

TRIDENT COLLEGE

ENGAGE. ENLIGHTEN. EMPOWER



United Kingdom Universities

Application Guide
2025 Onwards



This booklet gives you a summary of the process for applying to Higher Education (HE) in the U.K. and includes important information, advice, dates, and useful websites. Please keep it safe for future reference.

On the [UCAS website](#), parents can download the Parent Guide, the Parent Information Tool and FAQs and also sign up for the monthly Parent Newsletter. Students can research courses, apply, and track their progress on-line, get access to subject-specific email updates and receive regular information bulletins.

Students will also receive additional detailed information from us about specific aspects of the process and deadline that affect them at key points in the year. As always, applying to the U.K. should be focused on one key idea: get started early!

Andrew M. Cole

Director of Sixth Form, Universities and Careers

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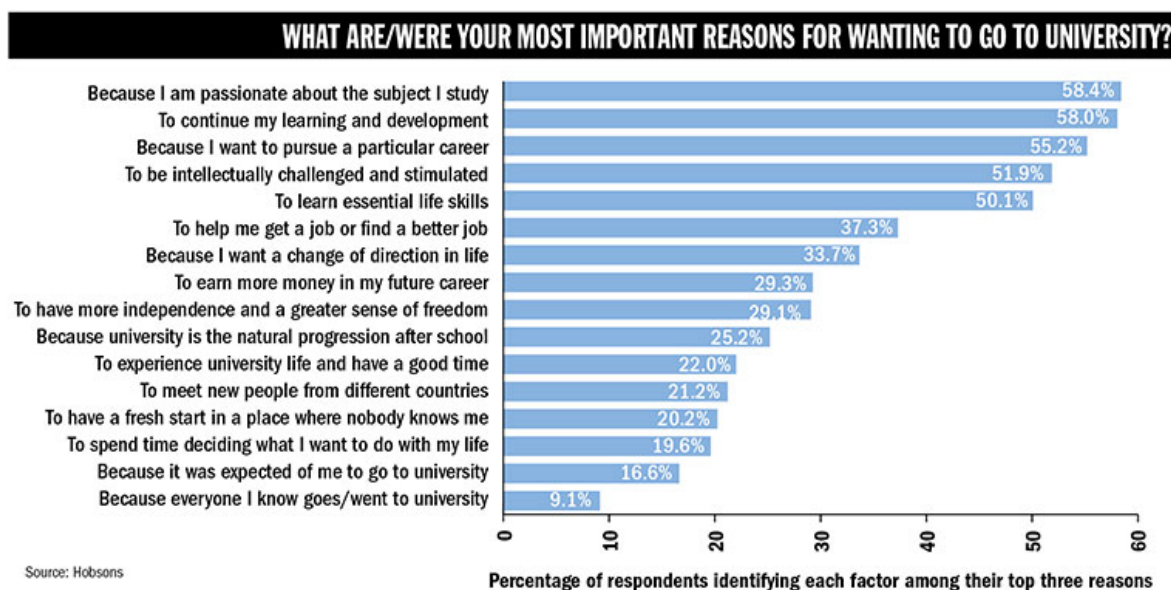
Who can answer questions at school?..... 30

Reasons for going to university

You should now be thinking about what you are intending to do after completing your A-Levels. While some of you may be intending to seek employment or an apprenticeship, the majority of you will be applying for university or other higher education courses. It is very important that you prepare your Higher Education application carefully because the decisions you make will affect the next three or four years of your lives and, possibly, beyond.

There are many reasons for going to university:

- Increase potential earnings and improve career prospects [*‘Over the course of a lifetime, estimates suggest women can expect to earn about £250,000 more if they have a degree, while the figure is roughly £170,000 for men.’* Source: Institute for Fiscal Studies, 2017].
- Social and cultural reasons - broaden your horizons and your ways of looking at the world.
- Exciting opportunities to live/ study/ work abroad or spend a year in industry or do an internship – all excellent additions to your CV.
- Academic challenge - broaden and deepen your interests and knowledge.
- Personal challenge - develop self-confidence, responsibility, independence, initiative...
- It can also be immense fun and you’ll make lifelong friends!





Unsure about your future career?

