

APPLYING TO UNIVERSITY

WHY HIGHER EDUCATION?

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**Book yourself onto one of our open days at
dmu.ac.uk/opendays**

**Order your prospectus at
dmu.ac.uk/prospectus**

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HIGHER EDUCATION AND APPLYING TO UNIVERSITY

There are over 52,000 different courses available at higher education (HE) level at over 300 different institutions in the UK. Courses range from traditional undergraduate degrees, lasting 3-4 years, to foundation degrees, Higher National Certificates (HNCs) and Higher National Diplomas (HNDs), with flexibility to study full or part-time or even via distance learning.

The variety of courses is vast; choose from traditional subjects such as Maths, English or History or the vocationally orientated Journalism, Pharmacy or Human Resource Management. There are also lots of subjects you may not have heard of including Footwear Design, Contour Fashion and Artificial Intelligence with Robotics. Information on the types of courses offered by DMU is detailed in our prospectus – order your copy and start researching! The course search function on ucas.com is a good place to start when searching for courses where you'll be able to see the wide range of what's available.

WHY HIGHER EDUCATION?

There are many reasons to enter higher education. Popular reasons include:

- Being passionate about a subject and having a personal interest in the course area. Learning at degree level gives you the chance to develop your knowledge to a greater depth and learn alongside experts in the field.
- The desire to gain a qualification to progress onto your chosen career path. If you have a particular career in mind you may need a specific degree e.g. Nursing, Medicine, Law or Social Work.
- To develop your independence. You will find yourself in control of your own learning, living and finances, potentially for the first time!
- The chance to meet people from all walks of life and to take part in new experiences and activities through clubs and societies.

RESEARCHING YOUR OPTIONS

With so much choice available at HE level it's vital that you do some research in order to make informed decisions.

TIPS

1. Use the UCAS website's search function to research courses/subject areas you're interested in
2. Read university prospectuses and websites to find out more information. To find out what courses DMU offers visit dmu.ac.uk/study/courses
3. Visit as many open days as possible to find out what it's like on campus! Look out for subject taster events too

CHOOSING YOUR COURSE AND UNIVERSITY – CHECKLIST

It is important to make sure that you choose the right course and university for you. Below are some questions to think about when trying to shortlist your options:

- What subject do I want to study?
Am I passionate about it and will I enjoy it?
- Do I have a specific career in mind for the future? If so, what qualifications will I need?
- Do I meet the entry requirements for the course?
- How is the course assessed and does the teaching style suit the way I like to study?
- Do I want to live at home while I study? If not, how far am I prepared to move?
- Does the university offer all the facilities I need for work (e.g. library, computers etc) and play (e.g. Students' Union, sports centre)?
- Is the university a city or campus-based university? City universities tend to have buildings in and amongst other buildings in the city centre while campus universities are self-contained and have all facilities on one site. How many campuses are there and where will I be based?
- Can I see myself living and studying there?

APPLYING TO UNIVERSITY – THE PROCESS

1. Use the UCAS website, university websites, prospectuses, attend open days and taster sessions to help you shortlist your course and institution choices.
2. Apply online via the UCAS website, including your personal statement. You need to apply by mid January for most courses – your school or college will confirm internal deadlines.
3. An academic reference will be added to your application by your school/college.
4. UCAS sends your application to your chosen universities. The universities will carefully consider your application and inform you of their decision via UCAS track between October – April. You may be invited to submit a portfolio or attend an interview or audition, depending on the course you've applied for.
5. If you're thinking of applying for Student Finance you'll be able to do this once applications open around February/March.
6. Once you've heard back from all of your selected courses you'll need to choose one firm (first) choice and one insurance (second) choice.
7. After you have accepted your offers you should start to think about accommodation.
8. July/August – results day! Your place at university will be confirmed on UCAS Track. If not – don't panic – you may still be able to secure a place through the Clearing process.