Researching Universities and Course Choices

Useful Websites

➢ **UCAS –** the '**U**niversities and **C**olleges **A**dmissions **S**ervice' are the body who coordinate the undergraduate application process across the UK. Their website is an excellent source of information housing a wide range of useful information from links to different colleges and universities to videos on each step of the application process. At this stage, there are three key links we would recommend reviewing :

1. **Course search**
   https://digital.ucas.com/search
2. **UCAS Undergraduate: What to study?**
   https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/ucas-undergraduate-what-study
3. **Events and Open Days**
   https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/events-and-open-days

➢ **The Complete University Guide -** This provides a comprehensive and definitive guide to questions regarding higher education. They aim to provide accessible information for students in making the right choice for the future in changing times.
https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk

➢ **The Student Room:** It is the UK'S largest online student community allowing students to join forums and find out more about applications and UCAS.
https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/wiki/a-z_of_university_courses

➢ **Apprenticeships Websites:** An apprenticeship is employment with hands-on experience, a salary and the chance to train while you work. To find out more about apprenticeships, please visit:

- https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk
- https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship
- https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships-in-england

Key Information from Universities

To support in your research, we have included resource links from a broad range of universities across the country. This is obviously not an exhaustive list and we are certainly not advocating these universities above others but we thought it would be useful as a starter on the research journey

- **Northumbria University**
- **Edgehill University**
- **Bangor University**
- **Leeds University**
- **University of Warwick**
- **Loughborough University**
- **Keele University**
- **University of Liverpool**
- **Coventry University**
- **University of Surrey**
- **Aberystwyth University**
- **University of Oxford**
- **University of Manchester**

Northumbria University

Northumbria University will be hosting a number of Undergraduate Virtual Events throughout the summer in replace of their on-campus June event. Pre-book your place on your chosen date and Northumbria University will email you in the coming weeks with all of the information you need, including their live event timings so you can book onto live talks and build your own personalised schedule for the day.

17 June – Architecture, Arts, Geography & Humanities

30 June – Business, Design & Psychology

8 July – Built Environment, Maths, Physics & Applied Sciences

15 July – Education, Health, Social Work & Communities

30 July – Computing, Engineering, Social Sciences, Law & Sport

Please visit here for more information
https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/study-at-northumbria/coming-to-northumbria/northumbria-undergraduate-open-days/

Edgehill University

Edgehill University are providing virtual sessions on a number of different courses.

Click here to book a bespoke virtual session or request a session recording.
https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/studentrecruitment/year-12-13-college-and-access-virtual-outreach

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10am - 11am	Your Future	Introduction to Higher Education	Interview Skills	Personal Statements	Introduction to UCAS
11.30am - 12.30pm	Student Finance	Study Skills	Budgeting and financial wellbeing	Finding the silver lining – 2020 entry	Personal Statements
1pm - 2pm	Routes into Medicine	Routes into Sport	Routes into Teaching	Routes into Health	Student Finance Drop (game)
2.30pm - 3.30pm	Making the most of university	Introduction to Higher Education	Introduction to Edge Hill University	Study Skills	University challenge (game)
4pm - 5pm	Live Chat with the Education Liaison Team	Live Chat Access students with the Education Liaison Team* *Apart from 21st April	Live Chat with the Education Liaison Team	Live Chat with the Education Liaison Team	Live Chat with the Education Liaison Team

Bangor University

Bangor University currently have a range of online services available to support students during this time, ranging from advice and guidance presentations, to virtual tours of the University, and much more. There is also an **attached poster** showing many events hosted by Bangor University.

You can also click here for further information
https://www.bangor.ac.uk/courses/apply-info.php.en

Leeds University

There is a variety of resources that may be of interest to students, which can be found on
http://www.leeds.ac.uk/info/130580/supporting_students/810/online_presentations

In order to view each presentation, you just need to put your email address and name in. This is not shared with anyone, but allows the university to track who has viewed them.

The university have created a new presentation titled 'making the most of isolation' and there are also presentations on the uni application process, student finance, study skills and Leeds specific information.

It would be a good idea to sign up to the university's social media pages to find out about the latest updates and information. The university is hoping to run some live Q/A's in the next month or so with current students and will publicize them on the social media pages. There will be a virtual open day which will be taking place in July.

