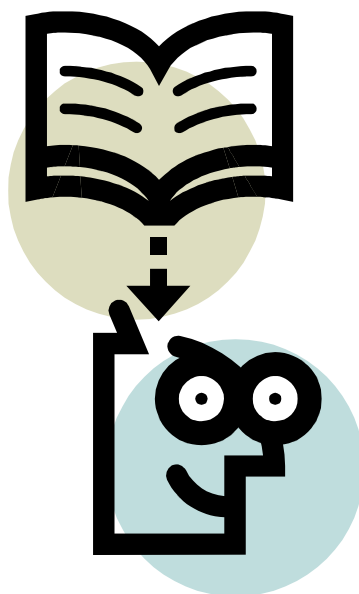


RESEARCH TIPS FOR LOWER 6

Factors to take into account in your decision making
and the resources available to help you:



CHOICES AT 18

➤ **Employment** – you feel that thirteen years of full-time education is quite enough: it is time to leave, earn some money and gain experience in the world of work, or, you may be planning to combine a job with further part-time study

1. www.apprenticeships.org.uk
2. Careerscope Guideline C01 – Employment at 18
3. The Careers Directory – the one stop guide to professional careers. Edited by Ken Reynolds and John Mainstone
4. Jobs and Careers after A levels – Beryl Dixon
5. Visit your local Connexions centre or search www.connexions.gov.uk
6. Your Way Forward – Connexions publication

- **Higher Education** – you have decided that the potential rewards of higher education (degree qualification and social education) are for you. There are many factors to take into consideration in choosing a course and institution so allow plenty of time for your research

Choosing your Course – the choice of course should ideally be made before you decide where to study it, but the two decisions do go hand-in-hand

1. Level of higher education – degree, diploma or foundation degree?
 - ✓ Careerscope Guideline B11 – Foundation degrees
 - ✓ www.ucas.com – course search facility
2. Course structure – modular courses, semesters, sandwich courses
 - ✓ Careerscope Guideline B05 – Sponsorship and sandwich courses
 - ✓ www.ucas.com – entry profiles
 - ✓ University prospectus and website
3. Course choice – motivation and enthusiasm for the subject, how you learn, student centred learning, career opportunities
 - ✓ Careerscope Guideline B01 – Choosing your subject and university
4. Subject content – continue with one (or two) of your school subjects, try something new, integrated or multi-disciplinary course?

If you want ideas:

- ✓ www.ucas.com - Stamford Test and course search facility
- ✓ www.ukcoursefinder.co.uk
- ✓ Choosing your Degree Course and University – Brian Heap

If you already have ideas:

- ✓ www.ucas.com – course search facility and entry profiles
- ✓ UCAS – The Big Guide
- ✓ University Degree Course Offers – Brian Heap
- ✓ Degree Course Descriptions – John Mainstone and Ken Reynolds
- ✓ Departmental web pages for detailed course content

5. Do you want to study abroad for part/all of your course
 - ✓ Careerscope Guideline B09 – Study in Europe
 - ✓ Careerscope Guideline B10 – Study in the USA and other English speaking countries
 - ✓ You want to study where? – alternative degree destinations
 - ✓ www.fulbright.co.uk - Fulbright Commission for universities in the USA
 - ✓ www.acu.ac.uk – Association of Commonwealth universities
 - ✓ www.britishcouncil.org/erasmus
6. Quality of the course
 - ✓ www.unistats.com – results of the National Student Survey. Enables you to search, review and compare the quality of the higher education experience plus lots more
 - ✓ Careerscope Guideline B02 – University league tables

Choosing your University – you will be better prepared to tackle your choice of institution once you have decided on the type of course you want. Once you have a list of universities that offer your chosen course, start with a personal checklist:

- Rural or urban environment
- Buildings and architecture
- One site/different sites – travel between the two
- Campus
- Collegiate arrangement
- Size – student numbers
- Distance from home
- Accommodation
- Reputation
- Costs
- Facilities (university or local) – specific or important to you

Resources

- ✓ Careerscope Guideline B05 – Choosing your subject and university
- ✓ University websites, prospectuses and alternative prospectuses
- ✓ The Daily Telegraph Guide to UK Universities
- ✓ The Guardian University Guide
- ✓ The Times Good University Guide
- ✓ www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk

➤ **Broadening your horizons**

Time Out – many students opt to take a year out between A level courses and higher education. Deferred entry is increasingly accepted by universities but needs careful planning

- ✓ www.gapyear.com
- ✓ www.yearoutgroup.org
- ✓ Opportunities in the Gap Year – ISCO
- ✓ Work your way around the World
- ✓ Careerscope Guideline A06 – Taking a Gap Year

Studying and Working Abroad

- ✓ Exchange programmes, full-time study, work placements, voluntary work
- ✓ www.erasmus.ac.uk
- ✓ www.careerseurope.co.uk

➤ **Additional Resources**

- ✓ www.opendays.com – full listings of university open days that run throughout the year
- ✓ Careerscope Guideline B06 – Applying to university
- ✓ www.ucas.com/students/choosingcourses/admissions/ - summary of the admissions tests and links
- ✓ www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance - student finance and support
- ✓ University scholarships, awards and bursaries – Brian Heap
- ✓ Oxbridge entrance – the real rules

All the publications listed are available in the Careers Centre. Do come and use the resources and do ask for further help if needed.

Miss Norman