THE WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE OF UNIVERSITY

YOUR GUIDE
Undergraduate: someone doing their first degree (usually what’s called a “bachelors” degree). Most students at universities are undergraduates.

Postgraduate: someone doing an additional degree after their bachelors degree (usually called “masters” degrees or “PhDs”).

Prospectus: a book or online document containing general information about a university, as well as specific course information.

Fresher: a first year student.

Halls: university owned accommodation where most students live in their first year. Usually each student has their own bedroom and there is a shared kitchen.

Catered: halls where meals are included as part of the rent. They are usually served in a canteen close to where the student bedrooms are.

En-suite: a bedroom with its own bathroom attached. If your room is not en-suite you will share a bathroom with other students.

Contact time: time spent with members of university staff. The main examples are lectures, seminars and labs.

Lecturers: someone who gives lectures. They can have lots of different titles such as doctor or professor depending on their position within the university.

Lectures: a lecturer stands at the front of the room and talks in detail about a subject they’re an expert on (usually with the aid of a PowerPoint). Students take notes. Most academics allow questions at the end but lectures aren’t usually very interactive.

Seminars: a group of around 15 students meet to discuss a subject in depth, led by university staff. The discussion could be about something that has been raised in lectures, or in their own private reading. Students are assigned work to do in preparation for seminars.

Labs: sessions where students studying a science based subject gain practical experience of the techniques described in lectures. Usually they have to write a report about what happened afterwards.

Reading week: a week in the middle of term where there is no scheduled teaching (lectures or seminars). You are expected to fill your time with independent study. Not all students get a reading week, it depends on your course.

Dissertation: an extended essay of about 10,000 words that students complete in their final year. It can be on any area of their degree subject and often involves doing original research. Students are assigned supervisors to help them.

Semester: this is a word that some universities use instead of saying “term”. A term and a semester are more or less the same thing.

Graduation: a ceremony that happens at the end of a degree. Students wear graduation robes and hats and are presented with their degree certificate.

Campus: a place where all the university buildings are located. This can include accommodation, teaching buildings, libraries, labs and sports facilities.
WHAT IS HIGHER EDUCATION?

Higher Education is studying after the age of 18 and usually takes place at a university or college. Most courses last for three years and once you’re done you’ll come out with a qualification that’s called a ‘degree’.

It is very flexible and there are lots of different options. You have a lot more choice than at school and there aren’t as many rules – you study what you want and how you want!

WHERE CAN YOU GO?

You can study at over 300 different places in the UK. You can choose to go to a university close to home or you can move further away. You can go to big cities, small towns, the seaside, the country side…

Universities come in all different styles and sizes so make sure you pick one that is right for you. There are campus universities, where the university is situated out of the city, or city campus universities that have buildings across one part of the town or city.

WHAT CAN YOU STUDY?

There are over 40,000 courses for you to choose from so you are bound to find one that you are interested in.

Some courses allow you to spend time working or studying abroad or on placement in an industry. These courses, sometimes known as ‘sandwich courses’, give you great experience for when you are looking for a job after graduation.

WHO GOES?

Higher Education is for people just like you! People of all ages, cultures and background go on to Higher Education, and with lots of different types of qualifications. Nearly one million 18-21 year olds are currently studying HE; they can’t all be the same type of person! One of the best things about university is that you get to meet all kinds of people.
WHY GO?

There are lots of good reasons why you might want to go to higher education. People who have been to university usually earn a lot more money over their lifetime than people who haven’t. Going to higher education gives you all sorts of skills that will make you very attractive to employers and you will have a lot more choice when it comes to picking a career.

Going to university is also a lot of fun! There are lots of things to get involved with outside of studying, including different clubs and societies, and you will meet loads of new friends. Most people come out of university and say it was the best few years of their life!

STUDENT MONEY

• There is a lot of support available and it’s designed so that everyone can afford to go to university.
• It is true that universities can currently charge course fees of up to £9000, BUT you don’t have to pay anything up-front. You will be able to get a loan that covers all of your tuition fees and you won’t have to pay anything back until you have a job.
• You will also be able to get help with your living costs (like rent and food).
• The basic message is that there are no real financial barriers to higher education; anyone who wants to go can afford to.
The University of Leeds was established in 1904 and is one of the largest higher education institutions in the UK. It is a member of the Russell Group; a collection of universities which are committed to maintaining the very best research and an outstanding teaching and learning experience. Courses are taught by staff that are engaged in world-class research and who are often the leaders in their field. Our teaching programmes are underpinned by this and students at all levels have the opportunity to learn about the research process and experience how knowledge is created.

