



PROGRESSION WEEK 2020 GUIDE

UCAS PATHWAY

GUIDE: INSTRUCTIONS AND LINKS

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Introduction and instructions

Introduction

The purpose of Progression Week is to spend time researching your options for life after BHASVIC.

We expect that you will spend at least 10-12 hours on this during the course of the week.

This Guide contains links relevant to your chosen A2 tutorial pathway, which is

□ UCAS

Students who have chosen the Oxbridge, Medics (early applications), Employability and Enterprise or Visual Arts pathways have separate instructions.

There is a separate **Progression Week Diary** for you to fill in. Please download this from BHASVLE or Teams. It includes forms which you can use to keep track of your research findings. You should upload your Diary to the Assignment set by your tutor in Teams. Detailed instructions about this are in the Diary.

In advance of Progression Week, you will have been invited to become part of the A2 tutorial UCAS 'TEAM' which is run by Nikki Fabry (Guidance Manager who leads on Higher Education) and is also monitored by our careers advisers, Lynne Trower and Adele Fox. Further information will be posted on the UCAS TEAM and you will be able to ask questions on the forum. Please switch on your notifications for this TEAM, so you can keep up-to-date. If you require specific information or support with your progression research and have not found answers elsewhere, you can also e-mail careers@bhasvic.ac.uk

We also recommend the following activities which are being offered by Brighton University this week:

- Tuesday 2 June 2020. 11:00-13:00
Thinking about going to university? If you're thinking about your next steps after school or college, join this online Q&A event to talk to our experienced advisors. They can answer any questions you might have about going to uni and can give you advice about what to consider when choosing a course, where to study, levels of study, when to apply and finance. Student ambassadors will also be on hand share their experiences of studying at university too. [Sign up to the thinking about uni Q&A](#)
- From 18 May onwards
You may also be interested in signing up to subject-based Q&A events. For a full programme, see this link: <https://www.brighton.ac.uk/studying-here/visit-us/online-events/index.aspx>
- You can also take a look at subject-related information which has been put together by your teachers. A list of recommended links and resources will be issued via Teams and is also on BHASVLE under A1 Tutorial/5.Progression and wellbeing.

We hope that you find this week a useful way to launch your personal progression research.

Instructions

To start with, please download and save this Progression Week Guide, and the Progression Week Diary.

There is a huge amount of information and guidance. Where you focus your attention during this week will partly depend on how much you know already, and what decisions (if any) you have already made. The structure below is suggested as a good way to spend your time this week. However, you can flex it depending on your existing knowledge and your priorities.

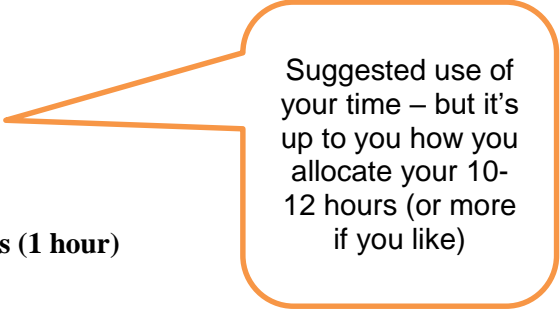
What could my future be? (1-2 hours)

How do I apply to university? (2-3 hours)

How do I choose a university and degree? (6-8 hours)

What are my skills and interests? (1-2 hours)

Complete my Progression Week Diary and upload to Teams (1 hour)



Suggested use of your time – but it's up to you how you allocate your 10-12 hours (or more if you like)

What could my future be? (1-2 hours)

Complete the SACU test (see page 3) to get good ideas of potential careers and suitable degree courses. If you have done this before you can have another go (as your preferences are likely to have changed) or move on to another activity.

How do I apply to university? (2-3 hours)

How does BHASVIC's UCAS process work? What are my likely grades and how do they relate to the UCAS tariff? (2-3 hours)

How do I choose a university and degree? (6-8 hours)

There is a lot to look at here. You can sign up to websites that help you think about what course and uni might suit you. There are activities to help you decide what is important to you. And checklists you can use to test the suitability of different options.

What are my skills and interests? (1-2 hours)

This is about starting the process of developing a personal statement based on your current skills and interests.

Complete my Progression Week Diary and upload to Teams (1 hour)

At the end of the week, upload your completed Progression Week Diary to the Assignment set by your tutor in Teams.

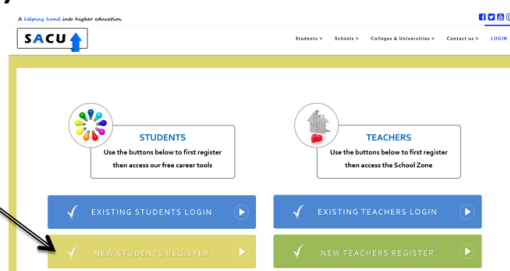
At the end of the Guide there are some additional materials on other options: Study Abroad, Further Education, Art Foundation and Visual Arts Degrees, Gap Years, Apprenticeships and Employment. There is also general information on Careers and Graduate Jobs and an Appendix containing a glossary of terms and a list of useful links.

