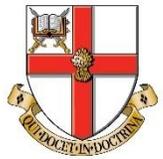




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Introduction to Higher Education





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Welcome

This presentation provides an overview of Higher Education including:

- The reasons why you may consider going to University
- Information about university qualifications
- Things to consider when choosing a university and course
- The opportunities attending university can offer
- Suggestions to help with decision making





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What is Higher Education?

- HE is any study beyond Level 3 qualifications such as **A-Levels or BTEC**
- You can apply for university **after the age of 18**, however if you don't decide to go straight after College or Sixth form, we will welcome you whenever you are ready!
- University is there for **ANYBODY** who wants to go. If you don't believe us, read this: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/07/27/d-day-veteran-becomes-oldest-person-awarded-phd-british-university/>





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Why go to University?

There are 3 main reasons that you may want to consider university

1. Professional

- You need a degree for your chosen profession - Doctor, Engineer, Dentist, Teacher, Nurse, Architect etc.
- Enhance employability
- To improve job prospects

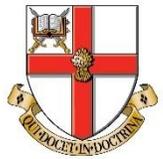
2. Level of Study

- You can study your favourite subject to a high level
- Some subjects can only be studied in a university environment
- A Broad range of subjects from Astrophysics to Zoology to study at University
- Facilities and Equipment at university might not be available at college

3. Personal

- Transferable skills
- University Experience
- Independence and Life experience





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Can I afford to go to University?

Universities can charge up to £9,250 per year for tuition fees and you have to consider your living costs for your time at university.

Lots of information about the cost of attending university is available online at UCAS, Student Finance England and Wales as well our University of Chester online resource pages and other online student hubs.

In summary:

- Loans are available to cover costs of courses and living at university – you are not expected to turn up with that kind of money in your back pocket!
- The repayments are made through the PAYE system, which means before you even get your wages
- Loan repayments start from the April after you graduate and only paid back if you are earning over £25,000
- The repayments are calculated based on the **AMOUNT YOU EARN** and **NOT** how much you borrowed.





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University Qualifications

You may already know that universities offer degrees, but there are many types of degree to choose from. Can you match up the **types of degree** to their definitions?

Single Honours Degree

Studying 2 subjects that usually complement each other such as Psychology and Criminology

Combined Honours Degree

A stepping stone between Level 3 and a full degree. Usually they have an option to top up to a full degree if you want to

Foundation Degrees

A degree where you spend a year gaining valuable industry experience related to your degree. These courses are 4 years in length

Sandwich Degree

Studying 1 subject on its own





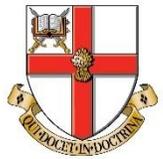
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University Qualifications

How did you get on? Here are the answers...

Single Honours Degree	Studying 1 subject on it's own
Combined Honours Degree	Studying 2 subjects that usually compliment each other such as Psychology and Criminology
Foundation Degrees	A stepping stone between Level 3 and a full degree. Usually they have an option to top up to a full degree if you want to.
Sandwich Degree	A degree where you spend a year gaining valuable industry experience related to your degree. These courses are 4 years in length.





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University Qualifications

Your first degree is usually a Bachelors award. This means that at the end you will become a Bachelor of your chosen area. For example...

- **BA** – Bachelor of Arts (Inc. subjects like History, English, Teaching & Drama)
- **BSC** – Bachelor of Science (Inc. subjects like Psychology, Chemistry & Maths)
- **BEng** – Bachelor of Engineering
- **BN** – Bachelor of Nursing
- **With QTS** – Qualified Teacher Status





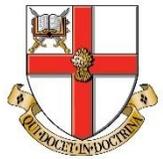
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Other Qualifications

Universities also offer other qualifications, including:

- Masters degrees – After you have completed your Bachelors degree you can continue studying your chosen subject further or focus on a more specialist area e.g. MSc Cardiovascular Disease or MA Creative Writing: Writing and Publishing Fiction
- PhD – Become a Doctor... of anything from **Acoustic Engineering** to **Folklore!**





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Decisions, Decisions...

When you finish your studies at School/Sixth Form/college, there are lots of different options available to you including apprenticeships, employment and of course **UNIVERSITY!**

- Coming to university is **YOUR** choice.
- If you decide to come, **YOU** choose where you want to study and what you would like to study!





