

A	-	20
B	-	16
C	-	12
D	-	10
E	-	6

EPQ

A ⁺	-	28
A	-	24
B	-	20
C	-	16
D	-	12
E	-	8

Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

D ⁺	-	56
D	-	48
M	-	32
P	-	16

RESEARCH IS ESSENTIAL

Your choice of university and course is very important and could define your success in being offered a place and your long-term university experience and happiness.

Start now! Proper research really does take time and probably the time required to properly research universities and courses, as well as organise visits, is hugely under estimated by everyone.



Investing time now will reward you for many years to come, not just as you study, but in your happiness in your future career too...



Searching on www.ucas.com

The screenshot shows the UCAS website with the following elements:

- Browser address bar: `ucas.com`
- Page title: **UCAS**
- Navigation links: Further education, Undergraduate, Postgraduate
- Hero section: **CHOOSE YOUR FUTURE**, Explore your options, apply to university, and more
- Filter tabs: All results, **Courses**, Uni & colleges, Apprenticeships, Advice, Events
- Search bar: Undergraduate, Location (optional),
- Advertisement: **Discover Apprenticeships – book now!** This National Apprenticeship Week, we're hosting a live exhibition on Tuesday 9 Feb, giving you the chance to meet and speak to big brand employers and apprenticeship providers and find out how you can land your dream apprenticeship.
- Advertisement: This space contains info on open days, featured courses and more! To see these ads, turn off your ad blocker. Advertisement. Why the ads?

If you are certain of the exact course you want to study, click here....

And type your subject in here...



Create your UCAS Hub

Explore your options, favourite your interests and discover your next steps. Get started with your UCAS Hub.



Unsure about a course, provider, or student life?

Talk to students who are already studying... they know the provider, the courses, the accommodation, and what the the city or town has to offer.



Applying to uni or college

Everything you need to know about applying for undergraduate uni or college course.



Going to university?

Studying at a university, college, or conservatoire?

If you do not know where to start, scroll down and click here to explore your options.

BE INSPIRE WITH ALL THE FACTS.

Opt in to get the full picture >



Advertisement



And click here...

student life?

Talk to students who are already studying... they know the provider, the courses, the accommodation, and what the the city or town has to offer.

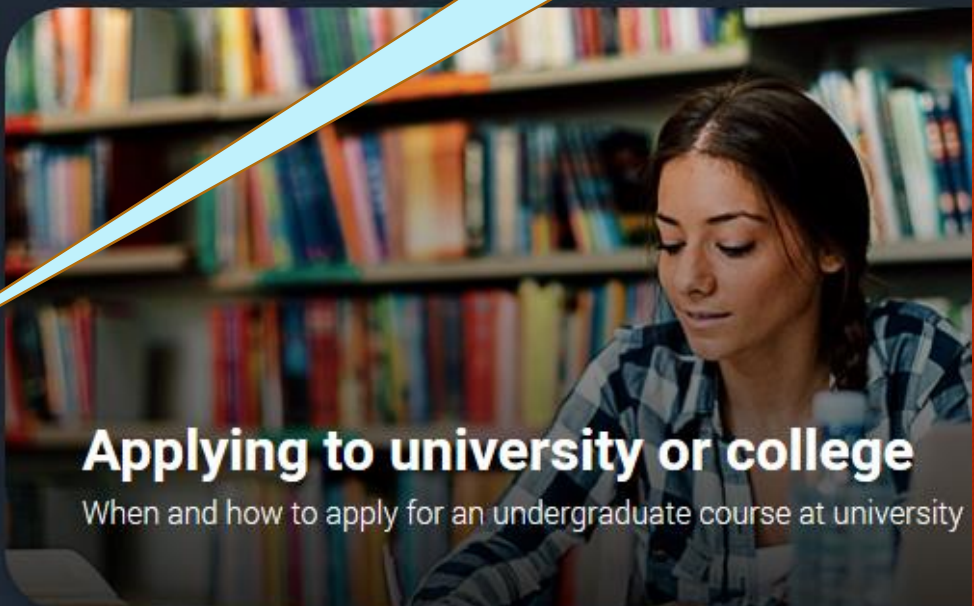


Apprenticeships

Everything you need to know about UK apprenticeships.

Choosing what and where to study

How to find out about courses that might be right for you, and where you could study them.



Applying to university or college

When and how to apply for an undergraduate course at university



Key dates



TRINI



https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-where-study

And here...
Clicking on the two boxes below
is also very useful.