What could my future be? SACU test (1-2 hours)

The SACU Spartan test is an excellent starting point for looking at your own strengths and skills. It is a great way to generate ideas about

- Career paths, apprenticeships and employment ideas
- Universities and degree courses

Google SACU Test. You will need to register – here's how you do it

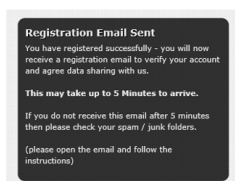


Register as a new student – this means you can save your tests

Write the log in details later in your booklet so you don't forget them

When you are registering please register using **Brighton Hove and Sussex Sixth Form College** from the drop down menu

If you don't choose this option it might block you!



It will send you a registration email.

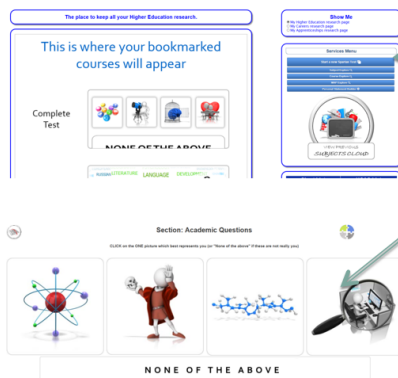
While you are waiting take a look through the workbook and make sure you have saved it.

Check your email, agree to share information and complete your registration.



When you are registering please register using **Brighton Hove and Sussex Sixth Form College** from the drop down menu

If you don't choose this option it might block you!




Start a new Test


Click on the boxes...or none of the above...

Username	Password


Complete these boxes so you can remember how to log in next time

TEST COMPLETED!
VIEW YOUR **PERSONALISED** CLOUDS NOW






CLICK TO SEE YOUR
CAREERS CLOUD



CLICK TO SEE YOUR
SUBJECTS CLOUD



CLICK TO SEE YOUR
APPRENTICESHIP CLOUD

If you want to remember the outcomes take screenshots of your wordclouds and paste them here

Progression Week Guide - UCAS

When you have completed your test you will have a subject cloud like this

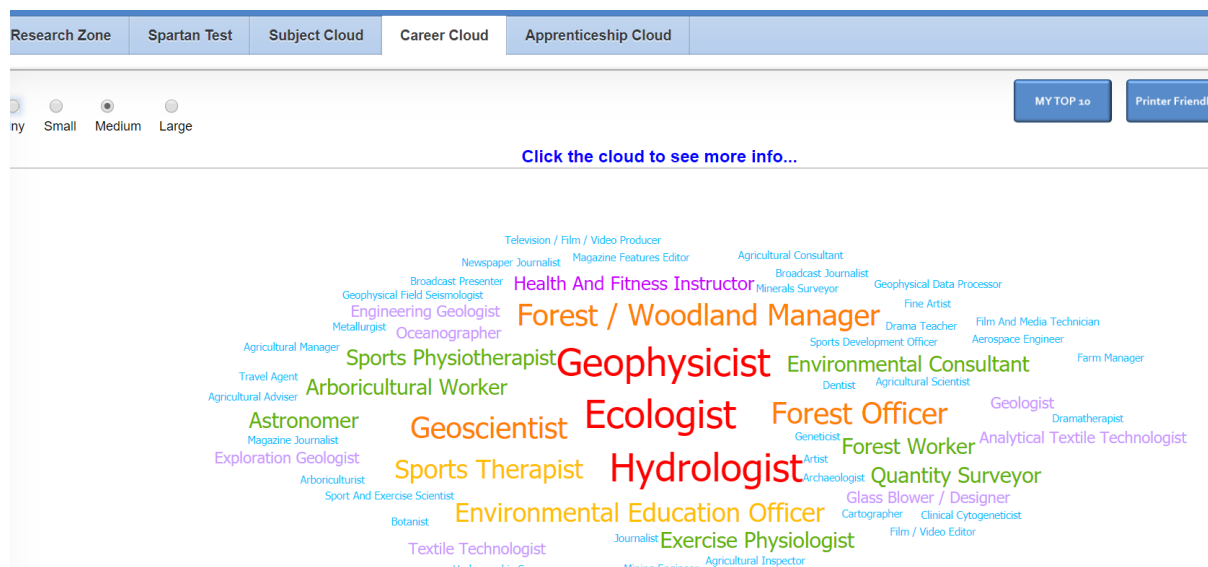


Clicking on one of the subjects to get an interesting list of university options. You can filter by preferences.

