

The Kings of Wessex

Higher Education Conference III

Thursday 30 March 2017

Q **u** **i** **z**

Why choose Higher Education?



Why choose Higher Education?

- Gold standard
- World class competition
- Stretch and challenge
- Develops transferable skills for work – new base level (= A level)
- Experience of different perspectives
- Independence
- Networking



What does “university” mean for you?

Train for a
particular
career

Passion for
subject

To gain
knowledge
and skills

New
experiences

Academic
excellence

Personal
growth

To get a
good job

Social life

To realise an
ambition

The Choices

- Education post-18
 - 1960 – 5%
 - 2000 – 30%
 - now – 40%
- 80% successful applicants from KOW to HE in 2016

Qualifications

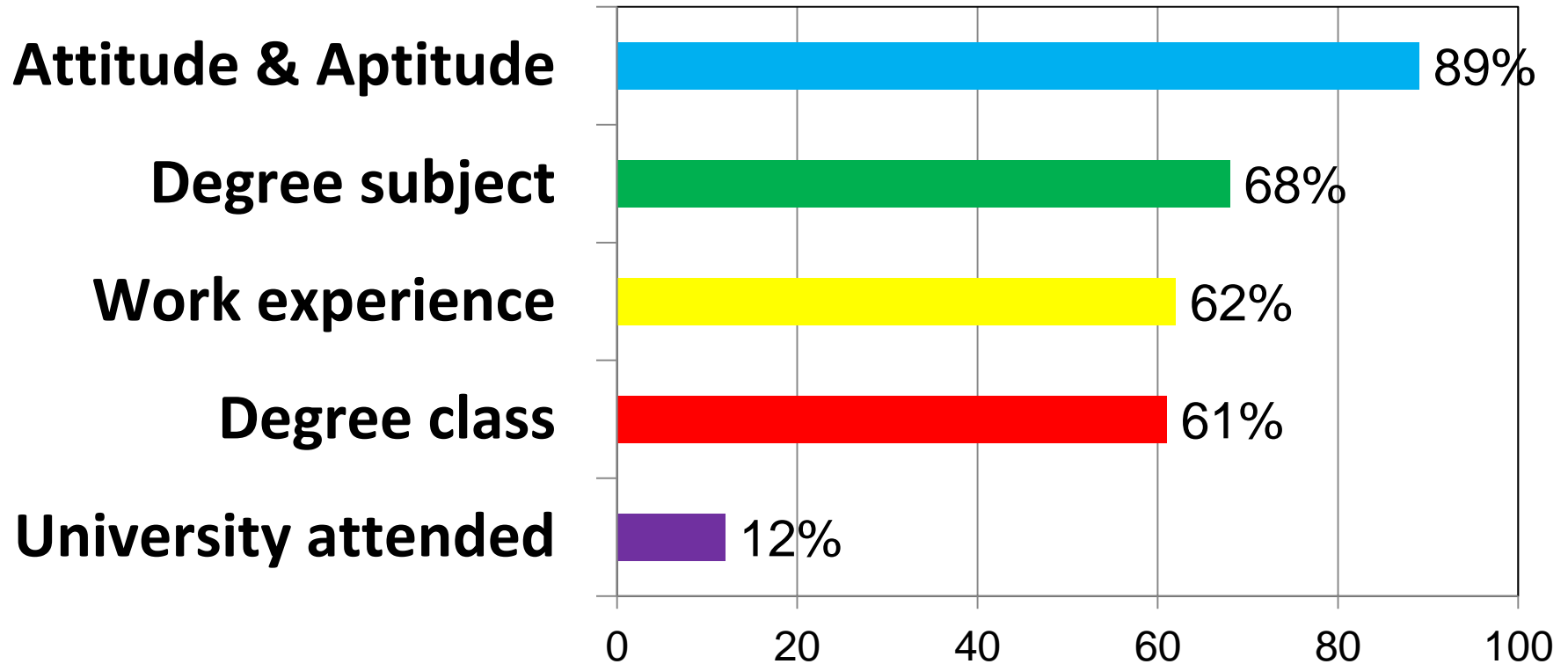
Institution

Admissions -
UCAS

Academic or
Vocational

Distance learning,
apprenticeship or
trainee scheme

What employers want....