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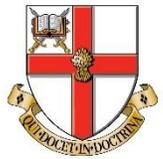
Decisions, Decisions...

Question:

How many Universities and courses are there to choose from in the UK?

- A. 400 universities and 5000 courses
- B. 300 universities and 50,000 courses
- C. 500 universities and 15,000 courses





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Decisions, Decisions...

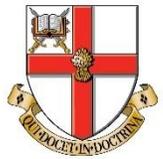
The correct answer is:

B: 300 universities and 50,000 courses

Some universities offer a wide range of different courses (like the University of Chester!) and some specialise in one group of courses, such as London School of Economics.

You will have your own criteria to help narrow down your options, such as the distance from home or the course you want to do.





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Deciding on a course

There are many ways to decide on which course you would like to do.

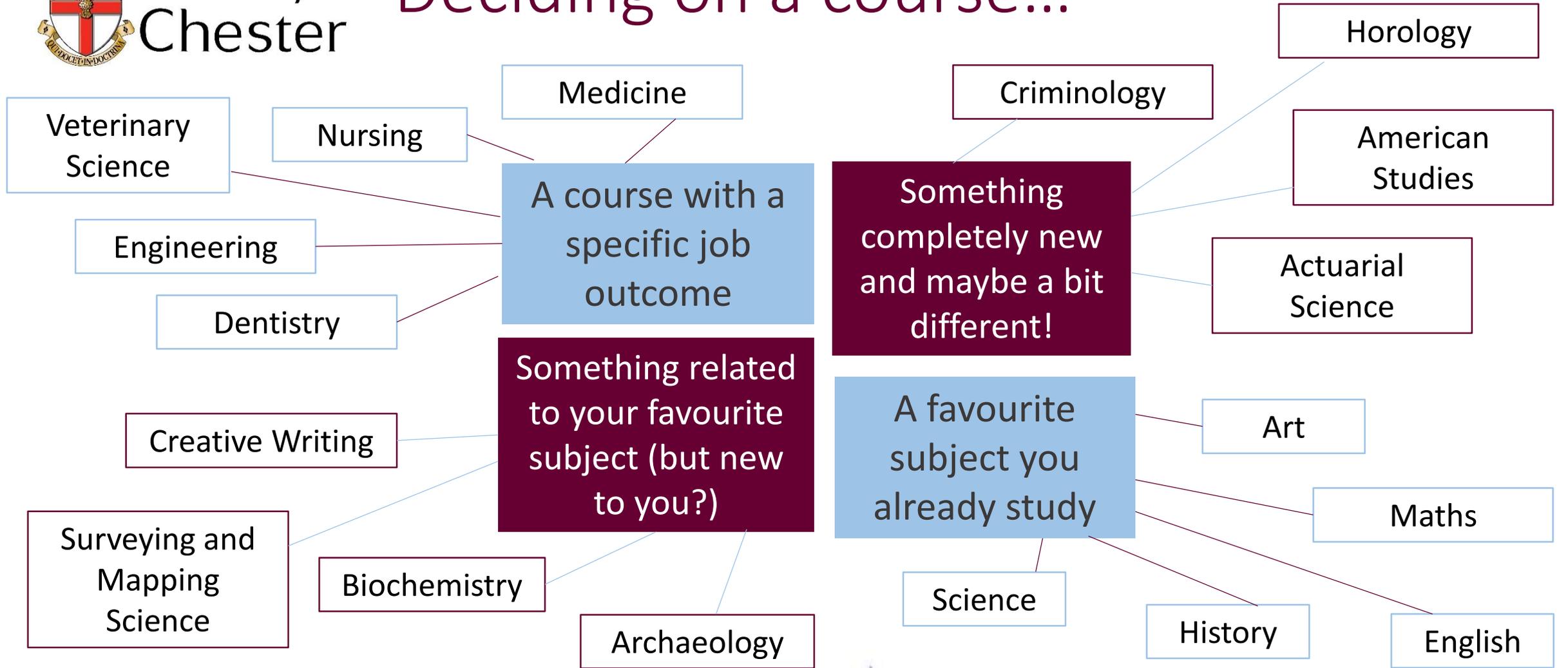
It could be that you want to do a course because of the career you would like, it might just be your favourite subject (or linked to it) or it could be a completely area of interest.

