



Choosing a University

Choosing an Institution – Types of University



Campus



City



Collegiate



Russell Group

Once you've got your subject and course choice sorted, start looking around for where you want to be based for the next few years (especially if a course is very similar at different universities and you need something to distinguish your options).

Location

While modules, league table position and graduate prospects are important when picking the right university course for you, it's definitely worth considering that you won't be in lectures 24/7. For many, the big appeal of university is the opportunity to move out of home and experience life in a new place. That said, staying at home and commuting to classes nearby might make more financial sense. A really good way to figure out whether it's the right kind of university for you is to head to an open day. Build up a sense of your surroundings and ask:

Where will my lectures be based?

What are the accommodation options and how close are they?

What are the transport links like? How long does it take to get on campus from halls or typical student areas?

What's the local nightlife and culture like?

Living costs

Rent and living costs – whether your weekly shop or the price of a pint – this can vary wildly depending on where you are in the country.

How much will your accommodation cost each term? This means private housing costs as well as halls, as this is where you're likely to be spending your post-fresher years.

How much will you need for travel? If you're going to rely on peak-time trains or buses to get to lectures, you'll need to check out ticket prices. Bigger cities will have tons of shops, bars, cafes and restaurants to find part-time jobs whereas you might find stiffer competition in smaller cities or towns with lots of students looking for work.

See what you'll get in [student finance](#) and other funding available, and then weigh this up against what your living costs could be at your chosen university/universities with this [student budget calculator](#).

Accommodation - Home or Away?

Home

- Can be cheaper
- Familiar surroundings
- More convenient for students already living locally to the University
- Extra-curricular activities

At university

- Involvement in university life
- Independent living
- Meeting new people
- Accommodation choices - Halls of residence/Private, En-suite/Shared, Catered/Self-Catered?
- Campus universities can save on travel time

Types of Accommodation

Ensuite



Shared



Self-Catered



Catered