Source: CBI Report (2014) – Responses from 291 employers, employing 1.4million in total

What are “graduate” jobs



Type	%	Examples
Traditional	25	Barrister, doctor, engineer, architect
Modern		Management, accountancy, IT, journalism
New	42	Marketing, Advertising, Nursing, Physiotherapy
Niche skills		Hotel & Leisure centre manager, retail manager
Non-graduate	33	Degree not necessarily a requirement (but it may give you a head start)

First degree choice (BA, BSc, LLB etc)



Academic

Old - e.g. English

New - e.g. Anthropology



Most don't use
their degree...

**“Good all-
rounder”**

Semi-vocational

e.g. Business Studies

e.g. Psychology



- 1,800 degree subjects
- >35,000 degree courses
- 380 HE institutions

Vocational

e.g. Medicine

e.g. Architecture



Most do use
their degree...

**“Vocational
specialist”**

“I know what kind of job I want to do after university . . .”

- study a specific degree subject which prepares you for a particular profession, occupation or career area
- aim for the very best *course* available
- courses could be at any university, anywhere in the country
- what counts is their reputation with graduate employers
- check that courses have a good employment record
- don't assume that the number of places on specialist university courses will match the volume of jobs available in that specialism

“I’ve no idea what I’ll want to do after university . . .”

- that’s fine – for 70% of graduate jobs, it doesn’t matter what degree subject you study at university
- choose a subject you’ll enjoy and will do well at
- try for the best *university* you can get into
- start researching your career options as early as possible
- make sure you get plenty of work experience whilst at university
- do as many extra-curricula activities as you can
- prepare thoroughly for employers’ application & selection processes

What are the subject options?

Subject area	e.g. Options.....do your research
Business & Administration	e.g. International Relations, Marketing
Social Sciences and Law	e.g. Applied Economics, Social Work
Medicine & Health	e.g. Audiology, Optometry, Radiography
Science	e.g. Cell Biology, Polymer Chemistry, Sports Science
Maths, IT & Computing	e.g. Artificial Intelligence, Mathematical Modelling
Engineering & Building Management	e.g. Building Surveying, Geotechnical Engineering
Arts and Creative Arts	e.g. Multimedia Design, Calligraphy
Arts, Humanities & Languages	e.g. Chinese History, Ancient Greek, Japanese

**EXPLOREbut do check
graduate destinations**



How to choose a degree

- **Entry requirements – check!**
 - GCSE, A Level grades, work experience, tests
- **Course content** – in detail, all different
- **Course structure**
 - Foundation, Bachelor's degree (BA, BSc, MD LLB, MEng etc)
 - Single, Joint, Combined Honours
- **Work (sandwich) placement** – good for employability
- **Teaching quality** www.qaa.ac.uk and department **facilities**
- **Research quality** www.ref.ac.uk and department **facilities**
- **Year abroad** – study, work, language
- **Destination statistics (DHLE)**- employment after 6 months



Which is the most competitive?

What?	Where?
Physiotherapy	UWE
Law	Exeter
History	Cambridge
Midwifery	Liverpool John Moores
Sociology	University of Bath
Medicine	Queen's University, Belfast
Higher Apprenticeship	Marks & Spencer

What?	Where?	Number of applicants receiving offers
Physiotherapy	UWE	22%
Law	Exeter	88%
History	Cambridge	36%
Midwifery	Liverpool John Moores	2%
Sociology	Bath University	83%
Medicine	Queen's University, Belfast	37%
Higher Apprenticeship	Marks & Spencer	1%
<i>Source: Which? University, 2016</i>		

- **Do your research before you apply**
 - What are the entry requirements? (Do you meet and exceed?)
 - How competitive is the course?
 - How can you improve your chance of success?
 - What is your back-up plan?

Grades or points?

New UCAS Tariff from Sept 2017

Some universities make offers based on grades (e.g. ABB), others based on points (tariff), or a mixture!

Count points at AS or A level, not both!

