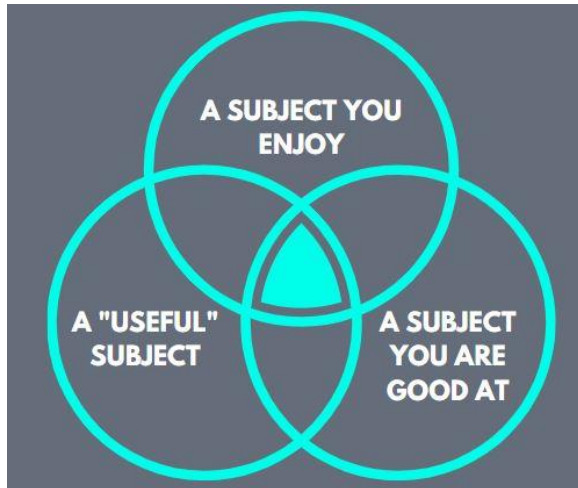


If you've just finished year 12 (in the strangest circumstances ever!) you're probably starting to think about what you want to do after year 13. Now's the time to start narrowing down those options by doing your research. In this blog post I'm going to focus on the university route – how to choose where and what to study.

Choosing *what* to study

First off, you need to do some reflecting and think about what you want to study for the next 3-4 years. Ideally, you want to find a course that combines a) something you love, b) something you're good at and c) something related to the career area you'd like to go into.



It's worth pointing out that most careers don't require you to have a degree in a specific subject. Aside from professions such as Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science, which will require specific degrees, most graduate employers don't mind what your degree is in because what they really value are the skills you develop while studying for a degree. So if you don't have a specific career in mind, or your desired career doesn't require a specific degree, it's a good idea to choose something you're going to enjoy, be good at, and which will develop the relevant skills for the sector you want to go into in the future.

Choosing *where* to study

Once you've chosen your course, the next step is narrowing your options down to the five options you can put on your UCAS application. There are some key questions you need to ask yourself here:

- Would you prefer to live at home or move away?
- Do you want to go to a university in a city centre, or a campus university?
- What is the cost of living like at different universities?
- Am I interested in the modules on offer, and does the style of teaching and learning suit me?

Once you've decided on your own personal priorities by answering the questions above, you'll need to do lots of research into which universities offer you those priorities. The [UCAS search tool](#) is a really useful place to start because you can add filters, such as location.

At this stage it's important to have a look at the Entry Requirements at different institutions for your chosen course – they may be given as grades (e.g. ABB) or un UCAS tariff points (e.g. 128 points). You can find a tariff calculator [here](#). Make sure you are aspirational but realistic about the grades you think you could achieve at the end of year 13 and make sure there are a range of entry profiles amongst your final course choices so you've got plenty of options.

So, to sum up; do lots of research, think about what is important **to you** (which might be very different to your friends' and family's opinions!) and ask lots of questions. Try to attend virtual open days of the universities on your short list to find out if they're the right place for you and keep in mind that this ***your*** decision about ***your*** future!

On Monday 3rd August at 11am, there's a live chat with us all about this topic – [find out more and register here!](#)