The University of Leeds offers an impressive range of courses with over 560 at undergraduate level. As well as single honours programmes, students have the option to choose from a varied selection of joint honours courses as well as opportunities to study abroad or take an industrial placement year.

The University has over 30,000 students from 145 countries which helps create a vibrant and diverse campus. Leeds also has an award winning students’ union which offers help and advice to students at the University as well as over 350 clubs and societies for them to get involved in. Leeds University Union is the first students’ union in the UK to have won the gold standard twice and continues to be one of the most active students’ unions in the country.

The University is a single campus located a 10 minute walk from the city centre and is a mix of old and new buildings, reflecting its 110 year history. By 2015/16 the University will have spent over £100m on new buildings and facilities to ensure Leeds continues to be a world class institution. The libraries at Leeds house over 2.7 million printed items as well as half a million e-books and our library is one of the major academic research libraries in the UK.

Leeds as a city is renowned for its shopping, arts, sport, leisure, entertainment and nightlife. It is surrounded by beautiful, accessible countryside, with cultural and historical places of interest nearby.
The University of Sheffield experience gives you the best of all worlds. World-class teaching that’s driven by the latest thinking. Practical experience to prepare you for the challenges ahead. A supportive learning community that puts you first. And a down to earth university that’s at the heart of one of the most popular cities in the UK.

This is the place for you to explore your talents and feel part of a buzzing, supportive community. And don’t just take our word for it – the latest polls count us among the best. We were voted No. 1 in the Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey for 2014-15 and our Students’ Union is consistently rated as the best in the country (THE 2010-2014 & National Student Survey 2012-2014).

Our academic staff are leading the way in their field. You’ll get to see those ideas in action and make discoveries of your own. Throughout, your personal tutor will be on hand to offer support and inspiration. Work with top employers as part of your degree. Use your talents and skills for voluntary work. Give our Taste of Work scheme a go. We’ll help you make the most of university life and prepare for the future – so you stand out in a competitive jobs market.

You’ll have the latest and best facilities to explore your ideas on your own terms. Our Information Commons sets a new standard for libraries. It’s open 24 hours a day and has 1,300 study spaces. Need to get online? You’ll find study areas and computer rooms across campus, with extensive wi-fi coverage. You’ll find a packed programme of events and clubs, along with shops, cafes and space to catch up with friends or just take time out. Above all, you’ll find a community of people to help you make the most of your time here.

gsheffield.ac.uk

The University Of Sheffield
The University of York, has developed considerably since it was established in 1963. There are nearly 16,000 students with almost 12,000 of them following undergraduate degree programmes in the arts, humanities, sciences and social sciences.

Life for all students is centred at Heslington, on the edge of the city, where nine colleges are set in an attractive landscaped campus. It is compact, easy to get around and has a wealth of facilities. All students are members of a college which provides a setting where it is easy to make friends and many of our students are actively involved in their college’s activities, whether sporting, political or social. The Students’ Union runs a diverse range of around 200 clubs and societies.

Sports clubs and societies offer activities at all levels. Student media, drama and music interests are particularly well catered for. There is a network of student support services to give help and advice on many topics. The University combines the advantages of a university that is large enough to provide a lively and cultural environment, with the welcoming, supportive and friendly atmosphere found in a smaller community.

York has earned an international reputation for teaching and research and has become one of the UK’s most popular and successful universities. There is a flexible approach to teaching methods, which are tailored to the particular demands of individual subjects. Many programmes include an element of tutorial teaching as well as seminars and lectures. Projects where students work either singly or in a small group are a feature of many of our programmes. Some modules are also supported by our Yorkshare Virtual Learning Environment.

York is one of Britain’s best connected cities, situated half way between London and Edinburgh. It is a friendly place and our students settle in quickly but the city also feels fresh and exciting once you get to know it well. York has something for everyone whatever your interests. We look forward to welcoming you to our campus where you’ll be able to find out first-hand about our courses, as well as academic, social and college life.
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