

Sign Posts to Success



High Stakes Guidance
The University of Manchester
May 2013
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What we are going to cover...

- Informed choices
- Choosing a course and university
- Application process:
 - Entry requirements
 - Admissions tests
 - Interviews
- Student Finance
- Your wildcards...!

Understanding student choice

- Behavioural Approaches to Understanding Student Choice
http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/assets/documents/research/Student_Choice.pdf
- Report emphasises:
 - Increased importance of decision making process
 - Complexity of this choice
 - That information alone is no enough
- Good choices are important for a number of reasons:
 - HE provider: students who are engaged are more likely to succeed – important for retention and employability.
 - Students: enhanced student experience, more likely to enjoy their learning and the wider HE experience.

How students make their choices

Most significant

1. Academic reputation
2. Location
3. Distance from home
4. Course suitability
5. Employment opportunities

Most useful

1. Standard of teaching
2. Satisfaction with course
3. Graduate employability
4. Recognition by professional bodies
5. Satisfaction with support and guidance

Sources

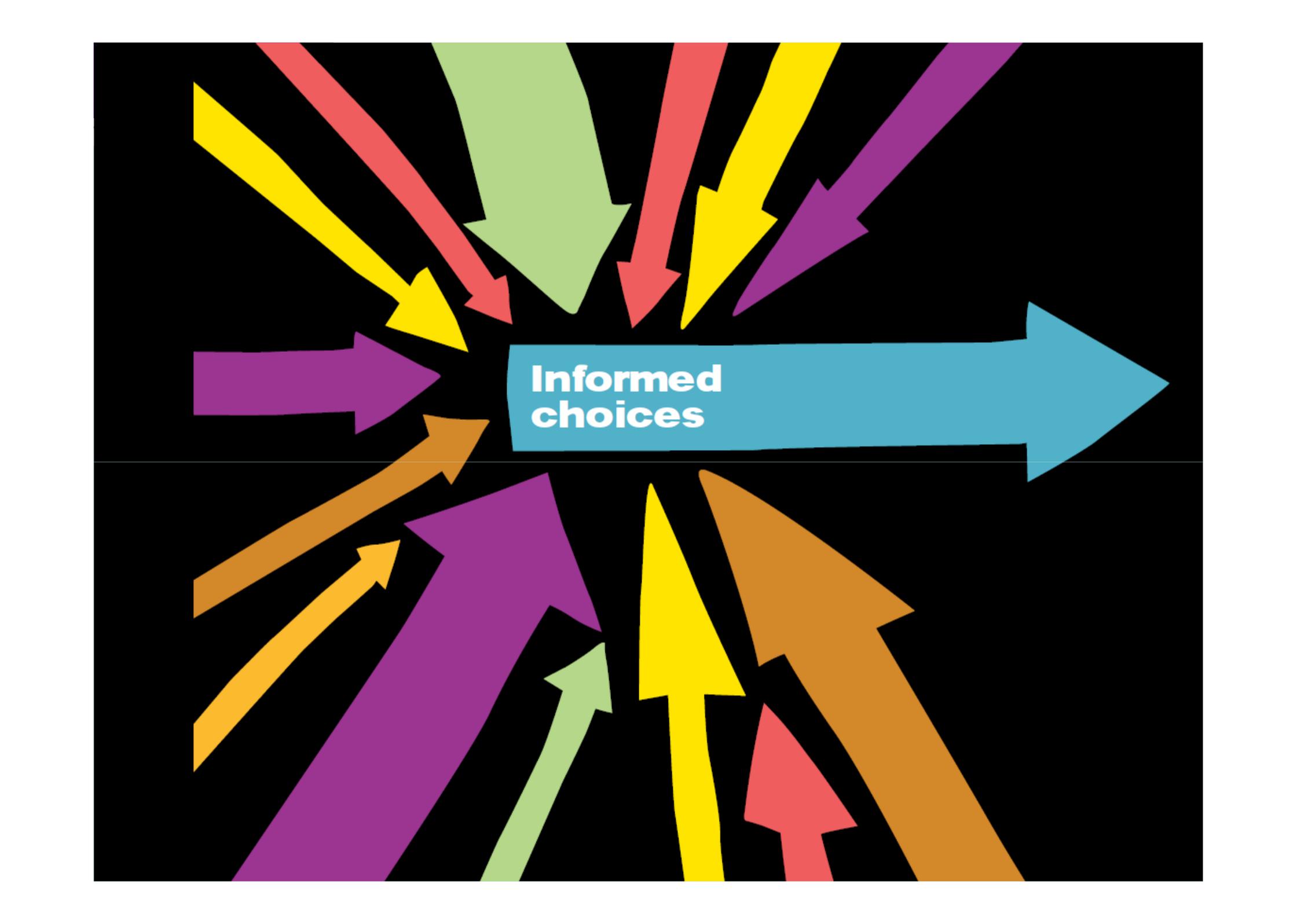
1. University prospectuses and websites
2. UCAS directories and guides
3. Family and friends
4. University visits
5. Teachers and careers advisers

