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[www.strath.ac.uk](http://www.strath.ac.uk)



University of  
**Strathclyde**  
**Glasgow**

# INTRODUCTION

## INTRODUCTION

This guide is designed to give you an introduction to what university is and how you might get there. This leaflet includes information on:

### WHY GO TO UNIVERSITY

### CHOOSING A COURSE AND A UNIVERSITY

### CHOOSING YOUR SUBJECTS AT NATIONAL 5

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

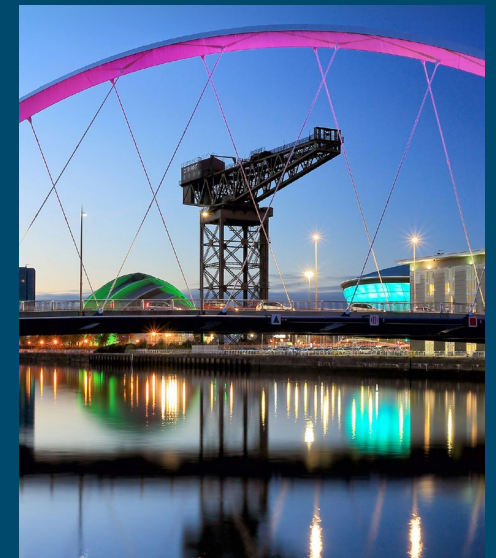
### STUDENT FINANCE



# WHY GO TO UNIVERSITY

Going to university is a personal choice and you might have your own reasons for wanting to go but here are some common reasons for going to university:

- **To study a subject you enjoy**
  - at university you’ll get the opportunity to study the subject you are interested in a more in-depth way and learn more about your favourite subjects
- **Meet new people**
  - studying at university can give you the opportunity to meet people from all over the world and learn about their cultures
- **The student experience**
  - there’s lots to get involved in away from your studies from sports to clubs and societies
- **Improve your job prospects**
  - many of the careers out there will require you to have a degree and by choosing to study at university you’ll be giving yourself plenty of options for what you could do in the future
- **Experience a new city**
  - going to university may mean you’ll get the chance to move away from home and live somewhere new which can be really exciting



# CHOOSING A COURSE AND A UNIVERSITY

With over 30,000 degrees on offer throughout the UK and 40 Universities and Colleges in Scotland alone you will have a lot to choose from and chances are whatever subject you are interested in there will be somewhere in the UK you can study it.

A good place to start is the UCAS website ([www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)) on which you can search for all kinds of courses related to your interests.



You may want to choose:

- **Something academic**
  - perhaps related to a subject you are studying at school such as Maths, English or Biology
- **Something relating to a particular job**
  - a course that has a specific career path at the end of it such as Teaching, Law or Accountancy
- **Something related to the things you enjoy doing outside of school**
  - there are courses in subjects like Photography, Drama or Sport
- **Something totally different**
  - there's everything from Archaeology to Zoology out there so investigate all your options.

There are lots of factors to consider when deciding where you would like to study:

- **Location**
  - where would you like to study?
  - Glasgow? Edinburgh? Aberdeen? London? Do you want to stay at home or move away?
- **Size of the university**
  - would you prefer to study at a big or small university?
- **Is it a city or parkland campus university?**
  - some universities, like Strathclyde, are right in the heart of the city, others are located outside of the city centre, usually in nice green spaces
  - which is right for you?

- **What facilities are on offer**
  - what are the sports facilities like? What about the Students' Union? Is the accommodation on campus or further away from the university?

It's really important to do your research by looking at the universities' websites and prospectuses. As you get nearer to making your decision it is important that you visit the universities you are interested in by attending an Open Day or an individual visit. It is not only about the course, but also ensuring that the campus is right for you.



# STUDENT PROFILES

## JENNIFER BAIRD

### BSc (Hons) Immunology & Pharmacology

I chose Strathclyde for its central location in Glasgow and its reputation in the Biological Sciences. My lecturers are great and the campus is easy to get around. University is a period of my life I will never forget and it's taught me that you can achieve anything with hard work and the right attitude.



## DANIEL HANSEN

### BA (Hons) History

My History course covers a wide range of important topics, all of which are interesting and help you understand more about the past and how it can link in with the future. I would recommend all students take advantage of the University library. You are never short of areas where you can work in a tranquil and productive environment.