Advertisement. [Why the ads?](#)

Subject guides

Undergraduate courses you could study, what they involve, and how to get onto them.

Create your UCAS Hub

Explore your options, favourite your interests started with your UCAS Hub.

Choosing a course

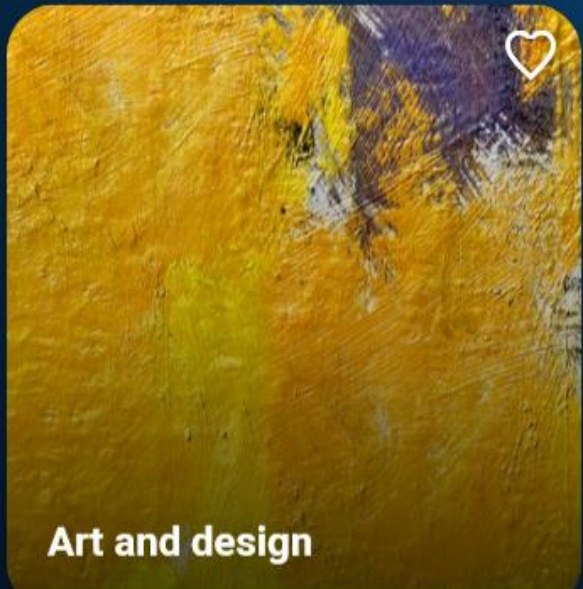
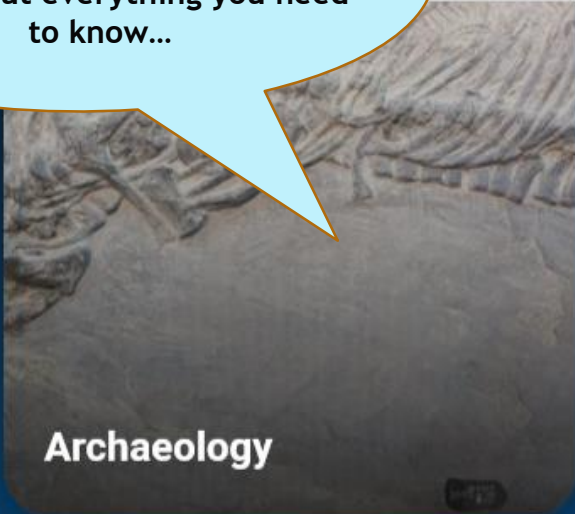
Tips and advice to help you decide what subject, course type, and provider is right for you.

Open days and events

Great ways to find out more about higher education, and if a university is right for you.

Entry requirements

And then click on a subject or subjects of your choice and you will find out everything you need to know...



[Home](#) / [Undergraduate](#) / [What and where to study](#) / [Subject guides](#) /

ARCHAEOLOGY

Explore this **section**

Immerse yourself in evolution, culture, language, and civilisation.



What is archaeology?

If you have a passion for history but want to get physical with your studies, archaeology offers you the chance to be the first to uncover hidden remnants of the ancient world.

A unique combination of history and science, of looking at the past to inform the future, and blending groundbreaking technology with antique skills, the study of archaeology gives you the opportunity to take a deep dive into the lives of your ancestors. As the subject is so

Discover
degree-level
apprenticeships

[Learn more >>](#)

UCAS

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Students save

Archaeology course entry requirements

Archaeology is a unique subject, which teaches you brand new skills you may not have touched upon in your previous studies. This is good news for the budding archaeologist, because it means that many universities don't require you to have taken certain subjects to get a place on their degree. Those that do will often mention history, to show passion and grounding in the subject, and a science, to show your analytical and laboratory skills.


With relatively loose entry requirements, your focus should therefore be on your application and personal statement. You'll want to show your passion for history, but also your skills with computers and technology. Knowledge of another language, or at least an interest in travel, would also be beneficial, as archaeology is a global field which requires frequent international communication.

A levels – Entry requirements range from BBB to ABB, with the universities and colleges most commonly asking for BBB.

Scottish Highers – Entry requirements for Highers (the most common qualification) range from BBBBB to AABBB, with universities or colleges most frequently requiring BBBBB. Occasionally, universities ask for Advanced Highers to supplement Highers. If Advanced Highers are requested, universities or colleges typically ask for BBB.