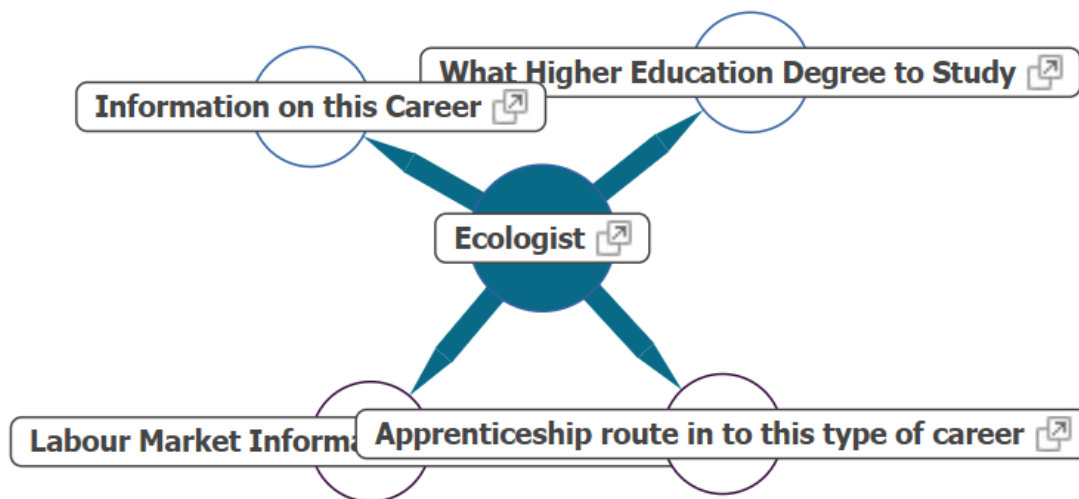
Research Zone	Spartan Test	Subject Cloud	Career Cloud	Apprenticeship Cloud	HE Courses	FE Courses
<div>Filter by Entry Points <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>Subject Similarity <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>Filter <input type="checkbox"/></div> <div>Show me <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Useful Links <input type="checkbox"/> Salary - based on the LEO dataset <input type="checkbox"/> Popular Subjects on Entry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UCAS Equality Data for each University / College <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entry Points & Student Satisfaction <input type="checkbox"/> Employment information</div> <div>Search Rows 30 Actions</div> <div>Back To Spartan Test Results</div>						

Bookmark Course	Distance from home	Course title	Qual	Institution	Study Mode	Sandwich Year	Year Abroad	Foundation Year	Open Day	UCAS Search	Institution course info	Key Information	Cost	Teaching Excellence Framework	Location
<input type="checkbox"/>	4.8	Earth and Ocean Science	BSc	The University of Brighton	Full-Time	Optional			Click here	2020	University website	Gov data site	Cost	Silver	m
<input type="checkbox"/>	46.6	Environmental Science	BSc	The University of Portsmouth	Part-Time				Click here	2020	University website	Gov data site	Cost	Gold	m
<input type="checkbox"/>	46.6	Geology	MGeol	The	Full-				Click	2020	University	Gov data	Cost	Gold	m

You'll also have a career cloud like this



Clicking on one of the words will give you more information (see next diagram)



It also shows you real-time Labour Market information*

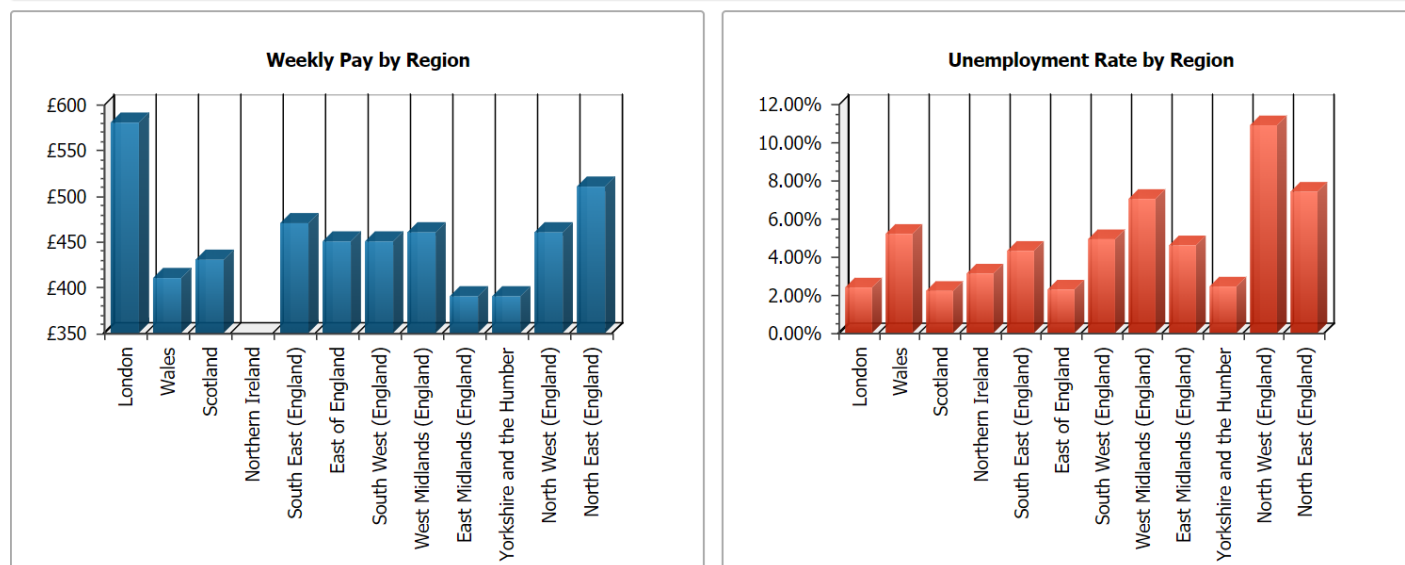
Summary	UK labour market projections	Estimated Pay by Age	Job Vacancies	Further Information
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Select Occupation [Search for specific jobs](#)