Discussion

- What Higher Education resources have you used with students?
- Which have worked well?
- Which haven't?
- Which areas do you feel you are lacking in resources?

Informed Choices

- Russell Group Informed Choices document
 - Hard and ‘Soft’ subjects
 - What do universities really think
 - AS/A2 decisions

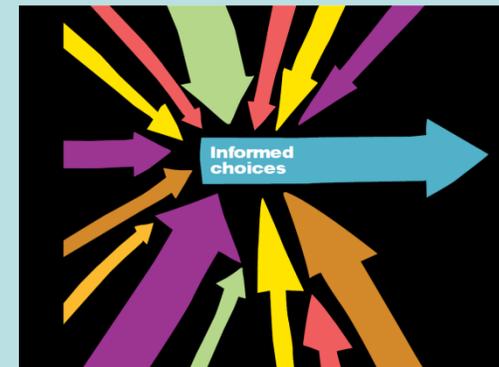


**Informed
choices**

Making your post-16 subject choices

- What subjects will give me the most options?
 - Mathematics and Further Mathematics
 - English (literature)
 - Physics
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Geography
 - History
 - Languages (classical and modern)

The 'facilitating' subjects



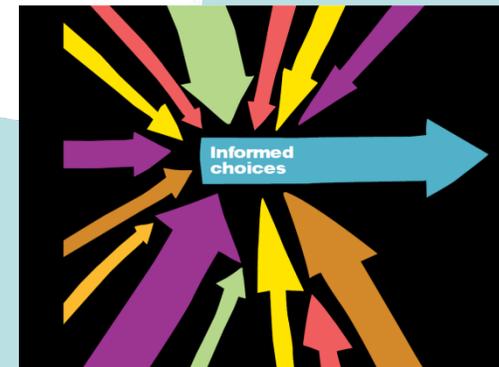
Subjects required
for different degree
courses

Advanced level subjects which ARE LIKELY TO BE ESSENTIAL when applying for this subject at university. NOTE: this does not mean that ALL Russell Group universities will require them.

Subject of
interest

Medicine
ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS
If you do Chemistry, Biology and one from Mathematics or Physics you will keep all the medical schools open to you. If you do Chemistry and Biology you will keep open the vast majority. If you do Chemistry and one from Mathematics and Physics you will limit your range of choices much more.
USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS
Further Mathematics or a contrasting (non-science) subject.

Advanced level subjects which MAY be useful when applying for this subject at university.



Subjects required for different degree courses

Mechanical Engineering

ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS
Mathematics, Physics.

USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS
Further Mathematics, Design Technology.

Mechanical Engineering departments may have a preference for Mathematics A-levels with a strong mechanics component.

Accountancy (also Banking/Finance/Insurance)

ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS
Usually none although one or two universities require Mathematics.

USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS
Mathematics, Business Studies (AGCE, National and Diploma), and Economics.

English

ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS
English Literature or combined English Language & (some courses will accept English Language).

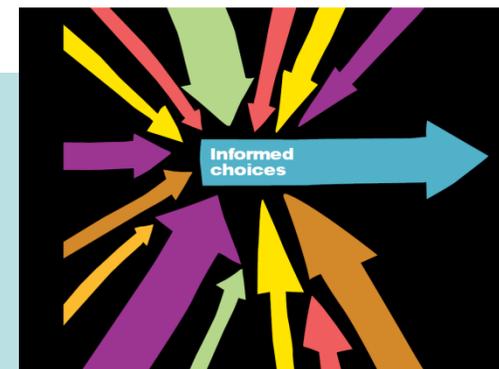
USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS
History, Religious Studies, a foreign language.

Law

ESSENTIAL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS
Usually none, although a few universities require English.

USEFUL ADVANCED LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS
History; other facilitating subjects.

