

YOUR JOURNEY THROUGH UNIVERSITY

SIXTH FORM OR COLLEGE
Level 3

UNDERGRADUATE
Level 6
Bachelor Degree (Hons)

3 - 4
years

BA

Bachelor of Arts
courses in Arts and Humanities subjects, normally based on theory, developing communication and writing skills.

BSc

Bachelor of Science
courses usually include a practical element, such as laboratory work, requiring analytical skills.

BEd

Bachelor of Education
For those wanting to follow a career into teaching, normally at primary level. Courses usually include placements in schools.

BEng

Bachelor of Engineering
Usually accredited by one of the professional engineering institutions to become a registered engineer.

LLB

Bachelor of Law
Accredited courses by the Law Society and the Bar Council, giving a solid grounding for a career in Law.

GRADUATE

A student who has successfully completed their degree.

Next step:
Career!

POSTGRADUATE
Levels 7 and 8

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Bursary: Money given to students, due to financial or personal circumstances, in order to help fund their university tuition costs. Bursaries do not need to be paid back.

Contact time: Contact with members of staff, such as lectures, seminars or tutorials, as well as lab sessions, studio time and workshops.

Credits: Each module is assigned a number of credits according to the amount of time needed to study it. Usually each year of study is worth 120 credits.

Dissertation: A large-scale research project usually completed on a topic chosen by the student. It is often (but not always) the main form of assessment in the final year of study.

Elective modules: Optional units of study which may be taken outside of the subject area being studied.

Foundation year: Often studied by mature students or those who did not meet the entry requirements of their course to prepare them for degree level study.

(Hons): Eg. BSc (Hons) or BA (Hons). Short for Honours degree and shows that the qualification is Level 6. Students may not be awarded an honours degree if they do not pass or study a sufficient amount of the course.

Independent learning: Unsupervised time where students are expected to do private study, including working on assignments set by tutors, revising information or reading to increase subject knowledge.

Joint honours: Two subjects are studied, either evenly split (if the course has "and" in the title) or unevenly split (if the course has "with" in the title).

Lectures: A member of staff will present information to a large group of students (often more than 50), usually lasting one or two hours. Students usually sit in rows and take notes while they listen to the speaker.

Modules: Individual units of the course. Modules can be different at each university, even if the course has the same name, so it is worth checking to see what exactly is covered.

Sandwich courses: Courses include a placement year where students work for an organisation related to the area of study, or a year abroad. Usually after their second year of study.

Scholarship: Money given to a student, usually due to exceptional academic achievement, in order to help fund their university tuition costs.

Seminars: A member of staff will lead a small group of students to discuss the topic being studied. You will be expected to express your opinion and share your ideas with the group.

Single honours: Only one subject is studied.

UCAS: Universities and Colleges Application System - the independent charity which manages the applications for Higher Education in the UK. You can apply for up to 5 courses.

UCAS codes: Four characters used to identify a specific course.

UNIVERSITY OPEN DAYS

MAKE THE MOST OF...

Step 1 CHECK IN

You've made it! If you're unsure where to register, ask a student ambassador (congratulations, you've spoken to your first student of the day!). If you've had a long journey, now is a great time to grab some refreshments before things get started.

Don't forget to get a map of the university!



Step 2 GET PLANNING

You've settled in, now it's time to see what's going on and plan your day. Each university will have an itinerary of activities, such as campus and facility tours, talks, meet and greet sessions, and much more.

YOUR STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO OPEN DAYS

Step 3 PRIORITIES

Your top priority: the course! This should be at the top of your list to work out if it's right course for you and that it will offer you the right opportunities. Talk to lecturers, admissions tutors and current students to make an informed decision.

See 'Find Out From...' below.

Step 4 WHERE'S LUNCH?

Who knew an open day would be such hungry work? Ask the student ambassadors and they'll be able to show you where the best food on campus is! If you've brought your own lunch along, find a spot to eat and soak up the atmosphere.

Step 5 GET BACK OUT THERE

Try and see as much of the university as possible! Check out the libraries and study areas, restaurants and bars as well as the Students' Union and sports facilities. Talk to student ambassadors to find out the realities of student life: staff won't know how noisy halls can be at 3am! Visit student services to ask what financial help might be available, and say hello to accommodation services. If they know your face, it's easier to ask for help when you start term.

See 'Find Out From...' below.

Step 6 GO EXPLORING!

Try to give yourself some time to explore on your own away from the organised activities. This will help you form opinions and you'll see more than the selected highlights that the university wants you to see. If you have time, visit the local town or city. As a student you will not be spending all of your time on campus, so see if the surrounding area will keep you entertained.



Find out from... THE UNIVERSITY

- What student support services are available?
- Are there any scholarships or bursaries available?
- What clubs and societies are available for me?
- What services and facilities are on campus?
- What can you tell me about student accommodation?



Find out from... THE ACADEMICS

- How is the course taught and assessed?
- What support will I receive as a student here?
- What are you looking for in your students?
- What career pathways could I follow after studying this course?
- What is different about this course compared to other universities?



Find out from... THE STUDENT AMBASSADORS

- What has been the best and worst parts of university for you?
- Do you feel well supported? Why?
- What is life like here as a student?
- Is the local area student-friendly with good facilities and services?
- Do you have any advice for me about becoming a student?



Find out from... YOURSELF!

- Do I prefer a campus or city university?
- Can I imagine living here? Is it near enough to home?
- How far will my budget stretch here?
- Am I truly interested in this course? Will it help me reach my goals?
- Will I be able to meet the entry requirements?

MakeHappenEssex



makehappen.org/futureready

The Future Ready programme is brought to you by Make Happen working collaboratively with our partners to promote higher education as a route to achieving your ambitions.

MAKE
HAPPEN

FUTURE
READY



For more INFORMATION on...

Which university to choose?

www.university.which.co.uk

Which University has all of the information you need about each university and the local area. Find out about courses, fees and living costs as well as student success.

Which is the best university?

university.which.co.uk/advice/choosing-a-course/what-do-university-league-tables-really-tell-you

Which University has a helpful guide to understanding league tables and where to find them to help you to compare university scores for teaching, student satisfaction and graduate prospects.

How to apply to university?

www.ucas.com

UCAS is the home of university applications and where you submit and manage your application. It has lots of information about going to university, including what and where to study, student finance and student life.

How can I fund studying at university?

www.gov.uk/student-finance

The government provides student finance loans to those going to university. This website will help you to find out how much you are entitled to as well as if you are eligible for extra help.