## BRONAGH GILLESPIE

### MEng Product Design Engineering

I wanted to make the most of all that university could offer. I have studied in Melbourne, Australia for a semester, I was president of the department society which was a lot of fun and I made some great friends along the way.



## IAIN CAMERON

### Integrated Masters International Business and Modern Languages

Studying abroad is definitely the highlight of my 5 years at Strathclyde – it broadened my horizons, improved my language skills, gave me some unforgettable experiences and allowed me to meet many new people from across the globe. Strathclyde offers so much – academically, socially or in sports – so there's something for everyone.

# CHOOSING YOUR SUBJECTS

This leaflet aims to guide you towards making choices now that will give you plenty of options when you leave school. It is based on the requirements for entry to the University of Strathclyde, but universities have many subject requirements in common, so you should find it useful wherever you might study in the future.



If you think you might want to come to university, getting good passes in the right National 5 subjects will be your first major step towards gaining your place. Your National 5 options give a foundation for choosing your Higher subjects so you should choose subjects you enjoy and are good at. It is also worthwhile taking a broad range of subjects that will enable you to keep your options open when choosing your Higher subjects and University courses. We recommend that you check out the Course Search section of the UCAS website [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) for more information on all the universities in the UK.

## The most commonly required subjects

English and Maths are the subjects most commonly required for entry to university, so your school makes sure you study them at least to National 5 level. At Strathclyde we look for a minimum of National 5 at A-C, in English and Maths (or a Science) for entry to all of our courses, with National 5 Maths at A-B required for entry to our Business School and our Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

## Entrance qualifications for university

A National 5 is generally the first step towards gaining a Higher in a subject, and Highers are your passport to university. University entry requirements are expressed in terms of Highers, with one or two specific subjects often being required. It is important that you do your research to find out what Highers are important for the subjects you are looking at.

If a Higher is 'required' that means you must have it to get onto the course; if it is 'recommended' that means it is relevant and useful, but we will generally consider you without it.

## Choosing your other subjects

Our advice is simply to take other subjects you enjoy and are good at. This will give you the best chance of gaining good grades, which will increase your chances of gaining a university place. We like to see breadth in your subjects and will generally consider most Highers. However you should check with the university if unsure.

To sum up:

- a. **Check which Highers you need for any course that interests you**
- b. **Take subjects which will develop useful and relevant skills**
- c. **Choose subjects that you are good at and enjoy**



# SOURCES OF INFORMATION

When doing your research into going to University there are lots of places you can go for more information.

## School Careers Library and teachers

Check out your school Careers Library for lots of helpful information about applying and going to university. Your teachers will have sent lots of students off to university as well as having been there themselves. Ask them for advice and guidance.

## University websites

All universities have websites filled with information about the courses they have on offer, the facilities they have for students and more.

## University prospectuses

Each year every university will produce a prospectus. This is a book filled with all the courses on offer at that university as well as the entry requirements. Read these carefully to see what you will need to get into your chosen course and always check the website for the most up to date information.

## University Open Days

Universities hold events known as Open Days which give you the chance to go along to the university and see what it's like for yourself. These are a great opportunity to find out what the universities you're interested in are really like.

## Higher Education Fairs and Careers Conventions

Throughout the year there are events known as Higher Education Fairs and Careers Conventions. These bring together lots of universities as well as colleges and employers to allow you to ask questions and find out more. Your school might hold one of these or you may attend one of the UCAS Conventions.



## UCAS website

The UCAS website allows you to search for courses that interest you as well as giving you useful information about applying.

## Friends and family

You may have friends or family members who have been to university. Talk to them and get their opinions but remember the choice about university is a personal one and you should make the decision that's right for you.

# STUDENT FINANCE

One of the other things you'll need to take into consideration when thinking about going to university is the cost. Although funding arrangements can change from year to year there is always support available to ensure that anyone who wants to go to university can afford to do so. The organisation that deals with student funding for Scottish students is the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS). They can provide you with information on what funding you might be entitled to – check out their website at [www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk).





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**THE QUEEN'S ANNIVERSARY  
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Times Higher Education

**SCOTTISH UNIVERSITY  
OF THE YEAR 2020**

The Times & The Sunday Times

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