



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

Your Degree, Your Career.



**Finding answers to your questions
about University and beyond**

Explore your options at:

www.sheffield.ac.uk/careers/prospective

Is University the right choice for me?

Only you can decide this, but for most people university means three or four years of having a great time, studying a subject they enjoy, enjoying great new experiences, while gaining the prospect of a more rewarding and satisfying career.

Check these websites for some of the reasons, and also to check out the alternatives to Uni

www.ucas.com/how-it-all-works/explore-your-options

www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/

What subjects should I choose?

At age 13/14: for years 10-11, choose subjects you like and which you're good at. Universities like you to have good GCSE grades in 'traditional' academic subjects including English, Maths, and Science; a language and a 'humanities' subject like History or Geography.

nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/youngpeople/Pages/ChoosingYourSubjects/Level2.aspx

At age 15/16: choose A Level subjects (or equivalent) carefully; some degree courses require specific subjects, others are more flexible. If you don't yet have a degree subject or career in mind, stick with subjects you're good at and enjoy, and/or pick new subjects that interest you. If you are aiming for a specific degree or career, make sure you pick suitable A levels:

university.which.co.uk/advice/what-a-levels-do-you-need-for-the-degree-you-want-to-study

To look for post-16 courses in your area: www.ucasprogress.com/search

At age 17/18: there are thousands of University courses to choose from.

If you've chosen your career, check whether a specific degree is essential, or advantageous.

If you haven't chosen a career, you could stay with an A Level subject you're good at and enjoy, or pick a new University subject. Many graduate careers are open to applicants from any degree subject.

<http://university.which.co.uk/>

Which University should I choose?

We hope you'll consider Sheffield, but the important thing is to find the right place for you.

Some of the factors to consider are:

- who offers the subject you want? do they offer special options you want to do?
- where do they sit in league tables for your subject?
- what grades do they look for? can you meet their entry requirements?
- what's the campus like? what's the town/city like? is it far from home?
- what about student life? accommodation? living costs?
- how do employers rate the course / university? what are the job prospects like?

<http://university.which.co.uk/>

I know the career I want, what subject should I do?

Start with the career and work backwards.

Some careers are only possible with a specific degree (e.g. medicine, architecture, civil engineering).

For some careers, certain subjects are helpful, but alternative routes are available (e.g. law, marketing, management, journalism, secondary teaching).

A lot of careers are open to any subject, often via a graduate training programme (e.g. accountancy, management consultancy, retail management, public administration).

In some cases you can start with any degree subject, but will then need to take a postgraduate vocational course to gain professional qualifications (e.g. primary teaching, librarianship, social work).

To check entry requirements for your chosen career: www.prospects.ac.uk/types_of_jobs.htm

I know the subject I like, what careers can it lead to?

If the subject is strongly vocational (e.g. nursing, town planning), most graduates will continue in that career path - though a few may switch to a different career.

Semi-vocational courses lead towards a broad sector of work (e.g. management, finance, law) but with a range of options available in the sector - and again, some graduates will do something completely different.

Non-vocational subjects (e.g. history, philosophy) lead to a broad range of careers open to any subject (e.g. human resource management, public sector or business management, public relations); sometimes further study will be helpful or essential (e.g. social work, marketing, museum work).

University websites often show the destinations of previous graduates from each subject:

www.sheffield.ac.uk/careers/students/degree

www.careers.dept.shef.ac.uk/studentgems/external/graduate.php

<http://careers.dept.shef.ac.uk/casestudies/index.php>

National graduate careers websites give this information at a national level:

www.prospects.ac.uk/options_with_your_subject.htm

How do I find out more about a particular career?

Try these websites for details of entry requirements, salaries, job descriptions, employers :

www.prospects.ac.uk/types_of_jobs.htm

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobfamily/>

How can I explore what careers might suit me?

If you're undecided about your career, don't worry, there's plenty of time to choose, - but if you want to start exploring now, here are two helpful careers questionnaires:

www.prospects.ac.uk/myprospects_planner_login.htm

<http://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-report>

How can I make the most of University?

University offers so many opportunities to have a great time, make new friends, explore new interests, so you'll find plenty of ways to have fun, but at the same time you'll be building up the skills and experiences that employers look for – the so-called employability factor.

Graduate employers expect you to have not just a good degree, but also a range of transferable skills and experiences gained during your time as a student.

We can only speak for Sheffield, but here are some ways to make the most of your time here:

Experience Sheffield: www.sheffield.ac.uk/experience: a website that signposts the full range of options at Sheffield to develop your employability while doing things you'll enjoy

Developing skills:

301: Skills and Development Centre: www.sheffield.ac.uk/ssid/301

Languages for All: www.sheffield.ac.uk/ssid/301/services/languages

Enterprise: <http://enterprise.shef.ac.uk/>

Study abroad: www.sheffield.ac.uk/studyabroad

Gaining work experience:

Student Jobshop: www.shef.ac.uk/careers/students/jobs/jobshop

Degree with Employment Experience: www.sheffield.ac.uk/placements

Volunteering: www.shef.ac.uk/union/get-involved/volunteering

On Campus Placements: www.sheffield.ac.uk/careers/students/jobs/campus

Taste of Work: www.shef.ac.uk/careers/students/advice/tasteofwork

Sheffield Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE): www.sheffield.ac.uk/sure

Career mentoring: www.sheffield.ac.uk/careers/students/worktypes/careermentoring

Taking on responsibilities

Student Ambassadors: www.sheffield.ac.uk/schools/currentstudents

Sheffield Mentors: www.sheffield.ac.uk/ssid/mentoring

Course reps: www.shef.ac.uk/union/you-run-us/course-reps

Societies: www.shef.ac.uk/union/get-involved/societies

Student Ambassadors for Learning and Teaching (SALTs): www.sheffield.ac.uk/lts/student/salt

Gaining recognition:

Sheffield Graduate Award: www.sheffield.ac.uk/thesheffieldgraduateaward

Skills for Work Certificate: www.shef.ac.uk/careers/students/advice/sfwc

Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR): www.sheffield.ac.uk/ssid/hear