Vocational courses – Other Level 3/Level 6 qualifications (e.g. Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma, or an SCQF Level 6) may be accepted as an alternative to A levels/Highers by some providers. It's essential that you check alternative entry requirements with universities or colleges.

NOTE ENTRY
REQUIREMENT
GUIDANCE



Will I get to travel during an archaeology degree?

The vast majority of archaeology degrees will require you to conduct field work, whether this is in your local area or further afield. Many universities will also offer overseas placements and trips, which are common for practising archaeologists.

Why study archaeology at university?

Archaeology is a study of passion, rather than profession. If you've always been interested in ancient history, and you like the idea of a job that can blend physical and theoretical work, then archaeology may be ideal for you. You may also be attracted to how broad the subject is, as it can stretch from the study of scrolls to the excavation of ruins, from searching for ancient texts to mapping trade routes of lost civilisations.

Archaeology is also a field where jobs are becoming more and more available. It can be easy to think that all archaeologists are looking for the next Tutankhamun, but in reality many of them are employed by construction companies to excavate sites before building can begin. There are many ways in which an archaeologist can make a living, and most will go into their first jobs earning around £18k.

If the employment prospects for archaeology don't inspire you, bear in mind that this degree will give you a whole host of transferable skills that can be put toward other careers. The need for high levels of accuracy and analysis, whilst also requiring physical stamina, comfort with travel, skills with languages, and a good memory for facts, are all attractive qualities.

Some modules you may study are:

- Business law
- Archaeology and forensic science



And more...

Search uni and colleges for archaeology courses

Explore courses

See all >



Archaeology

University of Cambridge
Murray Edwards, Cambridge

BA (Hons) 3 Years

Full-time 2021-2022

£28k

Average grad salary

N/A

UCAS Tariff

N/A

Student satisfaction



Archaeology

University of Glasgow
Gilmorehill (Main) Campus, Glasgow

BSc (Hons) 4 Years

Full-time 2021-2022

N/A

Average grad salary

N/A

UCAS Tariff

N/A

Student satisfaction



Archaeology

Canterbury Christ Church University
Main Site, Canterbury

BA (Hons) 3 Years

Full-time 2021-2022

£19k

Average grad salary

88/112

UCAS Tariff

92%

Student satisfaction



Archaeology

University of Central Lancashire Preston
Main Site, Preston

BSc (Hons) 3 Years

Full-time 2021-2022

£19k

Average grad salary

96/112

UCAS Tariff

67%

Student satisfaction

Scroll right to the bottom and you can easily see all the different universities where you might study...

Look at circled figures for:

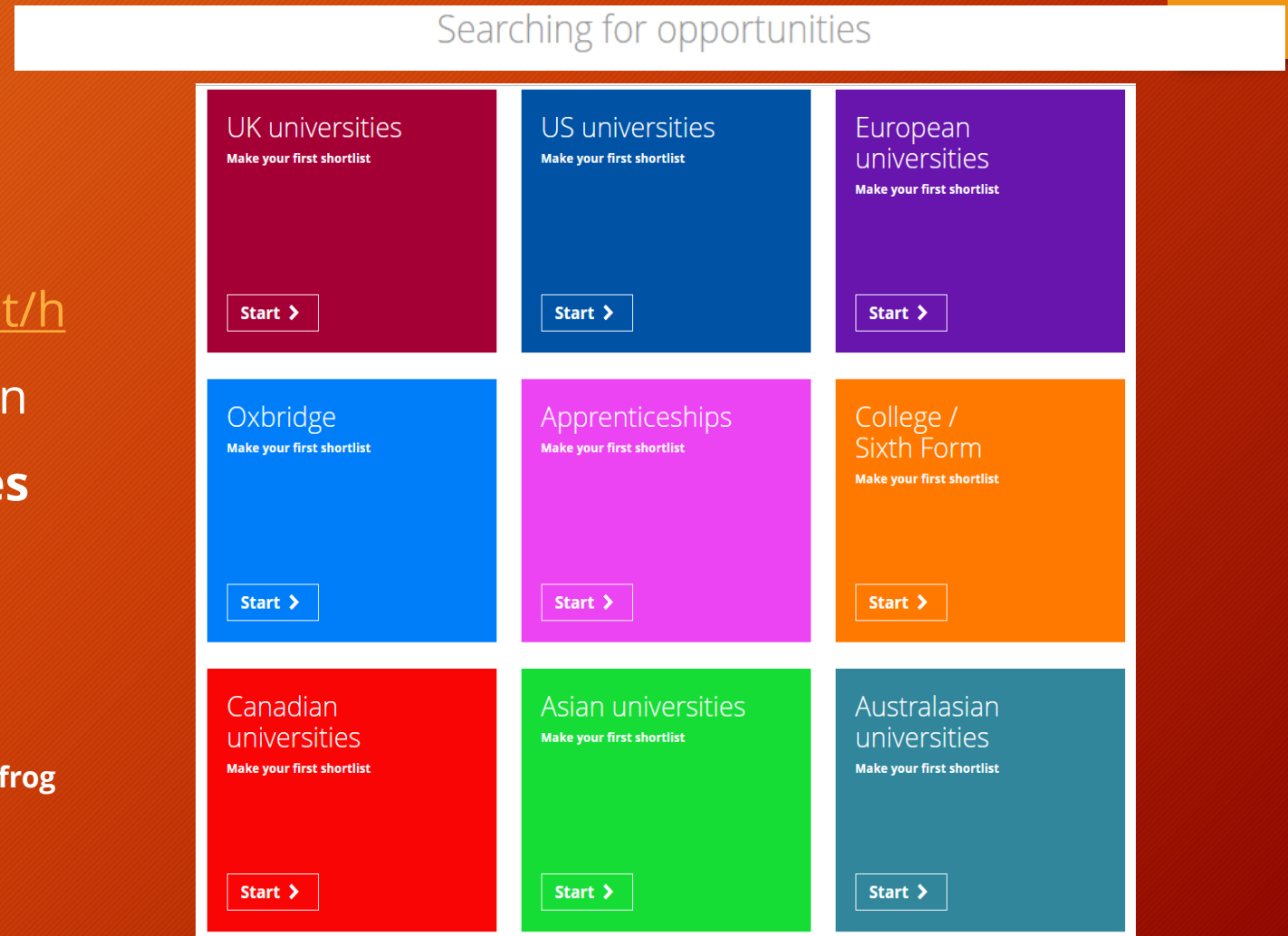
- Entry requirements
- Student Satisfaction
- Average graduate salary

At Gillingham School we also use Unifrog and this has many really useful tools as you search for courses, apprenticeships and careers

www.unifrog.org

From the student dashboard at unifrog.org/student/home, click **'Start'** on the **UK universities** box

(See powerpoint on UCAS & University Teams Pages – Unifrog Folder)



1 Start 2 Subjects 3 Longlist 4 Shortlist 5 Complete



What do you need to know about **university in the UK**? Here are some facts:

And work through the stages...

UK Universities

Need-to-know jargon

'UCAS points' or 'UCAS tariff' are points allocated to different post-16 qualifications. UK universities might use it when making offers to applicants, eg 'You have to get 120 points'. 'SW' means 'Sandwich year', when you spend time working in industry as part of your degree. 'FT' means 'Full time'. 'BA' means 'Bachelor of Arts', a degree in a humanities subject. These definitions should get you started - we give a fuller set of definitions in the 'Help' section for this search tool.

World class

In the QS world university rankings, four UK universities feature in the top 10, while a further 24 rank in the top 200. Generally the UK is considered second only to the US in terms of the number of top universities.

Earning potential

In the UK jobseekers without a degree earn up to £12,000 a year less than their graduate peers entering the job market, the equivalent of more than £500,000 over an average working life.

Sweet deal

British students studying at UK universities can get government loans to cover fees and living costs; the loans don't have to be paid back until after they are earning at least £25,000 a year, and even then the loans are paid back only gradually. EU students are (for the moment) entitled to the

You can also look at universities abroad or Oxbridge

Unifrog will keep a record of everything you look at.

Searching for opportunities

UK universities

Make your first shortlist

Start >

US universities

Make your first shortlist

Start >

European universities

Make your first shortlist

Start >

Oxbridge

Make your first shortlist

Start >

Apprenticeships

Make your first shortlist

Start >

College / Sixth Form

Make your first shortlist

Start >

Canadian universities

Asian universities

Make your first shortlist

Australasian universities

Some good quizzes to give you ideas

The image displays a grid of seven resource cards, each with a distinct color and a 'Start' or 'Go to tool' button. Three yellow arrows originate from the title 'Some good quizzes to give you ideas' and point to the 'Interests profile', 'Personality profile', and 'Work environments profile' cards. Two red arrows originate from the text on the right and point to the 'Careers library' and 'Subjects library' cards.