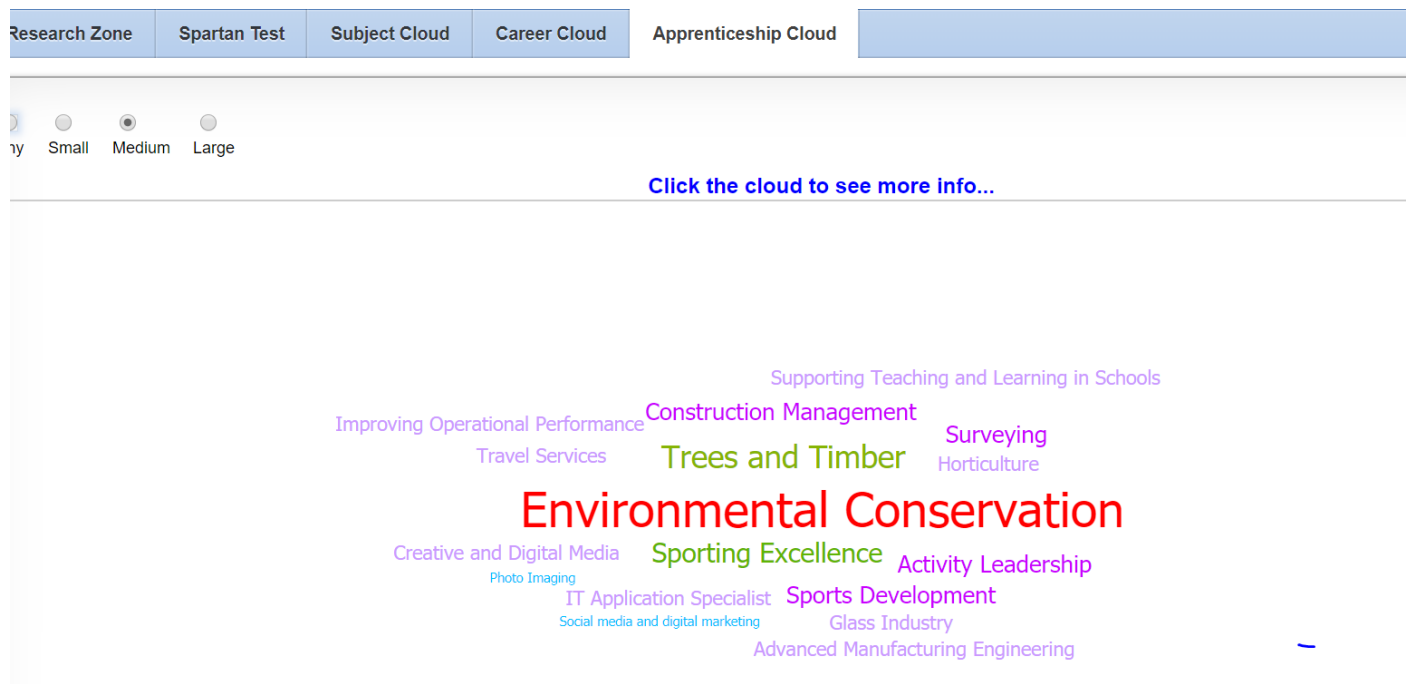
Summary information for Physical scientists

Physical scientists study relationships between matter, energy and other physical phenomena, the nature, composition and structure of the Earth and other planetary bodies and forecast weather conditions and electrical, magnetic, seismic and thermal activity.

As an estimate the average weekly hours for this type of job is : **40**



You also get an Apprenticeship cloud like this



***IMPORTANT: SACU takes its information and data from a wide range of real time government, HE and careers sources. The information during lockdown may well be different than in a usual economic situation – check back if you are in doubt.**

How do I apply to university? (2-3 hours)

It is important to understand this section

BHASVIC's UCAS process

Every year BHASVIC supports hundreds of students to make applications to universities in the UK. Most of these applications are via the national system called UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service). There are similar but separate processes for admissions to overseas universities (see page 25).

You will apply to universities BHASVIC's UCAS process. You will be told how to register and log-in to UCAS as a BHASVIC student so that you are part of our UCAS process.

Your tutor will support you in making an application. Tutorials in the summer and autumn terms are largely focused on this, and you will also be spending your own time on this outside of tutorials. There are several key stages in this process:

- You will research your options (which is what you are starting this week)
- You need to know what your likely final grades are, and how this relates to the UCAS Tariff (see below)
- You need to register with UCAS as a BHASVIC student (in the autumn term)
- You will decide on up to five suitable universities and courses (the final deadline for this is the day you send off your UCAS form in the autumn term)
- You need to fill in an online UCAS application form (you will be working on this in the autumn term)
- Your tutor and teachers will write a reference for your UCAS form, including predicted grades (this starts now and is finalised in the autumn term)
- You will write a personal statement to add to your UCAS application (you can start thinking about this now, and will be finalising it in the autumn term)

If you want to take a look at the UCAS website it is here www.ucas.com/students . You can't start your application yet, but you can create a "UCAS Hub" to organise your research and information <https://www.ucas.com/what-are-my-options/create-your-ucas-hub-today>

BHASVIC UCAS Timeline 2020-21

(Summary of key dates. Some details such as UCAS Clearing have been omitted)

Summer Term 2020	Progression Week Online open days Careers staff available to provide advice Introduction to Personal Statements References are drafted by BHASVIC staff
Autumn Term 2020	Predicted grades are finalised by BHASVIC teachers Students work on their UCAS applications and personal statements Tutors provide feedback and guidance Students attend a BHASVIC Apply session to get their application signed off References are finalised by BHASVIC tutors College deadlines for UCAS applications (students should have completed their UCAS form and personal statement by this date) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Early Application deadline Friday 25 September for Oxford, Cambridge and Medical courses (early applications). ○ Priority Application deadline Friday 13 November for guaranteed processing before the national deadline.
Spring Term 2021	FINAL external UCAS application deadline 15 January (after this date, UCAS will still receive applications, but some universities will not consider applications after this date) FINAL Application deadline for art/design foundation courses 24 March (check individual institutions) Universities start to make offers to students
Summer Term 2021	Deadline for students to make decisions about their offers
August 2021	Results Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BHASVIC Helpdesk opens

UCAS Tariff

This section helps you understand which unis/courses you might be qualified to do

An important part of deciding which universities/courses to choose is knowing what your likely results will be and how this translates into the UCAS Tariff. The Tariff converts grades into points.

