

MANCHESTER  
1824

The University of Manchester



***DECIDING TO  
STUDY AT  
UNIVERSITY***

# WHAT TO THINK ABOUT WHEN CHOOSING A UNIVERSITY

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## Entry requirements and widening participation schemes

- Check the entry requirements.
- Compare different universities and use the information available along with predicted and mock grades to make an informed decision about which university suits best.
- Widening participation schemes at universities aim to ensure the university's student body is as diverse as possible by supporting students from backgrounds where people do not generally go onto a university education. The scheme would provide extra advice on choosing a course, finance, and the opportunity to connect with academics and current students.

## Placements

- Many courses offer placements. These offer students the chance to undertake practical learning while on the course and may help their applications when applying for work as graduates.

## Tailored learning

- Does the university offer the chance to tailor learning through a selection of units?
- Are there university-wide initiatives that will help students develop a good transferable skill-set for when they graduate?

As an example, at Manchester some of our courses can be studied alongside a modern language, with industrial/professional experience, entrepreneurship or study abroad. There is also a university initiative called Stellify, which includes academic and extracurricular activities, helping you to stand out and make a difference to the world.

## Facilities

- All universities have libraries but what other facilities can they offer?

When students are considering their choice of university make sure they check the facilities available. This could be anything from sports and lecture theatres to subject specific practical facilities, accommodation, student societies and the delivery of online learning. All of these are important things to consider.

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## Unit choices

- Check units – the same course could have different content depending on the university. Make sure units match up to expectations.

## Careers and postgraduate study

- What options does the course offer for progression?
- Will the student be able to progress into further study if they wish?
- Does the course offer direct access to a specific career?

## Research

- Is the course research-led or informed by research?

This does not mean that a course is only good if it is delivered by a research intensive university – the quality is very much dependent on the individual students and what they want to achieve. However, research intensity can be used to aid the decision-making process.

UK universities can be broadly divided into two categories – those that are research intensive and those that are not.

Research intensive indicates that alongside the teaching, the university is heavily involved in research activities such as developing new medical treatments or understanding the ecological effects of climate change.

The majority of research-intensive universities are represented by the Russell Group, including The University of Manchester.

A university's research is not mutually exclusive from its teaching though. Research can influence the study experience in several ways:

- 1.** It is an indication of expertise.
- 2.** The content and focus of the curriculum.
- 3.** The development of research skills.

Research can also be a significant part of a student's experience at university, although the type of experience can vary greatly depending on where you study. If your student is interested in developing their practical skills in research then it is important that they consider the quality of facilities that a university can offer and how these experiences are incorporated into the course.