University of Warwick

The University of Warwick has put together digital resources to support students with researching university and making their Firm and Insurance choices. Here is a summary of a few key elements below:

- **Meeting our students -** 'Warwick at One' sessions will be taking place every weekday at 1pm. They feature current students speaking on topics related to student life, subject specific information and tips on transitioning to life and study at university. The sessions will then open up for questions through via live chat. There is more information on their YouTube Channel and student blogs.
- **Daily Live chats -** There are live chats are open every weekday from 9.30am to 3.30pm. Students and parents can join at anytime to ask questions about studying and living at Warwick.
- **Enquirers (2021 entry)** - In the absence of UCAS Exhibitions and HE Fairs, they invite Year 12 students to talk online instead. Staffed by members of their recruitment team, they should be able to answer your questions. There is also lots of information available about the range of courses at Warwick on their study webpages.
- **Webinars -** Warwick University have recorded a couple of short webinars for students.
- **Why Warwick?** This 10-minute presentation gives an overview of the University; covering academic study, their campus, accommodation and the local area.
- **Making a Competitive Application** This 15-minute presentation is full of advice on making an application to selective universities, including advice on writing a personal statement.

Loughborough University

Loughborough University offer a programme of interactive activities delivered from the comfort of your own home. These sessions are designed to inspire and inform students about different subject areas available at Higher Education (HE) level, some of the careers they could progress into, as well as the key skills they will need to thrive as a student.

HE At Home - https://www.lboro.ac.uk/study/school-college-liaison/resources/heathome/

Keele University

Keele University have provided narrated versions of their presentations (including UCAS Applications, How to Choose a Course etc.) which can be found following this link to their website www.keele.ac.uk/study/informationforschoolsandcolleges/teachersadviserseventsandresources

There are also lots of students and members of staff ready to talk to prospective students and answer their questions via UniBuddy. This can also be accessed through their website.
https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/chat/

University of Liverpool

University of Liverpool will be hosting a number of Undergraduate Virtual Events throughout the summer:

Virtual tour: https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/virtual-open-day/ (This includes videos with staff and students when visiting department buildings.)

Virtual Student Chat, via UniBuddy whereby students can chat to current undergraduates and postgraduates: https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/chat/

A list of available courses (module and assessment info is on each course page):
https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/

Applicant Zone (This will have updates about COVID era applications)
https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/applying/after/

List of Available Talks

https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/schools/school-talks-workshops/

General information on 'Why Liverpool?':
https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/why-study-at-the-university-of-liverpool/

Coventry University

Please visit Coventry University's Outreach webpage for student information. Here is a link to their student booking form in order to access events hosted by Coventry University. Please see below the many webinars available. Students will need to provide their full name and full school when signing into the webinar. This can also be found on Unitasterdays.com page.

Outreach Webpage - https://www.coventry.ac.uk/study-at-coventry/parents-and-teachers/outreach/

Student Booking Form - https://app.geckoform.com/public/#/modern/FOEU04014aSvr0Ig

Date	Webinar
Monday 1st June 2020 2:00pm - 3:00pm	How to write your personal statement
Thursday 4th June 2020 2:00pm - 3:00pm	Understanding the UCAS Process
Tuesday 9th June 2020 2:00pm - 3:00pm	Why go to university? The benefits of higher education and Coventry University courses
Thursday 11th June 2020 2:00pm - 3:00pm	How to research universities and courses
Tuesday 16th June 2020 2:00pm - 3:00pm	Clearing 2020: A summary
Thursday 18th June 2020 2:00pm - 3:00pm	Staying motivated during COVID-19
Thursday 25th June 2020 2:00pm - 3:00pm	Student life at Coventry University

University of Surrey

University of Surrey have provided pre-coded presentations on UCAS Applications and How to Choose a Course. Here is a list of the available presentations:

Student Finance
https://surrey.cloud.panopto.eu/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=5ee356d9-0f51-462a-a51f-ab8300a20dad

Applying to University and UCAS
https://surrey.cloud.panopto.eu/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=256ff824-3057-46ec-8c1d-ab8300a20f08

Personal Statements
https://surrey.cloud.panopto.eu/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=28db648b-efcc-4687-a9f7-ab8300a20e55

Choosing and course and university
https://surrey.cloud.panopto.eu/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=207f7756-b5e5-4e4e-a58f-ab8300a20f9b

Aberystwyth University

Aberystwyth University are happy to announce that they have curated a collection of online resources to support students during this time.