Some universities make offers which are points based (eg they want you to have at least 120 points, as calculated using the UCAS Tariff). Others make offers based on grades (eg they want you to achieve at least grades BBB or D*DB). Some do both!

Estimating your UCAS Tariff

Your predicted grades will be on your UCAS reference which is provided by the College. You will know more about these in the autumn term. However, to get started you could use your STG and/or your personal target grades (if these are different) as an indicator of your likely Tariff score.

Use the two tables below to estimate your UCAS Tariff score (or try this online calculator)

UCAS points calculator: <http://www.universityfinder.org.uk/ucas-points-calculator.html>

A level UCAS Tariff

A levels	
A*	56 (equiv D* at BTEC Sub Dip)
A	48
B	40
C	32 (28 is A* for EPQ)
D	24 (20 points is A at AS level)
E	16

AS levels (40% A level)	
A	20
B	16
C	12
D	10
E	6

Extended Project (higher tariff than AS)	
A*	28
A	24
B	20
C	16
D	12
E	8

BTEC UCAS Tariff

And their equivalents at full A level

BTEC Certificate		BTEC Subsidiary Diploma		BTEC Diploma		BTEC Extended Diploma	
D*	28 (C/D)	D*	56 (A*)	D*D*	112 (A*A*)	D*D*D*	168 (A*A*A*)
D	24	D	48 (A)	D*D	104 (BBD)	D*D*D	160
M	16 (E)	M	32 (C)	DD	96 (AA)	D*DD	152
P	8	P	16 (E)	DM	80	DDD	144
				MM	64	DDM	128 (ABB)
				MP	48 (DD)	DMM	112
				PP	32	MMM	96 (CCC)
						MMP	80 (BB)
						MPP	64
						PPP	48

There are lots of online UCAS calculators – try googling them

Use this table to work out your likely UCAS points

Level 3 courses I will complete	My STG for each course	UCAS Tariff points (use the table above)	My personal target grade	UCAS Tariff points (use the table above)

Progression Week Guide - UCAS

TOTAL TARIFF		Total =		Total =

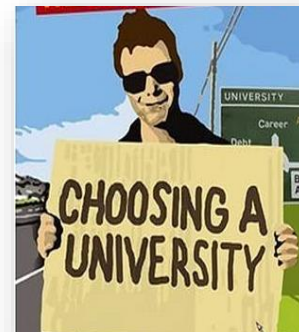
These totals may be different from each other. But they will give an indication of your likely tariff score. You can review this when you know your predicted grades in the autumn

How do I choose a university and degree? (6-8 hours)

You might not yet know what sort of Higher Education course you wish to study, let alone where you might want to study it. This is fine. The purpose of this section is that when you do decide, you will know how to look for a university and course and how to compare them and how to choose the best one for you.

Of course, if you know already what subject you want to study you can start looking for your precise course; this will give you a huge head start in your application.

There are a huge number of courses to choose from and you will be spending 3 or 4 years at University so it is **really important** to spend time researching the place and the course to make sure that you like it.



You can also take a look at subject-related information which has been put together by your teachers. A list of recommended links and resources can be found on BHASVLE under A1 Tutorial/5. Progression and wellbeing.

It is a bit of a chicken and egg situation – do I choose a university first then a course, or a subject/course and then the university? It involves a bit of backwards and forwards thinking. At the end of the process you will need to choose up to five places/courses to apply for. You need to make sure you like the place AND the course.



You could spend a good chunk of time looking at the websites mentioned in this section

A really good place to start is Discover Uni <https://discoveruni.gov.uk/>

This is a government website which pulls together loads of relevant information under these headings

- Decide if uni is right for you
- Choose what and where to study
- Find and compare courses

There are lots of other websites but some of the best ones are:

- [TheUniGuide](#) (general info)
- [Complete University Guide](#) (general info)
- [What Uni](#) (you can create an account- see below)



WhatUni

Research tools to help you with your choices



- You can sign up for a free account at WhatUni. It will help you browse courses and look at future options. Find it here <https://www.whatuni.com/>
- If you are thinking of going to uni straight after BHASVIC you will be entering uni in 2020/1. If you are thinking of taking a Gap Year first you will be entering uni in 2022.
- Write down your user name and password here to remind you

Username	Password

App tools	There are also many mobile-friendly Uni search tools online such as coursematch https://www.coursematch.io/
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Sources of information - how to read them

When reading any information about a university or course, ensure

- you are aware of who is putting forward the information
- you get advice from many different sources
- you visit the university virtually and speak to people within the department
- you compare courses at different universities.

Choosing a University – what is important to you?

