

Preparing for University in the future...



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Also... Mum



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CHOOSE YOUR FUTURE

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www.ucas.com

"I want to study Theoretical Physics and specialise in Quantum Mechanics at university"

- Where offers that course?
- What subjects at Higher or AH do they ask for?
- What are the entry requirements?
- Do they stipulate you must achieve the qualifications in one year or two?

"I dance outside school, so I could do a course in that. I enjoy English, child care looks interesting and I'm good at Biology"

- What subjects do you enjoy?
- How are you getting on – what feedback are you getting from your teachers?
- Browse careers on UCAS website
- University or College?
- What degrees could you do? Eg teaching, psychology, sociology, English, dance/performance, child care, criminology, marketing, film studies, politics, law
- What subjects at Higher or AH do they ask for?
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To help pupils decide what course & where

- School guidance and careers
- www.UCAS.com application deadline **mid-October** for some courses like medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry, Oxford and Cambridge and **mid-January** for majority
- **UCAS Discovery event** – Edinburgh early September
- **University website** – course pages, videos, student testimonials
- **Open days** – some are June, others September and October, follow-up events online or in-person
- **Visit days** - for those holding offers

Course/s



University/
College



What
FEELING
do you get
when visiting



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Q: Study a subject you are passionate about or something that focuses on a job?

- Some degrees aim to increase your knowledge and expertise in a particular area eg a degree in English, History, Film Studies, Classics, Physics
 - Careers could include political analyst, teacher, historian, librarian, researcher, author etc
- Other degrees centre on employability
 - Eg: Marketing, Business, Hospitality and Tourism, Nursing, Dentistry, Paramedic Science, Engineer, Architecture, Computer Science and AI

A: Both would be good



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Broad courses or more specialised?

- Some universities have a common year 1 and 2 so you get a taster of lots of different subjects and then students specialise in year 3 and 4.
- For example University of Edinburgh offers Biological Sciences. In year 3 students can choose between 12 degrees from immunology to zoology.
- **This flexibility is good if you are a little unsure about what to study**
- **Could be frustrating for someone who is clear about the subject they want to study**



S6: Advanced Highers or more Highers?

- Some of the top-ranked UK universities/courses may require 5 As at Higher (in S5) and 3 AHs (in S6)
- Others want 5 As at Higher by end of S6. However they will accept an AH at B instead of an A @ Higher.
- The upside of AHs is students know that this level of study is similar to year 1 university.
- Additional Highers could be useful eg computing as science subjects and economics sometimes require students to know programming packages like Python ('R' is also used) or Higher English as good communication needed for all jobs



De-coding the prospectus: Entry Requirements

- **Scottish Higher:** Standard - BBBB, Minimum - BBCC
- **A Level:** BCC
- **Irish Leaving Certificate:** H2 H2 H3 H3
- **International Baccalaureate:** 28 points
- **International:** IELTS of 6.0 with no element lower than 5.5
- **Required subjects:** English or Media Studies preferred at Higher/ A Level. English required and Maths preferred at Nat 5/ GCSE. We can also accept National 5 Application of Maths at the same grade.
- **Am I a Widening Access student?:** We apply the minimum entry criteria to applicants who meet one or more contextual factor. To see if this would apply to you, please refer to the [access and application](#) page.
- **Mature/Access:** We welcome applications from mature students with other relevant qualifications and/or experience.
- **Direct Entry:** *Year Two:* HNC/HND in a related subject with B/CB in the graded units
- **Scottish Higher:** BC at Advanced Higher in relevant subjects plus BB at Higher
- **A Level:** BBB in relevant subjects
- *Year Three*
- **HND in a related subject with CB in the graded units**
- **Disability/health conditions**

If you have a disability, long-term physical or mental health condition, or learning disability, it should not stand in the way of your studying at QMU. However, if you are not sure whether your disability might be a barrier in your studies or in relation to the professional standards, please contact the disability service who will be able to have a conversation with you about reasonable adjustments and supports available to you.

University Perspective

- Cap on the number of Home undergraduate students in Scotland
- Target number set for each degree
- Use historical 'offer to acceptance' ratio to guide number of offers made
- Have targets for Widening Participation
- Less restriction on numbers in England, NI and Wales but FEES
- Some courses badly impacted by Brexit as European students now have to pay international fees to study at Scottish Universities
- **Takeaway: early applications through UCAS**
- Unconditional offer likely if Higher exam results meet the standard offer
- For conditional offers admissions will look at predicted grades, student statement and reference (and portfolios/auditions)
- Answer the questions of why this course, why this university.
- **Applicants can stand out through wider achievement activities:**
 - demonstrating some subject knowledge or relevant work shadowing/experience
 - extra curricular activities eg volunteering, D of E, fundraising
 - leadership skills, participating in competitions, YPI
 - transferable skills could be through a part time job, hobbies, playing sport
 - soft skills like good communication, team work,

**Thank you
&
Any Questions**

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