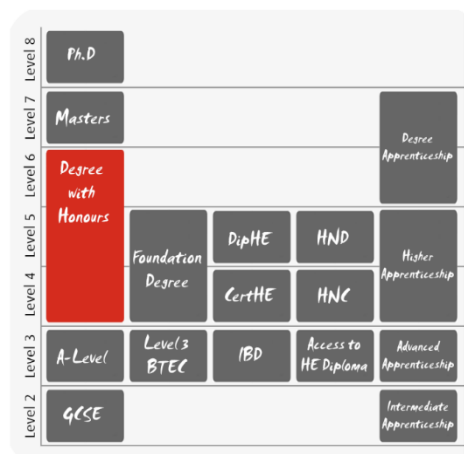
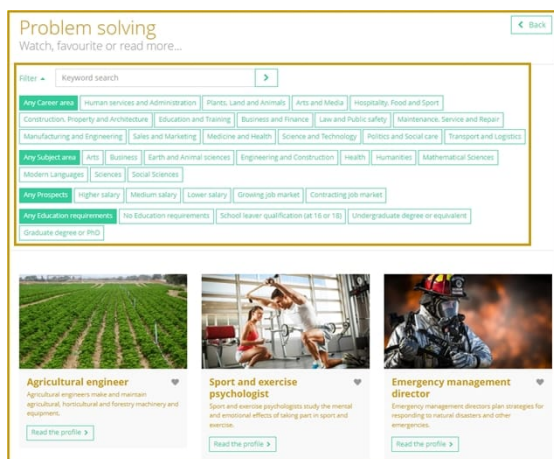
Very few students in Year 12 are sure about their long-term career plans so don't worry! It has, in fact, been forecast that 85% of the jobs that will exist in 2030 haven't been invented yet! [Dell Technologies, 2017]

Some careers - Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Teaching, Architecture, Engineering (to name a few) – do obviously require specific degree courses. However, most graduate level jobs are **not** concerned with your degree subject knowledge – what's important is that you are a graduate and, therefore, can solve problems, communicate effectively, think critically and analytically, gather/evaluate/ synthesise information, lead, work in teams, work under pressure, have time management and decision-making skills, show enterprise and initiative etc. Many employers in accountancy, business, banking, law, and the media positively prefer you to study a different academic subject at university and then train you for the profession after you graduate - in which case **your focus should be on gaining a good honours degree in a subject you really enjoy.**

If you're interested in a career in music, dance, or drama, you can choose between applying through UCAS Undergraduate or UCAS Conservatoires. *[A conservatoire is a college that specialises in performance-based courses but also includes academic study.]* Speak to Mr Chimuka or Mr Tukamone for further information.

We recommend that you start by revisiting your Unifrog profile (which you have been working on throughout Years 12 and 13 at Trident), as it will make suggestions for subjects based on your interests and skills. Mr Cole can provide information about getting the most out of Unifrog.

You can go to your account and complete the questionnaires on there. From this it will give you suggested careers and suggested subjects and degree courses. Somewhat disappointingly, it told me that I should be a teacher or a Head Teacher, so I think it might be quite accurate!



We would also recommend that you start with setting up a profile on the [UCAS hub](#) which is a treasure trove of information! There are all kinds of quizzes and competency questionnaires that you can do which will suggest careers and degree courses that you might be suitable for! You can then explore all the options! You will find degrees and careers that you have never heard of!!

If you do have specific careers in mind, do discuss them with your tutor, your Housemaster, subject teachers or a member of the Universities and Careers department in school (i.e. Mr Cole).

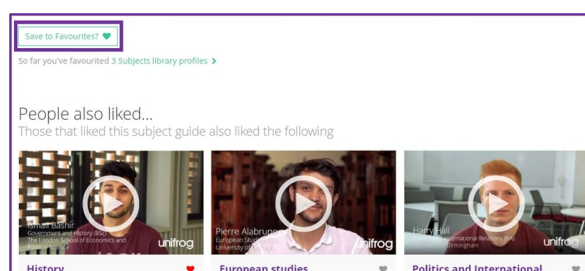
Degree courses

Standard degree courses [BA, BSc] are three years but many can be four years and involve a foundation year [if you have not studied the relevant subjects], a year spent in industry or a year studying at a university abroad. Degrees in the four 'Ancient' Scottish universities are four years, and you receive an MA.

Your degree will be awarded by the university you attend; most degrees are Honours degrees and are differentiated by classes rather than grades - first, upper second [2.1], lower second [2.2] and third.

Choosing your Subject

There are over 50,000 courses offered by more than 395 higher education providers in the UK - the choice is huge! Unless you have got clear ideas about your future career and need to follow a specific degree course, university is your opportunity to study a **subject** that really interests and excites you



The full 32 page guide is available exclusively to all pupils and parents of Trident College... JOIN US TODAY!