

TELL ME ABOUT University Websites

A guide to university websites for young people and adults aiming to go into higher education

This download is available as a printed publication from your nearest Connexions office. See list of offices on next page.



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For more information

Personal Advisers from Connexions Coventry & Warwickshire will give you individual help and advice. We have a network of offices throughout the city and the county. There are Connexions rooms in most schools and further education colleges. If you are not sure who to get in touch with, ring the office that's nearest to where you live:

Atherstone	01827 712482
Bedworth	024 7631 2846
Coleshill	01675 462245
Coventry	024 7660 7900
Leamington Spa	01926 468950
Nuneaton	024 7632 4620
Rugby	01788 577154
Stratford upon Avon	01789 296362

Main sites

These sites are a useful starting point in your search for appropriate courses and universities

www.heguide.org.uk

This website is designed to help you with your higher education decisions, from choosing and applying for your course, to cash facts, taking a gap year and life after HE.

www.woodyswebwatch.com

Links to 600+ sites on higher education, gap year, travel, finance and lifestyle.

www.ucas.com

UCAS University and Colleges Admissions System. This site lists all UK higher education courses including degrees, foundation degrees and HND's.

Why go to university?

If you are unsure about going to university the following site may help you decide

www.direct.gov.uk/en/educationandlearning/universityandhighereducation/index.htm

Information on what university can do for you, getting into higher education, student life and more.

Don't know what to study?

If you are uncertain about the type of course you want to study the following sites are designed to help you.

www.ukcoursefinder.com

This includes a 15 minute interest questionnaire leading to course and subject suggestions.

www.ucas.com

You can search for courses by subject and geographical area. It also includes a 15 minute course finder called the **Stamford Test**.

www.coa2.co.uk/centigrade

From the designer of the Stamford Test used by UCAS, Centigrade Online offers a more in depth analysis matching your interests and abilities with potential courses. Cost £15.

www.findfoundationdegree.co.uk

Information on two-year foundation degrees.

How can I find out where to study?

Deciding where to study can be tricky. You need to consider things like location, whether you prefer to be based in a large city or smaller town, in the community or on campus. The following site is useful

www.ucas.com

Course search option – search by subject, university/college or geographical region.

List of local universities and colleges of HE

We have listed the following local universities and colleges as some students prefer to study in their home area

www1.aston.ac.uk

Aston University

www.ucb.ac.uk

University College Birmingham (formerly Birmingham College of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies)

www.bham.ac.uk

University of Birmingham

www.brookes.ac.uk

Oxford Brookes University

www.coventry.ac.uk

Coventry University

www.derby.ac.uk

University of Derby

www.dmu.ac.uk

De Montfort University, Leicester

www2.le.ac.uk

University of Leicester

www.lboro.ac.uk

Loughborough University

www.mbc.ac.uk

Matthew Boulton College of Further and Higher Education, Birmingham

www.newman.ac.uk
Newman University College Birmingham

www.northampton.ac.uk
University of Northampton

www.nottingham.ac.uk
University of Nottingham

www.ntu.ac.uk
Nottingham Trent University

www.staffs.ac.uk
Staffordshire University

www.bcu.ac.uk
Birmingham City University

www.warwick.ac.uk
University of Warwick

www.wlv.ac.uk
University of Wolverhampton

www.worcester.ac.uk
University of Worcester

Specialist areas

If you are interested in studying medicine, music or drama the following websites will help you

www.bases.org.uk
Information on exercise and sports courses.

www.bpi-med.co.uk
The Music Directory - comprehensive guide to contemporary music courses in the UK.

www.drama.ac.uk
Drama schools - all schools, RADA etc.

www.mathscareers.org.uk
Information on maths and graduate careers.

www.socialworkandcare.co.uk
Information on all aspects of social work and social care.

www.gsc.org.uk
Information on social work careers.

www.tda.gov.uk
Training and Development Agency for Schools.

www.stepintohenhs.nhs.uk
Information on planning a career in the NHS.

www.nhscareers.nhs.uk
A-Z of NHS jobs and careers

www.skillset.org
Information on creative media, broadcasting, film, video, interactive media, photo-imaging and publishing, animation and computer games.

How do I apply?

The following website provides information on the application procedure

www.ucas.com
Lists all higher education courses in the UK with helpful information on how to apply. Once on website click on 'apply'.

League tables

Universities are rated for their popularity. The criteria often includes entry qualifications, student destinations, reputation, teaching and research quality and spending on library and IT facilities. The following sites will give you information on the above

www.qaa.ac.uk

You can look up your chosen university and see how it is rated for the quality of its teaching. Reports listed A-Z by institution and subject.

www.guardian.co.uk/education
The Guardian's rankings for the best universities. Click on the university guide tab.

www.timesonline.co.uk
The Times' rankings of the best universities. Type university guide into the search box.

University open days

When you intend to spend three or more years studying it is essential to attend open days for the universities you are interested in. You will be able to look at course facilities, the campus, accommodation and the general environment

www.opendays.com

Browse, search for a specific institution to find out what goes on at open days.

Taster courses

Some universities offer short courses which are subject specific. These can be in term time or are offered as Summer Schools

www.workshop-uk.com

This website highlights taster courses giving potential students the opportunity to sample university life first-hand and develop social skills through meeting and socialising with their peers.

Student life

The following sites are useful for providing information on entertainment, sport, travel, health and sexual health, accommodation and many other areas of interest to students

www.push.co.uk

Information on work, play, money and welfare.

www.studentzone.org.uk

Information on careers, travel, legal, health, sport, life, entertainment.

www.unofficial-guides.com

Guides on each university written by students including comments on social life, accommodation and details on student life in general. Beware of prejudice.

www.realuni.com

Alternative views on university life written by students. Beware of bias and prejudice. Look at official sites as well.