Interests profile ✓ Quiz last taken 1 Jan 22: C and R and S Start >	Personality profile ✓ Quiz last taken 15 May 21: ESFP Start >	Work environments profile ✗ Quiz not taken Start >
Careers library ✗ Careers favoured Go to tool >	Subjects library ✗ Subjects favoured Go to tool >	Know-how library ✗ Guides favoured Go to tool >
Webinars Hear directly from the experts Go to tool >	Read, Watch, Listen ✗ Profiles favoured Start >	

These are both excellent resources, use them to really investigate careers and subjects, for example....

Anthropology




- + In a nutshell *Lots of information about the subject*
- + Getting in *What grades do you need and what other things will count*
- + Decisions *What helped students decide on a particular course*
- + **Statement** *An example personal statement for an application to study anthropology*
- + Reference *An example of a reference that will accompany your application*
- + Geek out *Dig deeper into everything about the subject....*
- + Recommendations: Read
- + Recommendations: Watch
- + Recommendations: Listen
- + Explore

Fantastic resources to find Books, Articles, TED Talks, Podcasts etc... to read before you write your personal statement


Click on the subjects box and search for a subject that interests you... Or search for subjects that correspond to your current subjects, or explore all the other ways to find different subjects.

Keyword: anthropology ← Back
Watch, favourite or read more...


Filter anthropology >



Anthropology
The study of human societies and cultures and their development.
[Read the profile >](#)



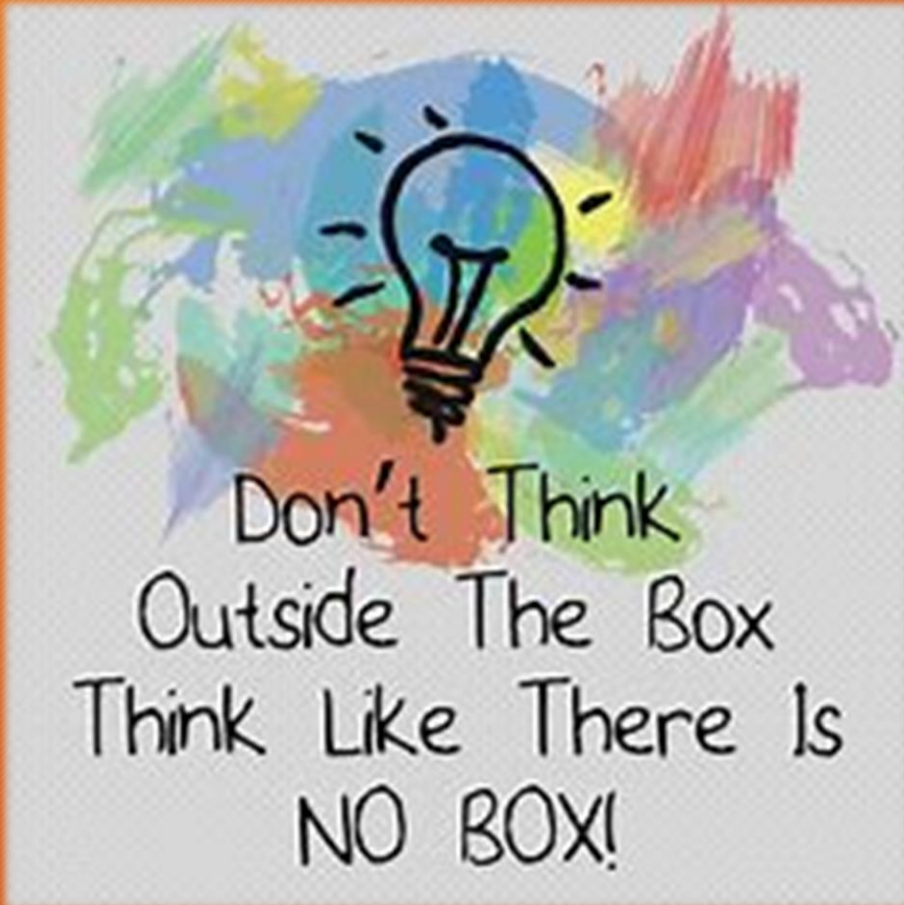
North and South American studies
An interdisciplinary field that examines North and South American history, society, and culture.
[Read the profile >](#)



Australasian studies
An interdisciplinary field that examines Australasian history, society, and culture.
[Read the profile >](#)

Click on each subject to find a wealth of information that will really help you to decide and support your application.

