

The Right Course and The Right University – How to Choose?

Katy Friend
International Officer
Aston University

What to think about?

- The Course
- The University – campus, city or both!
- Facilities
- Reputation

- You've made a start by coming here today – do your research!



Why choose the UK?

- One of the oldest and most respected quality education systems in the world
- Qualifications recognised globally
- Hundreds of course choices
- Good quality research and teaching
- Academics actively involved in cutting edge research and those with up to the minute industrial experience
- Input from and connections with industry all over the world
- Investment in facilities for students
- Success of UK alumni
- Global employers targeting UK institutions

Why choose the UK?

Develop your English language skills

- International language for Business, IT, Science and Politics
- Pre-sessional & In-sessional support



Lots of Choice throughout the UK

- Over 50,000 Higher Education courses in the UK
- Over 300 places to study
- Multicultural experience in the UK and within UK Universities



First steps – choosing your course

- **Think about your subject interests – single or combined honours?**
- **Do I enjoy the subject of choice?**
- **Am I good at it?**
- **Course length, 3, 4 or 5 years, what does this entail?**



Choosing your course

- **Universities don't just offer Business, Computing, Engineering and Medicine**
- **Other subjects on offer:**
 - **Anthropology, Equine Studies, Forensic Science , Golf Management, Geology, Humanities, Logistics, Neuroscience, Peace Studies, Toxicology, Urban Studies, Vision Sciences, War Sciences, Zoology**
 - **Do your research – use websites, prospectuses, read current student profiles**

Listen to other people but remember that you will be the one taking the course!

Choosing your course

- **High Demand for some courses**
 - **Business & Management, Dentistry, Law, Medicine, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Psychology**
 - **Means greater competition and higher entry requirements**
- **Less Demand for some courses**
 - **Biological Sciences, Engineering**
 - **Means less competition and lower entry requirements**
 - **But excellent Graduate opportunities...**

Over 20% Science & Engineering Graduates become Accountants / Financial Managers / Bankers

When deciding on your course...

- **Assess whether you have the right grades and subject requirements**
- **Different courses and Universities suit different people, choose what is right for YOU**
- **Look into application processes and are there any deadlines?**
- **Are there any admissions tests or interviews?**



Looking further into your course choice...

- **Course Structure – Single/Joint Honours**
- **Is your chosen joint course possible?**
- **Module layout – how much flexibility, is there a chance to change course?**
- **Placement opportunities**



Choosing the University...

Professional recognition

- Accreditation/Exemptions

Location

- Big city v Small town
- Regional preference

Reputation

- Accreditation
- League tables
- Graduate employment record
- Consider reputation overall but especially for your chosen course



Choosing the University...

- **Size of university**
- **Facilities – library, IT, sports, welfare**
- **Student Societies and Clubs**
- **Accommodation**
- **Cost of living**
- **Funding (tuition fees, scholarships)**



Action Plan

- **Start early**
 - avoid a last minute rush
- **Be selective**
 - learn to extract the relevant information
- **Don't blindly follow others**
 - choose the subject & institution that is right for you
- **Do the research**
 - prospectuses, fairs, visits, web sites

Choose courses that make offers which are realistic for you; different universities can make different offers for the same subject

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!

- Any Questions?



- international@aston.ac.uk
- k.friend@aston.ac.uk