- ◎ Points offers vary depending on course/institution, and may specify grades for subject(s) as well
- ◎ Points can be awarded for other recognised exams at equivalent level e.g. Music/Speech/Dance/Drama grade 6+, BHS, Sport Leaders
- ◎ Extended Project Qualification is still equivalent to an half an A level (A*-E); AS is now worth 40% of the equivalent grade at full A level.

Tariff (2017 entry onwards)

A level grade

A*

A

B

C

D

E

New Tariff

56

48

40

32

24

16

- AS is now worth 40% of a full A level
- EPQ still worth 50% of a full A level

New Tariff (2017 entry)

1. A grade “C” at A Level would be how many points under the new tariff?
2. How many points would be the equivalent of a BBB offer?
3. How many points is an EPQ grade A* worth?
4. Write a grade equivalent for 120 UCAS points from three A Level grades?

How to choose your HE provider

- **Campus, collegiate, city or smaller town, new, old, (local)...**
- **Teaching style** – lectures, tutorials, contact time, (distance)
- **Facilities** – e.g. Student's Union, Sports, Arts
- **Tuition fees** - £9,250 (or less?) **and living costs**
- **University scholarships and bursaries**

How to decide:

- Do your research – for an informed choice
- Open days – **you do need to visit**
- Taster days or Summer schools
- **League tables** and **comparison websites**



Gap (or R&D) years

Universities (and employers) like students to take gap years!

- Enhances commitment, independence and maturity
- But check before deferring for maths, physics, engineering

A typical gap year – important to include all three:

- **Earn money** to fund the experience
- **Independent travel** (with or without friends)
- **Community or self-development project** with a recognised Gap organisation e.g. teach English in South America

Defer in UCAS application, OR call your university choices during Year 13 – or even on Results Day – most will agree



Concerned about £ money ?

- **Scholarships and bursaries**
 - universities and charities – £ millions unclaimed annually
- **Sponsorship**
 - companies, armed forces, merchant navy, apprenticeships
- **Work-related or distance learning**
 - Foundation degree, or HE at a local college, Open University



The application process

- **Decide on courses (multiple hours) NOW**
Course searches, open days, conferences
- **Draft personal statement - 4000 characters including spaces (3 hours)**
- **Register on UCAS site – login & password (10 min) JUNE**
- **Complete personal details and education - apart from AS results (2 hours) JUNE**
- **Enter AS results (10 min) AUGUST**
- **Enter choices (1 hour) SEPTEMBER**
- **Finalise personal statement (2 hours)**
- **Check (2 hours)**
- **Pay and send (2 min) OCTOBER**
- **October half term deadline**
- **Subject references (teaching staff), personal reference (tutor), qualifications check (office), final check (HoS)**
- **Mock interviews**

Useful websites

Information about university and student life

- www.thestudentroom.co.uk/

Course choice

- www.ucas.com Course Search
- www.ukcoursefinder.com Power search & Questionnaire
- www.centigradeonline.co.uk Centigrade online £20

What do graduates do ..and what can I do with

- http://www.hecsu.ac.uk/current_projects_what_do_graduates_do.htm
www.prospects.ac.uk Careers Advice/What can I do with my degree?

Comparison – universities/courses

- <http://unistats.direct.gov.uk/>
- www.bestcourse4me.com

League tables

- The Times, The Guardian, The Complete University Guide



Q **u** **i** **z**

1. Name the two most popular degrees for entry 2015?

Physiotherapy & Law (Complete Uni Guide)

2. Which degrees have the highest rate of graduate employment?

Medicine & Dentistry (93%), Veterinary (92%), then wider health care (84%)

3. Which is the average graduate salary?

A trick question! They are all graduate salaries but: DHLE range £18,615-22,785; High Fliers £30K; Aldi £42K starting salary for trainee store manager. Answers a, b, c, all correct; d is not an average, so incorrect.

4. Nationally how many graduates were still looking for employment or study six months after graduation in 2015?

Only 5.7%

5. What percentage of graduate positions is expected to be filled by graduates who have already worked for an organisation?

32%, a third (so get work experience & internships!)

6. As a graduate with a job paying £22K, your monthly take home pay would be £1,750. How much would you have left after monthly loan repayment?

Only £1,000

