**University research**

**UCAS predicted grades**

**Subject:**

**Subject:**

**Subject:**

**Subject:**

**Things to consider:**

* I’m not certain I want to go to university but I should look at university options first to make sure I make a properly informed decision about other options after A-Levels.
* What career do I want – is earning lots of money more or less important than an interesting career?
* What degree do I want to study? Research to determine what degree might lead you to your thoughts on a career.
* What subjects am I currently enjoying?
* What subjects have predicted me high grades?
* Do I want to study a subject that I don’t currently study at A-Level E.g. Law?
* Consider subjects that might be related to current A-Levels that you do, e.g. Oceanography is a subject related to geography.

Short-list of possible subjects/notes

* It’s worth googling these subjects in relation to careers to see where the degree can take you in life. If you need more assistance then you should request a careers interview.
* It’s worth considering a joint honours degree where you study two subjects.

**Deciding on a university and a course**

* If I want to live at home I should ensure that I select universities within commutable distances from where I live.
* If I want to live away what town or city do I want to live in?
* Do I want to live on a campus university with a self-contained village of students or do I want to live at city university with various parts of the university dotted around the city?
* Most universities will expect me to find accommodation in the town or city after the first year so think about the kind of city or town I want to live in – a smallish city like Chester, or a big city like Liverpool? Or do I want to live in a very rural area such as Aberystwyth or Lampeter (smallest university town in the UK)?
* What about the academic reputation? – <https://www.theguardian.com/education/ng-interactive/2017/may/16/university-league-tables-2018> select the course I want to study and look at where it lies in the league tables. Look at other aspects from the league tables, including employment statistics after university and student satisfaction ratings.
* Look on student room which is an informal forum about <https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/> This website allows you to read opinions from former and current students and
* If you have extra-curricular interests, e.g. drama, then research which universities will help you continue these interests. Some universities have an excellent reputation for sport.
* I should select some universities that are a little more aspirational (higher) than my UCAS predicted grades and some that are more realistic. Be mindful that you have five UCAS choices on the application form.

Long list of university choices/notes

**Investigate university prospectuses/websites**

* Now l should look more intensively at the university websites – there will be an obvious place to start saying something like ‘study with us’
* Look more intensely at what’s on offer in terms of accommodation, what the campus environment is like
* What’s on offer from the course. Does it allow flexibility and study topics of your choice or is it more prescriptive?
* Is there anything else it offers such as a year abroad?
* What UCAS points do they require and can you realistically achieve this with your UCAS predicted grades?

Short list of universities/courses with UCAS points offer – what do I need to do next? E.g. more research, attend open days, have conversations with parents, friends, teachers