

You might not be able to visit a university campus in person at the moment, so here are some questions to get you thinking and ready for future visits.

By thinking about the ideal university you would like to study at in the future you can start to uncover things that matter to you. Don't worry if you are unsure whether certain things can be found at a university – you might be surprised by what they have to offer!

These questions aim to get you thinking about learning and what you want to get out of your educational journey. You can work through each point and build a profile of your priorities, or just take a few headings as conversation starters.

The thing to keep in mind is that university can be for anyone who has an interest – so what does a university mean to you?

The course

An important thing to start with! What is your favourite subject? What do you look forward to in the week? What can't you imagine giving up? This is about what you enjoy so don't let anyone else affect your opinions.

You might have a couple of subjects like this – are they similar subjects? If so in what ways are they similar? If they seem very different are there any skills you can pick out they both use?

Clubs and Societies

Do you have any hobbies or interests that you would want to keep up? Are there any things which you would love to start? Remember you can start a society if one doesn't exist – are you an avid gamer, a Harry Potter fan, a next level baker?

Sports Grounds: What kind of sports facilities would you like to see?

If sport is important to you maybe a big gym and lots of sports equipment would be a factor, or perhaps some five a side pitches nearby is a must. It could be something you would love to do but not had a chance before; a karate dojo or kayaking rapids?

Type of campus (urban vs rural)

What kind of place can you see yourself studying in? Some people like the idea of moving to a new city, others prefer more rural places in the countryside (or by the sea!). Would you find a big city exciting?

Access to a city

Is being able to visit the London West End important to you? Would you like to be in Cardiff near the Millennium Stadium? It doesn't necessarily mean being in a city, but it might be that your interests make being nearby worthwhile.

Access to certain parts of the country

Sometimes where you study will open up opportunities you might not have considered; a course in Marine Biology on the south coast might make it easier to go diving regularly, Forestry and Arboriculture in North Wales could see you managing nearby plantations in your final year. How might your subject work in different places? What different activities be possible in the city or the countryside?

How far away do you think you might go to study at university?

Do you want to stay near family and where you went to school? Or does going to university feel like a good opportunity to explore somewhere totally new? Think about whether you would want to be able to pop home in a short space of time, or whether you would be happy being further away?

How do you like to learn?

University courses can be taught in very different ways – even courses in the same subject can be quite different depending on who is teaching them and where. Do you like to work in groups or on your own? Is it important that you are able to do practical work yourself? It might depend on the subject you are interested in, but everything from Mathematics to Fine Art can have differing levels of lectures, seminars and practical work.

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Depending on the subject and course there can be a lot of variation in how tests and assessment are made at university. The flip side of how you like to learn is asking how you want to be tested – do you find written exams nerve wracking? Or do you prefer to be able to concentrate on one big test? Would you prefer to make something? Present it?

Do you have a dream job you are working towards?

You don't need to know what you want to do after university, plenty of people work it out along the way. If you do have something in mind already, is it working in a particular place or in a specific role? What similar jobs are there or what kind of jobs are connected to it?

Is it important to get work experience for the job you are interested in?

Sometimes universities will offer work placements as part of your course, have guest lecturers who will talk about their experience or have strong links with certain industries. How might opportunities like this fit into your plans? Where would it be useful for you to have work experience?

Did any of these points seem more important than others?

You might have had a very specific answer or thought of a strong example that meant a lot to you.

Which did you find hard to answer?

These two questions are both useful because it can give you an idea of which factors you might need to consider first and which might have a smaller impact on your thinking. Going to university is something anyone can do and considering what is important to you is a really useful step to help decide if it would be good for you.

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If you want to find out more about university then there are lots of places to get information. At Bath Spa University we work with lots of amazing partners to help people make the right choice for them.

If you want to find out more about options for you why not try one of the year group specific exercises on Careerpilot? Or jump straight onto UCAS and explore some of the 50,000 different university courses out there?