Uni websites and prospectuses provide detailed info about courses and what it is like to study there. Speak to admissions staff to find out more about offers and alternative offers that may be available. Also ask about outreach programmes, summer schools and masterclasses provided. These could provide info and advice to support your decision.

Use these questions to help you decide what is important about a place/university. This should enable you to narrow down your choices

The University environment

- ❑ Do I want to be in a big city, on the outskirts of a town or in the countryside?
- ❑ Do I want to be near the sea or is this not important?
- ❑ Do I want to go to a campus university (all in one place) or is it OK if the buildings are scattered across the town/city?
- ❑ Do I require certain facilities such as a cinema, a theatre, an art gallery, a concert hall etc. to be nearby?
- ❑ How far is the university from my home? I'll need to get home sometimes for family events such as birthdays.



- ❑ How easy is it to get to the university by road or by public transport? Can I fly there cheaply?

Accommodation

- ❑ Most universities guarantee first year accommodation but what do they mean by “University accommodation” and where exactly is it?
- ❑ If the accommodation is some way from the academic centre, how do I travel, how long does it take and how much does it cost?
- ❑ What help is there with accommodation after the first year?
- ❑ What form does the accommodation take? If it is 'in hall' (where meals are provided) will I find this restricting? If it is self-catering, will I starve?
- ❑ Will I have to share accommodation?
- ❑ What about cooking and laundry facilities?

Costs

- ❑ What is the cost of accommodation and what does it include? Do not assume that it is cheap to live in the North and expensive in the South.
- ❑ Will I be able to get a Saturday job if I want one to help with the finances?
- ❑ How much is it going to cost me to travel home?
- ❑ What are costs like in the Students' Union?
- ❑ What bursaries/scholarships does the university offer? (this can make thousands of pounds worth of difference)

Leisure

- ❑ If I'm interested in certain sports, what facilities does the university offer and are they within walking distance or ten miles away?
- ❑ Do I need to be near the sea or close to mountains to pursue my particular sporting interests?
- ❑ If I'm interested in music, can I join the orchestra or sing in the choir without being a music student?
- ❑ Are there opportunities to take up a new interest or sport and receive suitable coaching?
- ❑ If I'm interested in radio broadcasting or journalism, will I be able to work on the student radio or magazine?

Once you have decided what is important, you can start looking at unis and courses using the resources below. You won't need to look at all of these – focus on what is most important to you

Prospectuses	University Prospectus Finder: Order 10 free copies to be sent to your home address. http://www.prospectusfinder.co.uk
Opinions of students	There is a lot of information online from students currently studying at uni. This is a great place to start. https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/wiki/Choosing_a_University Can you see the student forums? Find out about <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Location - city or rural?• Cost of tuition / living?• Clubs/enrichment/social life/sports?• Facilities?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholarships and bursaries? • First generation scholar's scheme/ WP /student support? • Cost of travel and books?
League Tables for Unis	<p>Use league tables carefully – they don't necessarily give you the full picture, and aren't always focused on what is best for undergraduate students.</p> <p>If you are interested, check out https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/</p>
Living Costs	<p>You might want to consider how much it costs to live in different areas of the country. This can make a big difference to the need to work while you are studying.</p> <p>Check out this article http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/personalfinance/household-bills/11033327/The-cheapest-and-most-expensive-universities-for-living-costs.html</p>
Travel from home?	<p>If you have a couple of universities in mind check out the time to travel and the cost. It is not always the distance that matters but the journey. Some trains run direct routes locally (for example Bristol and York)</p> <p>Use https://www.thetrainline.com/</p> <p>Or check out coaches http://www.nationalexpress.com/home.aspx</p>
Study abroad?	<p>Many universities offer the chance to study or work abroad for a year.</p> <p>For example, check out http://www.sussex.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/study-abroad</p> <p>More information is provided in the final section of this Guide.</p>
Interview or portfolio needed?	<p>You may need an interview for a degree course. You should find this information in the course application information on the university website</p>
Foundation year available? (This is a preparatory year before starting the full degree)	<p>The UCAS website is great for looking at potential foundation degrees which generally offer lower entry requirements than the full degree (for example, Sussex has a foundation year where the entry requirement is CCC, rather than AAB for a typical full degree)</p> <p>https://www.ucas.com/</p>
Accommodation costs	<p>DiscoverUni is a great website you can use to compare costs in different places https://discoveruni.gov.uk/</p>
Do they offer scholarships and bursaries	<p>Many universities offer financial incentives for you to study there</p> <p>Check out http://www.thescholarshipshub.org.uk/</p>

Open days

Open days can give you a real sense of what it would be like to live and study at a particular university. This summer term you are unlikely to be able to visit a university site, although this may well change in the autumn. However, many universities are offering virtual tours which will give you a good headstart on any uni you are interested in from the luxury of your room. Even if they don't provide lots of information, they may well help you cross a few unis of the list that you feel might not be for you.

If you get the chance to go to a real-life Open Day, or can attend a virtual Open Day, bear these these tips in mind

- Book a place – these can be very popular events.
- Plan the day – there can be a lot of activities to fit in.
- Ask questions, speak to student ambassadors, academic staff and professional staff to find out more about life at university.
- Go to subject talks and activities.
- Take a look at the accommodation.
- Explore the campus and the town or city.
- Write a list of questions to ask and take it with you.