DO NOT LIMIT YOURSELF TO YOUR A LEVEL SUBJECTS.....



- Try not to be restricted by your A Level subjects - there are only 80 different A Level options...
- Whilst there are 50,000 different degree subjects...
- Think about anything and everything that interests you (even if you have never done it before) and then research it.
- Whilst some degrees may require certain subjects at A Level, many will not. Many universities also offer Foundation Degrees to build up your knowledge base before starting your full degree course and can be particularly helpful if your predicted grades are low.

Start building a Shortlist

Make a list of at least 10 courses that interest you and the universities they can be found at.

You can use this to collect useful prospectuses at UCAS events or plan visits.

As this picture illustrates, research is very important and it takes time.

If there is one thing previous students might say, it would be that they did not realise the time required to arrive at the right 5 choices



VISIT AS MANY UNIVERSITIES AS YOU CAN....

Many universities will have open days during the summer holidays and throughout the year.....

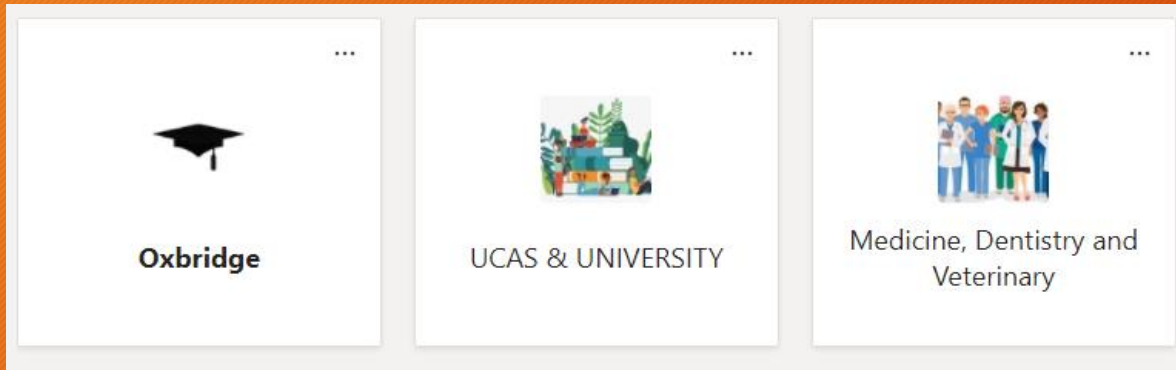
You can take 5 days out from school to attend open days. We will also be organising a school trip to one or two universities. OPEN DAYS are VERY IMPORTANT....

- You can explore the university
- You can explore the town and/or campus
- You can visit accommodation
- You can see the facilities
- You may find that the university you really thought was the one for you is not, and an entirely different university really appeals to you.

If you cannot visit all the universities you want to, use each university's website to explore as much as possible and read what current students say about their experiences there

CALENDAR - CURRENT UCAS YEAR 2022/2023

March	Start your research
Friday 18th March	UCAS Convention – Westpoint Exeter
Wednesday 4th May	UCAS Parent/Student Information Open Evening
May	UCAS website opens for 2023 entry registration
June	You should now be making decisions about what you might like to study and where, and begin thinking about your personal statement Students applying for Medicine/Veterinary or Dentistry Degrees or Oxford & Cambridge will already be receiving specific in school support and preparing their applications.
September	UCAS website opens to receive completed applications
15 October	Applications must be submitted by this date for <u>Oxbridge</u> and <u>Medical/Veterinary/Dentistry</u> Courses
9th December	Date by which you should have submitted and paid for your UCAS Application – this allows it to be checked by the UCAS Coordinator and for references to be written and predicted grades added.
25 January 2023	FINAL UCAS Application deadline



Remember - THE TEAMS PAGES ARE WHERE EVERYTHING UNI RELATED IS SHARED. DON'T LOSE OUT BY NOT CHECKING IN REGULARLY....

Your source of up to date information about open days, webinars, virtual universities tours, subject specific information, taster lectures, guidance and lots more....



Hopefully you now have an idea where to start.

For more help at any time, please just ask Mrs Whyntie in 6LC (or for Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry & Veterinary Mrs Berry in M8)

THANK YOU AND GOOD LUCK!