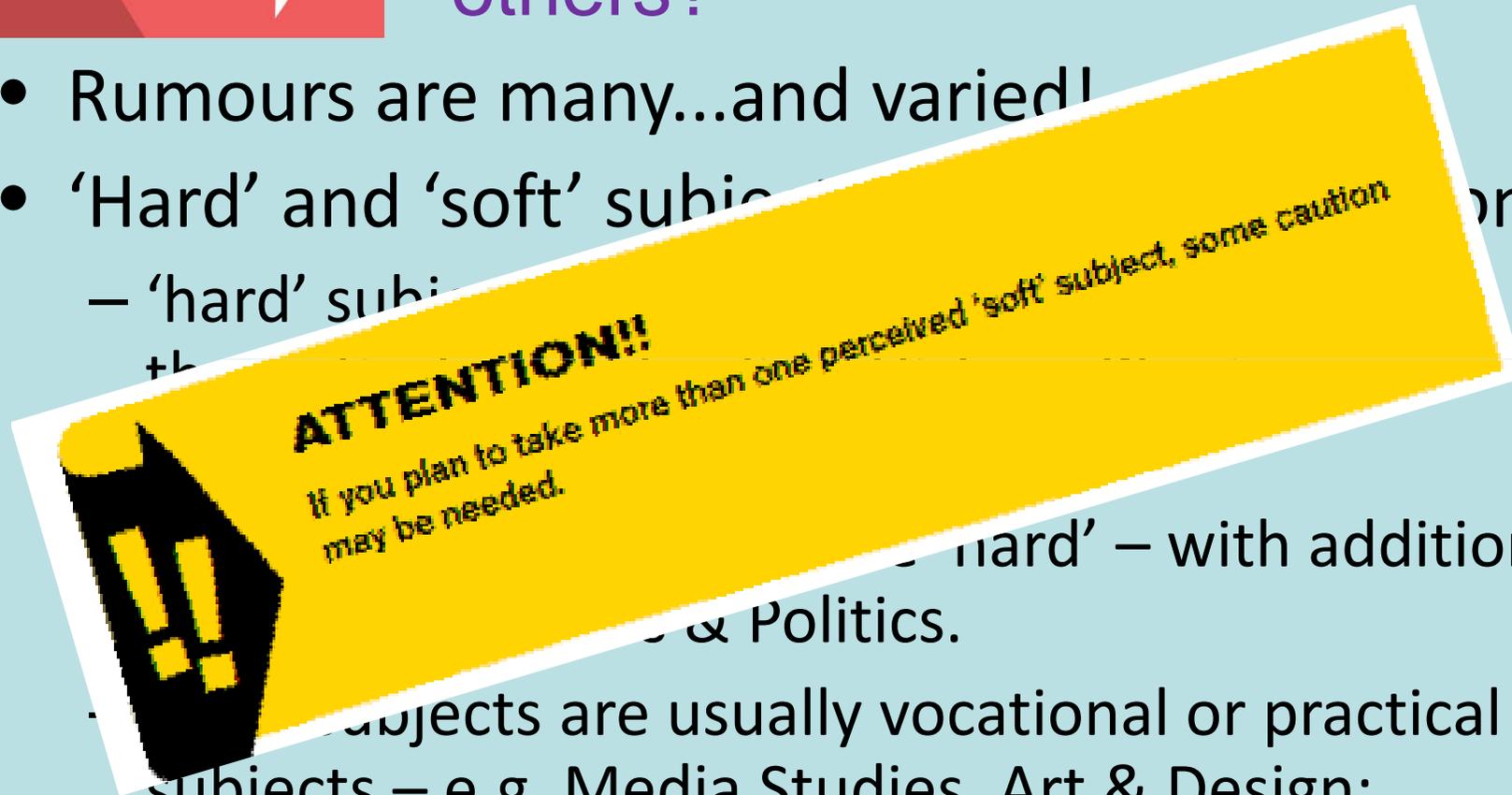
There really are no essential subjects for Law. Maybe one choice should involve **essay** / report writing. History gives you good relevant skills for Law but is not essential.



Subjects required
for different degree
courses

Do universities prefer certain advanced level subjects over others?

- Rumours are many...and varied!
- 'Hard' and 'soft' subjects
 - 'hard' subjects



- 'soft' subjects are usually vocational or practical subjects – e.g. Media Studies, Art & Design; Photography; Business Studies.

Choosing a course and university

- Course/university data
- Face-to-face
- Social Media

Using data

- KIS (Key Information Sets)

<http://www.keyinformationsets.com/>

[Electrical and Electronic Engineering](#)

- Which?

<http://university.which.co.uk/>

- Do your students access this information?
- Have you received any feedback about this data?
- Do you have any tips for helping students to access this data?