Virtual Tours and Open Days	<p>Universities will need students when they re-open for business and are keen to market themselves despite lockdown.</p> <p>Take the opportunity to visit universities online and take virtual tours. You may well be surprised how much information you could gather although actually visiting the site when you are able is still recommended.</p> <p>A great ‘one stop shop’ for virtual open days or not is https://www.opendays.com/. Universities will use this as a first point of call.</p>
Virtual Tours/Open days	<p>Virtual Tours still have specific dates. Make a list. Do you need to book? Check out University Open Days visit http://www.opendays.com/ or https://www.ucas.com/events/exploring-university/find-open-day%20</p> <p>You usually have to book in advance. Make a note of the open days for any university you might be interested in</p> <p>University..... Date.....</p> <p>University..... Date.....</p> <p>University..... Date.....</p> <p>University..... Date.....</p>
Open day questions	<p>When you are able to visit a site you might be travelling a long way to visit a uni.</p> <p>Check out https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/open-days which will help you organise questions and plan the visit in advance.</p>
Funding for Open days	<p>If you part of BHASVIC’s Widening Participation scheme you may be entitled to funding from college to visit an Open day.</p> <p>Some universities also offer funding. Can you check out any of your choices and see if they offer to fund open days. Don’t forget admissions officers at university are there to help and you could give them a call and ask if you feel you may be entitled.</p>

Open Day Apps	Check out your uni choices to see if they have any Open day Apps you can download onto your phone.
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Researching Courses

It takes time!

You don't have to stick to a degree in "English" or "History" or "Mathematics". What about "American Studies", "Medieval Languages" or the "Philosophy of Mathematics"? Too many students limit their choices by sticking to "traditional" subject titles – there is much more to it than that!

By completing these activities you will have the skills to properly research courses. Obviously, if you know the sort of course you want, or even the broad area of study you are interested in, then it makes sense to research those courses. If you still have no idea just choose a course at random – remember at this early stage it is the skills we are interested in, not your final decision which could be months away.



Choosing a Course – what is important to you?



- **Interests and enjoyment** – you will spend three years studying, make sure it is something you will enjoy doing
- **Professional, academic** – thinking of a degree that gives professional qualifications (teaching/law/accounting/nursing and more)
- **Employment** – how might this lead to a job after your degree?
- **Single or combined** – see below for a reminder about the different kinds of degree courses
- **Content** – what will you be studying? See below for a useful tip
- **Assessment** – how will the course be assessed? Do you prefer coursework or exams?
- **Realistic choices** – look at your working grades. Do they match the entry requirements?

Remember you will need to work at an AAA level for three years if you apply to an AAA entry course, CCC for CCC entry and so on. Don't assume a better uni will always ask for higher grades.

Subject league Tables	<p>Which Universities excel in what subjects?</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/education/universityguide</p>
General Information	<p>Unitasterdays are offering weekly webinars for general uni information every Tuesday lunchtime</p> <p>https://www.unitasterdays.com/ut-tuesdays.aspx</p>
Types of degrees <div data-bbox="129 898 379 1205" style="border: 1px solid orange; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin-top: 20px; width: fit-content;"> <p>Think about what type of degree would suit you best</p> </div>	<p>Remember there are different types of degree. Some take longer than others. Some have a year at work or a year abroad built in. If you want to more about the different types of degree, do the following activity</p> <p>Go to the UCAS website and pick a subject area (eg Buisness, Sports Science). Find an example of a:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Single subject degree 2. Joint/combined/multidisciplinary degree (our biggest rise in applications in the past two years) 3. Sandwich degree – with work placement/year abroad 4. Degree with Sponsorship (and see the next section of this table) 5. Degree Apprenticeships (and see the next section of this table) 6. Foundation degree 7. HND / HNC
Degree Apprenticeships	<p>Earn while you learn! A great option to work and study at the same time and can mean your tuition fees are paid. They tend to be more vocational and targeted in quite specific areas but they are well worth exploring.</p> <p>https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/degree-apprenticeships</p> <p>https://www.ucas.com/alternatives/apprenticeships/apprenticeships-england/what-apprenticeships-are-available/degree-apprenticeships</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-and-degree-apprenticeships</p> <p>Some link to Foundation degrees and higher apprenticeships.</p>
Sponsored Degrees	<p>The Scholarship Hub provides information on finance, funding and http://www.thescholarshiphub.org.uk/blog/sponsored-degrees-uk</p> <p>Register and search their database for sponsored degree opportunities. Make notes of any that interest you. Or copy & paste links and info here.</p>
Other entry requirements	<p>Is there an Entrance test?</p> <p>Are there non-academic requirements, e.g. work experience</p> <p>Look for this information when you are researching degrees/universities.</p>

