Hard work and good decision making is the key to being successful. We will explain how you can make the right choices now so that the hard work will pay off in the future.

For further information you can talk to teachers in your school, or alternatively you can contact the Social Sciences Outreach team using the details below:

www.sheffield.ac.uk/schools/outreach-programmes/socialsciences

Alumni examples

Helen Jones
Job: Trainee solicitor.
Degree: Law degree at the University of Sheffield.
A Levels: History, French, English, Psychology.
GSCEs: Maths, English, Science, History, French, IT, RE, Design Technology, Drama.
Advice you’d give to those choosing their options: Choose a subject you enjoy because you’re going to be learning a lot about it.
Initial career ideas: Originally I wanted to be a teacher but then decided to study Law at university and from there I chose a career path.

Ben Rattenbury
Job: Senior Policy Adviser at Department of Energy and Climate Change.
Degree: Sociology degree at the University of Sheffield.
A Levels: Maths, Geography, Economics.
Advice you’d give to those choosing their options: Choose something that fascinates you, otherwise all those hours of hard work will be torture.
Initial career ideas: I wanted to be an airline navigator until I realised they were replaced by computers.
Final thoughts: I had my horizons genuinely broadened by a range of excellent teachers. Studying at Sheffield was one of the best decisions of my life. I had a wonderful experience.
Hard work and good decision making is the key to being successful. We will explain how you can make the right choices now so that the hard work will pay off in the future.

Alumni examples

**Helen Jones**
- **Job:** Trainee solicitor.
- **Degree:** Law degree at the University of Sheffield.
- **A Levels:** History, French, English, Psychology.
- **GSCEs:** Maths, English, Science, History, French, IT, RE, Design Technology, Drama.
- **Advice you’d give to those choosing their options:** Choose a subject you enjoy because you’re going to be learning a lot about it.
- **Initial career ideas:** Originally I wanted to be a teacher but then decided to study Law at university and from there I chose a career path.

**Ben Rattenbury**
- **Job:** Senior Policy Adviser at Department of Energy and Climate Change.
- **Degree:** Sociology degree at the University of Sheffield.
- **A Levels:** Maths, Geography, Economics.
- **Advice you’d give to those choosing their options:** Choose something that fascinates you, otherwise all those hours of hard work will be torture.
- **Initial career ideas:** I wanted to be an airline navigator until I realised they were replaced by computers.
- **Final thoughts:** I had my horizons genuinely broadened by a range of excellent teachers. Studying at Sheffield was one of the best decisions of my life. I had a wonderful experience.
I'm unsure what I want to do as a career, what should I do?

You have the option to continue learning, both academically and in life. To help you achieve both, studying for your A levels or equivalent can then lead you onto university study. You choose what you study so you can focus on the subjects you enjoy. So what's stopping you from becoming who you want to be?

Do I need to study specific A levels or a specific degree for my chosen career?

There are some degrees where you'll need certain A levels, for example Bsc Economics requires a maths A level. Some careers require a specific degree, for example a landscape architect will need a degree in landscape architecture. There are still many careers that don't hold specific subject requirements so it is best to do some research before selecting what to study.

Why university?

You are totally in control of your future; you can choose what you study, where you study and how you live. You will gain a fantastic qualification, develop new skills, become independent and meet lots of new friends. You'll learn a lot about yourself and where you want to go in life. A degree opens doors, and gives you the opportunity to actually choose what you want to do in the future.

Why is university so important?

Many employers target graduates because they have developed many transferable skills which make them adaptable in the workplace. When you study for a degree you aren’t simply learning more about your chosen subject; you’re learning how to continue learning beyond University. This means you can take a flexible approach to what you study and pick something you enjoy.

What if I change my mind?

The choices you make at year 11 can be completely different to what you study at university. What you study at university can also be very different to the career you enter. The skills you gain and how you apply yourself is what is important to many universities and graduate employers.

I don't know what to do, how should I choose?

The aim is to get the best grades possible so that you have the option to go to university. Select subjects that you enjoy and excel at - you may end up choosing to study them at degree level, or you might pick a completely new degree subject.

The University of Sheffield is a member of the Russell Group. Russell Group universities are committed to the highest levels of academic excellence, both in teaching and research. According to Dr Wendy Piatt, Director General of the Russell Group, graduates of Russell Group universities typically earn 10% more than those from other universities. If you want to go to a university delivering the highest levels of teaching and research and the Number 1 for Student Experience, look no further than the University of Sheffield.

Getting more information.

To help you consider if university is for you, the University of Sheffield Faculty of Social Sciences Outreach team run taster days for the departments within the Faculty. If you would like to attend, you can download an application form from the events section of the Outreach website.

My family didn't go to university and I can't afford to go.

University is for everyone, and there is financial support available to those who can't afford it. There are student loans and bursaries (money that you aren't required to pay back) available to support you throughout your time at university. The experience you have at university and the qualification you gain will impact the rest of your life. Over their lifetime graduates earn £200,000 more than non-graduates ... so can you afford not to go?
Hard work and good decision making is the key to being successful. We will explain how you can make the right choices now so that the hard work will pay off in the future.

Alumni examples

**Helen Jones**
Job: Trainee solicitor.
Degree: Law degree at the University of Sheffield.
A Levels: History, French, English, Psychology.

Advice you’d give to those choosing their options: Choose a subject you enjoy because you’re going to be learning a lot about it.
Initial career ideas: Originally I wanted to be a teacher but then decided to study Law at university and from there I chose a career path.

**Ben Rattenbury**
Job: Senior Policy Adviser at Department of Energy and Climate Change.
Degree: Sociology degree at the University of Sheffield.
A Levels: Maths, Geography, Economics.

Advice you’d give to those choosing their options: Choose something that fascinates you, otherwise all those hours of hard work will be torture.
Initial career ideas: I wanted to be an airline navigator until I realised they were replaced by computers.
Final thoughts: I had my horizons genuinely broadened by a range of excellent teachers. Studying at Sheffield was one of the best decisions of my life. I had a wonderful experience.