How to Succeed in Your Welsh Bacc: The Individual Project Essentials
https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/welshbacc

Introduction to our new, wide-range of Climate Change related degree schemes, from Arts/Humanities to Sciences
https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/undergrad/hub/aberystwyth-climate/

Introduction to unique and interesting subject areas
https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/undergrad/hub/subject-snapshots/

Step-by-Step Guide to Researching Universities and Courses
https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/undergrad/before-you-apply/

Step-by-Step Guide to Applying
https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/undergrad/during-your-application/

Youtube Resources – Introduction to Courses
https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/undergrad/hub/youtuberesources/

Audio Lectures – Spanning the subjects of Psychology, Human Geography, Languages, Politics & Business
https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/undergrad/hub/audio-lectures/

University of Oxford

Oxford remains committed to providing opportunities for students to discover what it is like to study at Oxford. University of Oxford encourage students to sign up for the latest news from Undergraduate Admissions and Outreach from the following link:
http://newsletter.admin.ox.ac.uk/k/Ouc/undergraduate_admissions_and_outreach_news

These regular newsletters for prospective applicants will offer updates, insights into student life, as well as advice and guidance on making a competitive application. University of Oxford also offers two other resources at this time:

Oxford's digital resource hub - Many Oxford departments have developed subject-specific resources that could be particularly helpful in supporting the learning of students. For resources for students across the key stages, please see their digital resource hub.
http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/increasing-access/ug-digital-resources

Oxplore – The University of Oxford continues to add new "Big Questions" to their interactive digital learning hub for 11-18 year olds. The latest one tackles a topical theme: "Are real-life friends better than online ones?" **Additional guidance** for getting the most out of Oxplore has also been added to facilitate independent learning outside the classroom.
http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/increasing-access/oxplore

University of Manchester

University of Manchester have provided some lectures for students to enjoy during lockdown.

Wednesday, 27 May	Kostya Novoselov, winner of the Nobel Prize for his work isolating the properties of graphene with Andre Geim at Manchester in 2004
Monday, 1 June	Danielle George, Professor of Radio Frequency Engineering and Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning in the Faculty of Science and Engineering
Wednesday, 3 June	Gary Younge, Professor of Sociology in the School of Social Sciences and award-winning journalist
Monday, 8 June	Perdita Barran, Chair of Mass Spectrometry in the School of Chemistry and Director of the Michael Barber Centre for Collaborative Mass Spectrometry
Wednesday, 10 June	David Olusoga, Professor of Public History, broadcaster and author
Monday, 15 June	Dan Davis, Professor of Immunology, Director of Research in the Manchester Collaborative Centre for Inflammation Research, and author
Wednesday, 17 June	Michael Wood, Professor of Public History, broadcaster and author

Apprenticeships

What are degree apprenticeships?

Degree apprenticeships are a new type of programme offered by some universities. Students can achieve a full bachelor's or master's degree as part of their apprenticeship.

These programmes are being developed by employers, universities, and professional bodies working in partnership. Degree apprenticeships combine working with studying part-time at a university. Apprentices are employed throughout the programme, and spend part of their time at university and the rest with their employer. This can be on a day-to-day basis or in blocks of time, depending on the programme and requirements of the employer. They can take between three to six years to complete, depending on the course level. Currently, the scheme is only available in England and Wales.

The degree apprenticeships currently available are listed below: Each standard sets out the occupation/job role, what an apprentice will be doing, and the skills they'll develop to complete the apprenticeship.

- **Business and administration**
  https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/?routes=Business-and-administration&levelFrom=5&includeApprovedForDelivery=true
- **Childcare and education**
  https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/?routes=Business-and-administration&levelFrom=5&includeApprovedForDelivery=true

- **Construction**
  https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/?routes=Construction&levelFrom=5&includeApprovedForDelivery=true
- **Creative and design**
  https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/?routes=Creative-and-design&levelFrom=5&includeApprovedForDelivery=true
- **Digital**
  https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/?routes=Digital&levelFrom=5&includeApprovedForDelivery=true
- **Engineering and manufacturing**
  https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/?routes=Engineering-and-manufacturing&levelFrom=5&includeApprovedForDelivery=true
- **Health and science**
  https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/?routes=Health-and-science&levelFrom=5&includeApprovedForDelivery=true
- **Legal, finance, and accounting**
  https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/?routes=Legal-finance-and-accounting&levelFrom=5&includeApprovedForDelivery=true
- **Protective services (e.g. police)**
  https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/?routes=Protective-services&levelFrom=5&includeApprovedForDelivery=true