The next slide gives some examples of factors that can help you choose what course to study...





Deciding on a course...





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Deciding on a University

Universities come in different shapes and size and can have between 7,000 to over 50,000 students!

- **Campus universities** such as Keele, have all facilities fully contained on one site, often in the countryside
- **City universities** like Liverpool and Manchester have buildings in close proximity across a number of sites in the heart of the city
- Some universities – (Chester, Birmingham) have a mix of a **Campus and City** sites with faculties clustered on different campus locations
- At **Collegiate** universities Oxford and Cambridge teaching is conducted centrally but each college has all its own facilities such as libraries, accommodation, sports and societies





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University - What's in it for me?

Learning in a new environment:

- **New skills** – subject related and transferable skills too
- **World Class Facilities** - using equipment you won't find at college or sixth form
- **Industry experience** – to help get you that dream job
- **Independence** – putting your own stamp on things!

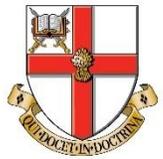
Did you know that lessons at university are taught in lots of different ways?

- Depending on which course you do...that could be in lectures, seminars and tutorials, in labs, schools or hospitals

Did you know that assessments aren't always exams?

- It could be group work, essays, practical (in the lab or on the stage!), oral exams or poster presentations





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University - What's in it for me?

Living in a new environment:

- **Social and Life Experiences** – living away from home in a new city
- **Meeting people from all over the world** – learning about new cultures and making friend for life
- **Sharing experiences with like-minded people** – people interested in the same subject or society you've joined
- **Developing essential life skills** – learning to do laundry or cooking for a group
- **Enjoying your time there** - time at university is like no other!

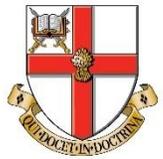
Did you know that there are lots of types of accommodation to live in at University?

- Shared facilities (bathrooms and kitchens) tend to be the cheapest, en-suite and studio rooms cost a bit more but if you don't want to cook some universities offer meal packages.

Did you know that you don't have to live in at university?

- Lots of students choose to live at home and travel in for taught sessions and to socialise and take part in club and society activities. Just do what's right for you!





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University - What's in it for me?

Opportunities:

- **Being part of something new** – be that research or new clubs and societies at the Students Union
- **Study abroad** – either for a term or a year. Great opportunity to get life experience and employers love it
- **Join a sports team** – all the usual suspects and more! Even Quiddich is played against other universities!
- **Join or found a society** – from The Disney Society to the Rock Music Appreciation society, you'll never be bored!
- **Live in a new city or rediscover a familiar one!** Lots of students stay and live in their university city after graduation.
- **To be BRAVE!** Moving away from home, and meeting new people can be daunting but you can do it!

Did you know that each university has a Student Union?

- They provide most of the social activities and look after the teams/societies, but can also help you if you have any welfare, finance and academic issues

Did you know that many opportunities at University are no or low cost?

- Compared to the outside world the opportunities are endless! At the University of Chester, our students spend their summers at places like Camp America, Disney resorts or Wildlife Conservations Employers love seeing this on CVs





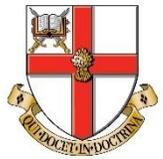
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Is University for me?

Making the decision to attend university is a big one so to help you, we've compiled out top considerations to help you make up your mind

- **Start your research** - It's never too early and you can search for a university course or work backwards from the job you would like to do in the future to see what qualifications you will need.
- **Attend Open Days** – If you can't attend in person, lots of universities are offering digital open days and virtual campus tours so now is a great opportunity to explore your options.
- **Ask questions** - Lots of universities have opportunities to ask questions either through a chat function, email or social media – Don't be afraid to ask anything you're unsure about. Speaking to staff at your college will help too.
- **Make a list** - If you are unsure if university is for you, make a list of pros and cons. Thinking about apprenticeships and employment options too.
- **Play to your strengths** - You know YOU best! Apply for courses and universities that suit you and what you are good at





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Next Steps...

We have produced a worksheet to accompany this presentation that can be downloaded from the following webpage:

<https://www1.chester.ac.uk/resources/resources-post-16-students/introduction-higher-education>

Complete the tasks in the worksheet to recap what you have learnt about Higher Education and begin your research into what university might look like for you.

Find out more > www.chester.ac.uk

