

The Kings of Wessex

Higher Education Conference III

Thursday 22 March 2018

Quiz

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 2017

Qualifications

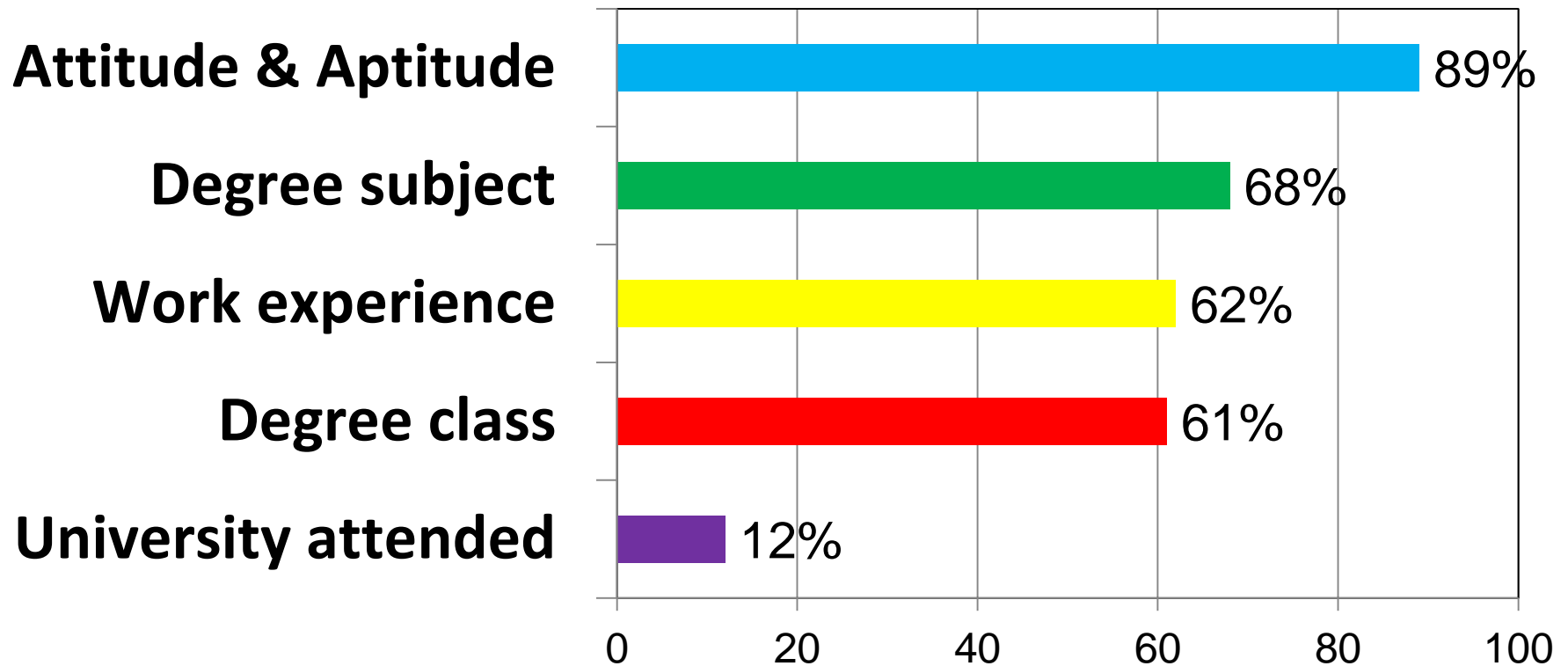
Institution

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, dentist, vet, 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. Archaeology



Most don't use
their degree...

**“Good all-
rounder”**

Semi-vocational

e.g. Business Studies

e.g. Environmental Science



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

Vocational

e.g. Medicine

e.g. Architecture



Most do use
their degree...

**“Vocational
specialist”**

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 (degree or year), Bachelor's degree (BA, BSc, MD LLB, MEng etc)
 - Single, Joint, Combined Honours
- **Work (sandwich) placement** – good for employability
- **Year abroad** – study, work, language
- **Teaching quality** www.qaa.ac.uk and department **facilities**
- **Research quality** www.ref.ac.uk and department **facilities**
- **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	23%
Law	Exeter	93%
History	Cambridge	32%
Midwifery	Liverpool John Moores	2%
Sociology	Bath University	85%
Medicine	Queen's University, Belfast	37%
Higher Apprenticeship	Marks & Spencer	1%
<i>Source: Which? University, 2018</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?

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.

UCAS Tariff (from September 2017)

A level grade	New Tariff
A*	56
A	48
B	40
C	32
D	24
E	16

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

UCAS Tariff

1. A grade “C” at A Level would be how many points under the 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** - £9250 (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
- **Get a PT job – now and at uni/in holidays**
 - Some employers let you move...



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 (2 hours) JUNE**
- **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
- www.centigradeonline.co.uk Centigrade online £15

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

- https://www.hecsu.ac.uk/current_projects_what_do_graduates_do.htm
and 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 degree subject areas in 2017, by number of UCAS applications?

Business (356,125 applicants) and healthcare (353,905), closely followed by biological sciences, social studies and creative arts & design.

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

Dentistry (95%), Nursing (94%), Physiotherapy (94%), Veterinary Medicine (94%), Medicine (93%).

3. Which is the average graduate salary?

A trick question! They are all graduate salaries but: DHLE £21,776 and High Fliers £30K are both average salaries but from different sources; £44K is the starting salary for an Aldi trainee store manager (including an Audi A4!).

4. Nationally how many graduates were still looking for employment or study six months after graduation in 2017?

Only 5.7%

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

1/3 (so get work experience & internships!)

6. As a graduate with a job paying £22K, your monthly pay would be £1,833. What would be your monthly loan repayment?

Only £7