



**DE MONTFORT
UNIVERSITY**
LEICESTER

**Applying to
university**

**WHY HIGHER
EDUCATION**

Higher education and applying to University

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

The range of courses available varies from traditional subjects through to criminology, pharmacy, journalism or human resource management. There are also subjects you may not have heard of at higher education (HE) level including: footwear design, contour fashion, artificial intelligence with robotics and energy and sustainability management. 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, you'll be able to see the vast range of what is available.

Why higher education?

There are many reasons to enter higher education. These can range from:

- Being passionate about a subject and having a personal interest in the course area. Also wanting to learn more in greater depth about your subject could open up a variety of career opportunities.
- Progress into a chosen career path with a particular job or career in mind, for example law, medicine, nursing or social work.
- Enjoying the independence which studying at university can bring. For the first time you will find yourself in control of your own learning and finances.

You also get the opportunity to meet people from all walks of and take part in activities through social clubs and societies.

Researching your options

With the vast amount of choice available at HE level, it's vital you research in order to make an informed decision.

Tips

1. Use the UCAS website search function to research course/subject areas you are interested in.
2. Read university prospectuses and websites to find out more information. To find out what courses DMU offer visit dmu.ac.uk/study/courses
3. Go and 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's 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 does it require?
- 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 whilst I study? If not, how far away am I prepared to move?
- Does the university offer all the facilities I need for work (eg 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, whilst campus universities are self-contained and have all facilities available on one site. How many campuses are there and will I be based on one or more sites?
- Can I see myself living and studying there?

Applying to university – the process

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

For further information, hints and tips on applying to university please visit dmu.ac.uk/applyingtouni

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>> Book yourself on one of our open days at dmu.ac.uk/opensdays

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

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