



Newman
University
BIRMINGHAM



YOUR GUIDE TO UNIVERSITY

WHAT IS UNIVERSITY?

University is a place where you can learn more about your favourite subject at school or you can study something new that you may have always had an interest in. University can help you secure a job you love, whether that is a teacher, lawyer, counsellor or computer scientist. You could even find out how to set up your own business.

WHAT CAN I GAIN FROM UNIVERSITY?



You can make friends

Going to university gives you the opportunity to meet lots of new people from all around the country, making friends with people from all different backgrounds and cultures.



Job Opportunities

Studying at university will open up many doors for you. There are some jobs you will not be able to do without first studying at university, for example to become a doctor or teacher.



Confidence

University will help you to grow in confidence. Your graduation day will be one of the most important days of your life and will make you feel proud and full of confidence for the future.



Travel

Many universities offer you the chance to go abroad and study in another country for a while. It is a great opportunity for you to go and discover new and exciting parts of the world, understand different cultures and experience a different way of life.



You can gain Independence

Going to university allows you to become more independent. You may have to move away from home and have to do your own washing, cooking and cleaning, allowing you to learn a number of useful skills! University is different from school or college and you are responsible for getting yourself to your lessons and managing your time and your deadlines.

USEFUL LINKS



The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). Their primary role is to operate the application process for full-time undergraduate courses at British universities. You will need to apply to university through UCAS and track their application via their UCAS Track account. For part-time courses apply directly to Newman University.

W: www.ucas.com

T: 0371 468 0468



Provide loans and grants to students in universities and colleges in the UK. Student Loans Company will be responsible for paying your student maintenance loan and paying the university/college the tuition fees as well as applying the repayments to the balance of the loan.

W: www.slc.co.uk

T: 0300 100 0607



Student Finance England (SFE) is run by the Student Loans Company (SLC) and has responsibility for those students with loans studying in England. You will receive letters and statements from SFE and advice is issued through SFE on behalf of the UK government.

W: www.sfengland.slc.co.uk



You will apply for their loan online via the gov.uk website.

W: www.gov.uk/student-finance

UNIVERSITY BUZZWORDS

Bachelors Degree

The most common form of undergraduate degree is a bachelors degree. Bachelor is often abbreviated to BA for Bachelor of Arts, or BSc for Bachelor of Science, depending on the course studied.

Campus University

A university where everything is based on one-site, including student accommodation, lecture rooms and libraries. A campus university may still have more than one site, but each site will have its own facilities.

City University

A university which will have different buildings across a town or city, rather than on one-site. The buildings are often close to one another and located in a central area.

Clearing

A service run by UCAS that begins in July. This is how applicants can start at university if they didn't obtain a place before the deadline, or if they didn't achieve the grades for the course they have chosen.

Conditional Offer

An applicant is made a conditional offer by a university if they are predicted to meet the entry requirements of the

course. The offer is dependent upon the applicant meeting the requirements, for example achieving certain results in their BTEC, A Levels or other Level 3 qualifications.

Unconditional Offer

An applicant is made an unconditional offer by a university if they have already met the entry requirements of the course they are applying for. Some universities may also issue unconditional offers to applicants who are predicted very good results.

Entry Requirements

The criteria that applicants must meet to be offered a place on a course, such as achieving certain results at school or college. Different universities and different courses will have different entry requirements which will be listed on UCAS, university websites and university prospectuses.

Higher Education

Optional study taken after secondary education. Higher education can be studied at a range of institutions including universities and further education colleges. Higher education is sometimes abbreviated to HE.

Open Days

Open days are there for applicants and their families to go and look around a university. They are an opportunity to see university facilities and speak to staff and students to get a feel for what studying there might be like.

Student Finance

Student finance refers to the student loans provided by the government to help students pay for course fees and living costs. Most students apply online through Student Finance England. The amount of money available depends on the course studied and household income.

Tuition Fees

Tuition fees are the actual cost of the course studied at university. This is most often paid by the government directly to the university as part of a student loan.

UCAS

UCAS stands for University and Colleges Applications Service. Almost everyone who is applying for a full-time undergraduate degree course at a UK university will use the UCAS website to apply to universities.

Undergraduate

An undergraduate degree is the first level of study undertaken at university. Students studying their first degree are called undergraduate students or sometimes undergrad students.



UNIVERSITY MYTHBUSTER

Myth:

You can only go to University if you study A-Levels.

Busted:

There are many qualifications accepted by universities e.g. AS & A2 levels, BTEC, EPQ. Some courses may need specific qualifications e.g. certain Level 3 subjects studied at Level 3 or grade requirements from your GCSE's.

Myth:

University is only for people who achieve A's and A*'s.

Busted:

Just like at school, university courses are varied; they can be a mix of theory based, creative and practical projects to complete and there are opportunities for everyone, with a variety of grades.

Myth:

I'll have to start repaying my student loan as soon as I finish my course.

Busted:

You'll only start to repay the loan when you earn over a certain amount, and if your earnings drop below this you stop making payments.

Myth:

You'll have to be in University 9am - 5pm every Monday to Friday.

Busted:

Some courses have very full timetables & are very structured - but on average you'll be expected to be in contact with your tutors 3 days a week, the rest will be independent study.

Myth:

You cannot study a university course if you have additional needs.

Busted:

All universities have services to support students and provide practical help.



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