Face-to-face

- <http://www.ucas.ac.uk/students/choosingcourses/choosinguni/opendays>
- <http://www.manchester.ac.uk/undergraduate/discover-days/>
- What to do if unable to attend advertised days

Social Media

- Facebook
 - University / course groups
- Twitter
 - @ucas_online
 - @UoMSchools
- Student Room

Student Room

‘I looked at all of those but didn't want Oxford or one in London, and picked 2 who wanted higher UCAS, 1 middle and 2 with lower requirements, just in case I mess anything up XD’

‘Hey! I'm in year 11 doing GCSE's and I was looking at degrees in zoology. Didn't no if anyone could help in telling me what uni's offer it and what GCSE grades I need. Thinking about doing the international baccalaureate instead of Alevels so does anyone know the ruff score i would need!? Also what could anyone help in telling me what careers it could lead to! Thanks! ‘

Application process

Entry requirements:

www.ucas.com

Individual university websites

Informed Choices document

<http://www.nhscareers.nhs.uk>

University Open Days

UCAS fairs

Contacting universities via social media, email and phone.

Application process

Admissions tests:

<http://www.getintomedicalschool.org/?gclid=CNLal-zapLcCFQbHtAodSSYAgw>

<http://www.lnat.ac.uk/lnat-preparation/guide.aspx>

University websites

<http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/showthread.php?t=300309>

Application process

Interviews:

Mock interviews

Fastbleep:

<http://www.fastbleep.com/schools/schools-colleges/interviews/>

University websites

Personal Statements

- UMASS website
- UCAS entry profiles
- Local institutions
- Speed dating
- Using a log book/diary

Podcast with former head of Manchester Medical School on applying to Medicine

UMASS resources

www.umass.manchester.ac.uk

◆ Welcome ◆ UMASS Activities ◆ Applying to University ◆ Preparing for University ◆ Student Life ◆ Careers

◆ Applying to University

- ▶ Advice on choosing a course and university
- ▶ Applying to Medicine courses
- ▶ UCAS application process
- ▶ Writing an effective personal statement
- ▶ Using UMASS in your Personal Statement
- ▶ Admissions Tests
- ▶ Interview tips

◆ Related links

- Courses
- Accommodation
- Student life
- The Manchester Experience

◆ Downloads

- Effective Personal Statements

You are here: [UMASS Home](#) > [Applying to University](#)

Applying to University

So you've decided to apply to University; don't think the decisions end there! There are over 80 000 courses available to current undergraduate students in the UK. Choosing one of those courses is the same as walking into the new Wembley Stadium and choosing just one seat; it's a big decision!

You've got two things to think about. Before you can make an application to University you need to know: what you want to study and where you want to study it.

Use the links on the left hand side to give you loads more information about applying to University.

◆ Applying to University

Hints and tips on your applications

Handout:
How to structure your Personal Statement & words that make an impact

Information on what to include in your Personal Statement and how to include UMASS (or similar activities) in PS

UMASS activities:
Personal Statement Sessions on campus over Summer for local students (July and August)

Personal Statement structure

Introduction: Why I want to study this course

Main Part: What academic skills and knowledge do I have that prepare me to succeed in this subject

Work experience / voluntary work / Part-time Job

(You may spend more time on this section for courses where work experience is a requirement e.g. health-care related courses)

Extra-curricular activities / other qualifications e.g. first aid, DoE

Conclusion

Activity

- What you have done...

Saying what you do is not enough!

Benefit

- What you have learnt from it
- What skills you have acquired

You need to show evidence

Course

- How it relates to your course
- How it will help you succeed at university

Student Finance

- Videos
- Student Finance Calculators
- Leaflets and Brochures
- Social Media
- Scholarships and Bursaries
- Games and activities

Videos

- [Martin Lewis](#)
- [Facts about Fees](#)
- Student Loans Company



Student Finance calculators

- A wide variety available
- Advise students to stick to one!
- <http://www.studentcalculator.org.uk/>
- <http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/student-finance-calculator>
- <http://www.studentfinance.direct.gov.uk/calculator/studentfinancecalculator/1213>

Student Finance case studies

Lauren

Annual household income: £25,000

Tuition Fees: £9000

Studying outside of London

Living away from home

Starting university in September 2013

Wild card!



Over to you...

- What are you using that we don't know about?

Finally...

- One thing you found out about today that you didn't know about already? (we hope there is at least one thing...!)

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Schools and College Liaison activity

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