



Choosing a Higher Education course

Once you've decided that Higher Education (HE) is something you wish to pursue, you need to start thinking about the type of course you would like to study.

Amongst other things, you will need to consider

- Where to study;
- What subject/s to study;
- Whether to study an academic or a vocational course;
- Whether to study full time or part time.

Making these decisions may sound daunting but it needn't be.

The best way to start thinking about HE courses is to find out as much information as possible about the different types of course and places to study that are available. Once you've looked at all the usual sources of information (i.e. prospectuses, institutions' websites), there are numerous people you can contact for further information and advice. Some of these are detailed below.

Finding a course

To find out what HE courses are available in the UK visit:

www.ucas.ac.uk

To find out what HE courses are available in York visit the Higher York course database:

www.higheryork.org/course-finder

Want to find out about HE courses in York?

visit www.higheryork.org

Central Admissions

If you require further information about the entry requirements or admissions procedures for a particular course you should contact **Central Admissions** at the institution. You will find their telephone number in the university or college prospectus or on their website.

Department Admissions Tutors

For more information about the content of a particular course there may be a **Department Admissions Tutor** you can contact. Typically, this individual will teach in the department and will be able to give you more details about the modules covered on the course, assessment methods and styles of teaching.

The contact details for Department Admissions Tutors are usually given in prospectuses – on the same page as the course information. If you are unable to find a contact number, Central Admissions will be able to put you in contact.

for schools
for individuals
for employers

Open Days

Open days are an excellent way to find out more about particular courses as well as everyday life at the university or college. It is strongly recommended that you visit a university or college before applying to study there, so you can get a feel for the institution and a chance to speak to staff and current students about their experiences.



National Careers Service

The **National Careers Service** provides information, advice and guidance to help you make decisions on learning, training and work opportunities. The service offers confidential and impartial advice and is supported by qualified careers advisers.

Their website has a dedicated area for young people, which includes information about higher education options:

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/youngpeople/Pages/Youngpeople.aspx>



Careers

You may wish to visit the **Careers Department** website at the institution you are considering studying at. This will show you the types of occupation/further study you can enter with a particular qualification. They will also have information about what kind of work/study the graduates from the course have gone on to do.

School/College

If you are still at school or college, or recently attended, you should approach your **Careers Advisor** and/or **Tutor** for advice.

Your Careers Advisor will be able to offer you advice about the different HE options available to you. Your subject tutors will know your strengths and weaknesses and which learning styles you respond best to. They may also be able to suggest courses they feel would build on the knowledge and skills you've already acquired in a particular subject.

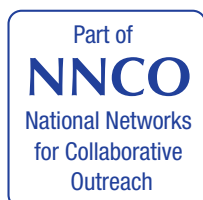
Next steps

After gathering information and advice, you will hopefully feel adequately equipped to make some decisions about your HE future. The next step is to look into applying for your chosen course.

If you still feel unsure about what type of course you would like to undertake, don't rush into anything. By choosing a course you are not 100% committed to, you are unlikely to be able to endure three or more years studying it.

If you don't feel ready to apply for a HE course, you may want to consider studying a short 'taster' course. These courses are typically single modules of HE degrees and so are the same level of difficulty, but they take a much shorter time to complete. Usually they require attendance for one evening a week over approximately 12 weeks.

In York, HE modules are offered by the **Centre for Lifelong Learning** (at the University of York). The Open University also offer a number of short courses. These may be worth investigating if you wish to test, i) your interest in a particular subject or, ii) your ability to study at HE level.



www.higheryork.org

✉ contactus@higheryork.org

☎ 01904 876350

for schools
for individuals
for employers