Accommodation

Most universities offer halls of residence accommodation to first year students. These sites are useful if you are looking for private, rented or university accommodation

www.ukstudentlife.com

Information on student life generally but also information on accommodation.

www.accommodationforstudents.com

Student accommodation in the UK.

Note: Universities normally offer first year students accommodation within halls of residence.

What about funding?

These sites are essential for seeking out information on student finance

www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance

A government step by step guide to applying for funding at university.

www.studentfinanceengland.co.uk

This site provides services and information on financial support for students. It makes life easier for students in England to apply for grants, bursaries and student loans.

www.scholarship-search.org.uk

Comprehensive information concerning scholarships.

www.slc.co.uk

The official student loans company website. Provides information about loans and repayment.

www.nhsstudentgrants.co.uk

Information on NHS bursaries, includes a financial calculator.

Also this site administers the social work and post graduate bursaries.

www.direct.gov.uk/danceanddrama

Information on dance and drama awards.

Gap year

If you want to take a gap year before you start university it may be possible to apply for a 'deferred entry' but check with your chosen university beforehand. There are many organisations which offer gap year opportunities. Look at the websites below

www.lattitude.org.uk

Voluntary vacancies around the world.

www.gap-year.com

All you need to know about planning your gap year.

www.gapyear.com

Great ideas and great deals.

www.yini.org.uk

Paid industrial placements in the year before university. A wide range of companies offer valuable vocational experience.

www.do-it.org.uk

Information on volunteering.

Clearing

Clearing is a process you go through if you don't get the required grades to go to your chosen university. It takes place in August and September and over 40,000 students a year use it to get a place at university

www.ucas.com

Official website for clearing.

www.bbc.co.uk/radio2/studentessentials

Programmes and broadcasts for students and parents.

Disability

Useful sites for students with disabilities

www.skill.org.uk

National charity for students with disabilities. Includes support offered by universities and links to specialist colleges.

www.rnib.org.uk

The Royal National Institute for the Blind - supporting blind and partially sighted people.

www.nas.org.uk

The National Autistic Society

Studying abroad

You may be attracted to the idea of studying abroad. Look at the websites below to find out more

www.britishcouncil.org/erasmus-about-erasmus

European study as part of a UK based degree.

www.cao.ie

Irish equivalent of UCAS for university courses and admissions.

www.fulbright.co.uk

Scholarships mainly for post-graduate study plus resources on universities in the United States and their own scholarships.

www.aucc.ca

Information on Canadian universities.

www.australearn.org

Study opportunities in Australia and New Zealand.

www.iesabroad.org

Studying in Asia, Australia, Europe and South America.

www.usastudyguide.com

Information on undergraduate courses in a wide range of universities in the USA.

Graduate jobs/ destinations

On completion of a degree course, you may want to study a higher degree or look for graduate employment. The website below can help in your research

www.prospects.ac.uk

Very large site on graduate prospects including higher degrees and graduate employers. This site also shows graduate destinations.

Note: Most university websites will mention the destination of their graduates.

www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u

A large careers database.

www.unistats.com

Details from the National Student Survey on students satisfaction.

University admissions tests for law, medicine, dentistry and veterinary science

Some universities have started to use admissions tests as a way of selecting the most suitable students for their courses. Check websites for test dates

www.inat.ac.uk

The National Admissions Test for Law used by a number of universities.

www.admissiontests.cambridgeassessment.org.uk/adt

Biomedical Admissions Test used at some universities to recruit medical and veterinary medicine related courses.

www.ukcat.ac.uk

The UK Clinical Aptitude Test used by some university medical and dental schools.

www.ox.ac.uk

www.cam.ac.uk

Oxford and Cambridge entry tests, for some subjects including history, modern and ancient languages, computing and engineering.

Student satisfaction Useful to know what other students think

www.unistats.com

Details from the National Student Survey on student satisfaction. Facts and figures on student life and study

More information The following sites provide additional information on student choice

www.nus.org.uk

Useful advice from the National Union of Students (NUS).

www.uni4me.co.uk

Information on all aspects of university life.

www.careersgateway.co.uk

Occupational information and higher education advice.

www.thestudentroom.co.uk

A discussion forum for students on all aspects of higher education.

www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk

Where and what to study, league tables, how to apply and graduate prospects.

www.hotcourses.com

This course finder site has a full range of under graduate and post-graduate courses, university finance and an earning predictor for careers entered.

www.everythingyouwantedtoknow.com

Information on sponsorships, placements and graduate opportunities.

Further information

Other publications in this series are:

Tell Me About - Choices at 16+

Information for young people about their choices at the end of Year 11.

Tell Me About - Job Search

Information on searching for jobs, writing a CV, applying for jobs, filling in job application forms and interview skills.

Tell Me About - A Level Links to University Degrees

Information for young people at the end of Year 11, 12 and 13 to help them understand the link between the university degree they might study and the A levels they will need to get onto the degree.

For help with exploring career ideas you could go onto 'Careerscape' or 'Kudos', which are computer based programs. You can do these online but you will need to get a username and password from your Personal Adviser. Also check out **www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u**

Feedback

Are there any comments you wish to make regarding these websites?

Are there any other websites you would like to see in this guide?

If so, please e-mail Jack Mullett at jack.mullett@cswpconnexions.org.uk

Young people and staff at Connexions Coventry & Warwickshire have evaluated all the websites featured in this booklet; however, we can accept no responsibility for the content of the websites listed.