<p>Content of the degree</p> <p>BA or BSc??</p>	<p>Degrees are not like A levels or BTECs. There isn't a national curriculum. The content varies massively, even though they might have the same subject title.</p> <p>Look carefully at the content of each course. A good tip when deciding amongst degrees is to look at the possible modules and tick the ones you would like to study – up to year 3. It can be a useful deciding factor.</p> <p>Most degree subjects are either BA (Bachelor of Art) or BSc (Batchelor of Science). However, in some subjects, you can choose. For example, lots of Geography degrees can be BA or BSc, depending on how “sciencey” the course content is. Make sure you choose the right one....</p> <div data-bbox="1018 165 1469 667"> <p>Year three (Level 6) modules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissertation: Design and preregistration • Dissertation: Research report • Developmental Psychology • Advanced Cognitive and Biological Psychology • Counselling Psychology • Clinical Neuropsychology • Social Psychology of Peace and Conflict • Applied Behavioural Psychology • Evolutionary Neuroscience and the Origin of the Human Mind • Child and Adolescent Neuropsychology • Psychology of sexual health • Animal behaviour • Somatics for Performance and Wellbeing • Publishing Industry Project • Music Psychology – applied and experimental </div>
<p>Lecture time / independent study</p>	<p>How much time will you actually spend studying at the Uni itself?</p> <p>Find a university website and course and the contact hours you are likely to spend at uni.</p> <p>When you are considering a course, find out how much time you will actually spend on the following three main activities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lectures 2. Seminars/practicals 3. Independent study <div data-bbox="991 1137 1425 1279"> <p>You might be surprised how much these vary between courses and unis</p> </div>
<p>Assessment exams/ coursework</p>	<p>How will your work be assessed during your course? See university website information about courses: https://www.brighton.ac.uk/courses/study/marketing-management-bsc-hons.aspx</p> <p>Search for a course and can you find the criteria for three different types of assessment?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. <div data-bbox="1042 1529 1476 1671"> <p>You might be surprised how much these vary between courses and unis</p> </div>
<p>University Ranking?</p>	<p>If you are interested in the rankings of different courses try using the Whatuni website. However, remember that the league table does not necessarily tell you which course will suit YOU best https://www.whatuni.com/</p>
<p>Subjects needed</p>	<p>Check subjects needed for any degree course Generally all A levels / BTECs are acceptable - depending on course / university. Some “high tariff” universities have a preference for students with at least two</p>

	<p>'Facilitating Subjects'. However, for some degrees this is not at all relevant. For example, Drama, Music and Dance would be excellent for any performance-related degree.</p> <p>Check Mechanical Engineering at Bristol University as an example. The Uni Guide is a good source.</p> <p>What A-level subjects are needed?</p>
Professional qualifications?	<p>Browse https://www.prospects.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/professional-courses</p> <p>Give three examples of professional qualifications that could be gained while studying a degree.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3.
Studying in Scotland	<p>Degrees studied in Scotland tend to be more modular and the main subjects are not studied until the second year. http://www.studyinscotland.org/find-a-university/</p>
Are work placements offered?	<p>Most universities will offer work placements. Check out http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/placements for example. If this is important to you, see the next section below.</p>

Work Placements

Work Placements at Uni for a term or year are a great way to gain experience in your chosen career. They also increase your employability for when you graduate from uni.

<p>What might be the advantages of taking on a work placement through your university degree?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 4. <p>Struggling to think of any? Try http://www.thebigchoice.com/Placements/Advice/Benefits_of_a_Work_Placement.html</p>	<p>Complete this activity if you are interested in a work placement as part of your degree course</p>
<p>Work placements offered? Most universities will offer work placements. Check out http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/placements for example</p> <p>Have you got particular universities in mind. What work placements might they offer and where?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 	
Check out	

<http://www.totalprofessions.com/university-students/work-placements>

Particularly useful section on sector-specific graduate schemes

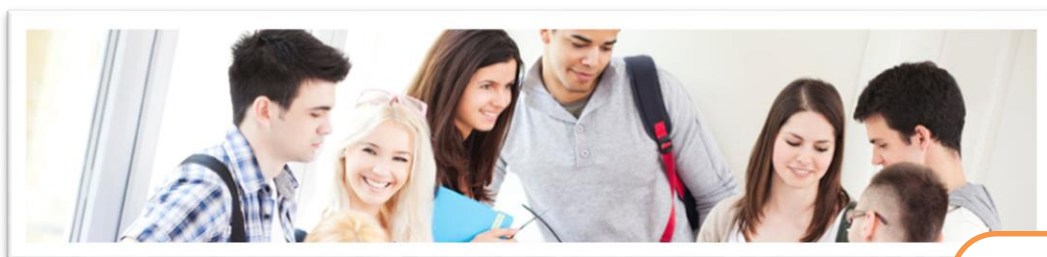
Lots of ideas for students and gap year schemes

<http://www.studentladder.co.uk/work-placements.html>

University Taster Courses

University Taster courses can be a good way to experience the academic and social life at university before completing an application. However, at the moment, with COVID-19 it is possible that universities will have scaled back what they are offering here.

Prospectuses	<p>Search on the UCAS site for possible taster courses.</p> <p>https://www.ucas.com/events/exploring-university/learn-about-uni-taster-course</p> <p>Copy and paste any interesting links here.</p>
London taster courses	<p>Check out London taster courses</p> <p>http://www.london.ac.uk/5197.html</p>
Taster Course alerts	<p>Register for taster courses alerts for the subject areas you are interested in.</p> <p>https://www.unitasterdays.com/</p>
Student events	<p>Another useful site. Explore and look for interesting events.</p> <p>http://mystudentevents.com/</p> <p>Copy and paste any interesting links here.</p>



Checklist for university courses

1. A level/BTEC results

- ☐ Am I likely to come near the grades/points they are asking for?
- ☐ Do I meet the specific subject requirements for the course?

Use this checklist to help you decide if a course is the right one for you

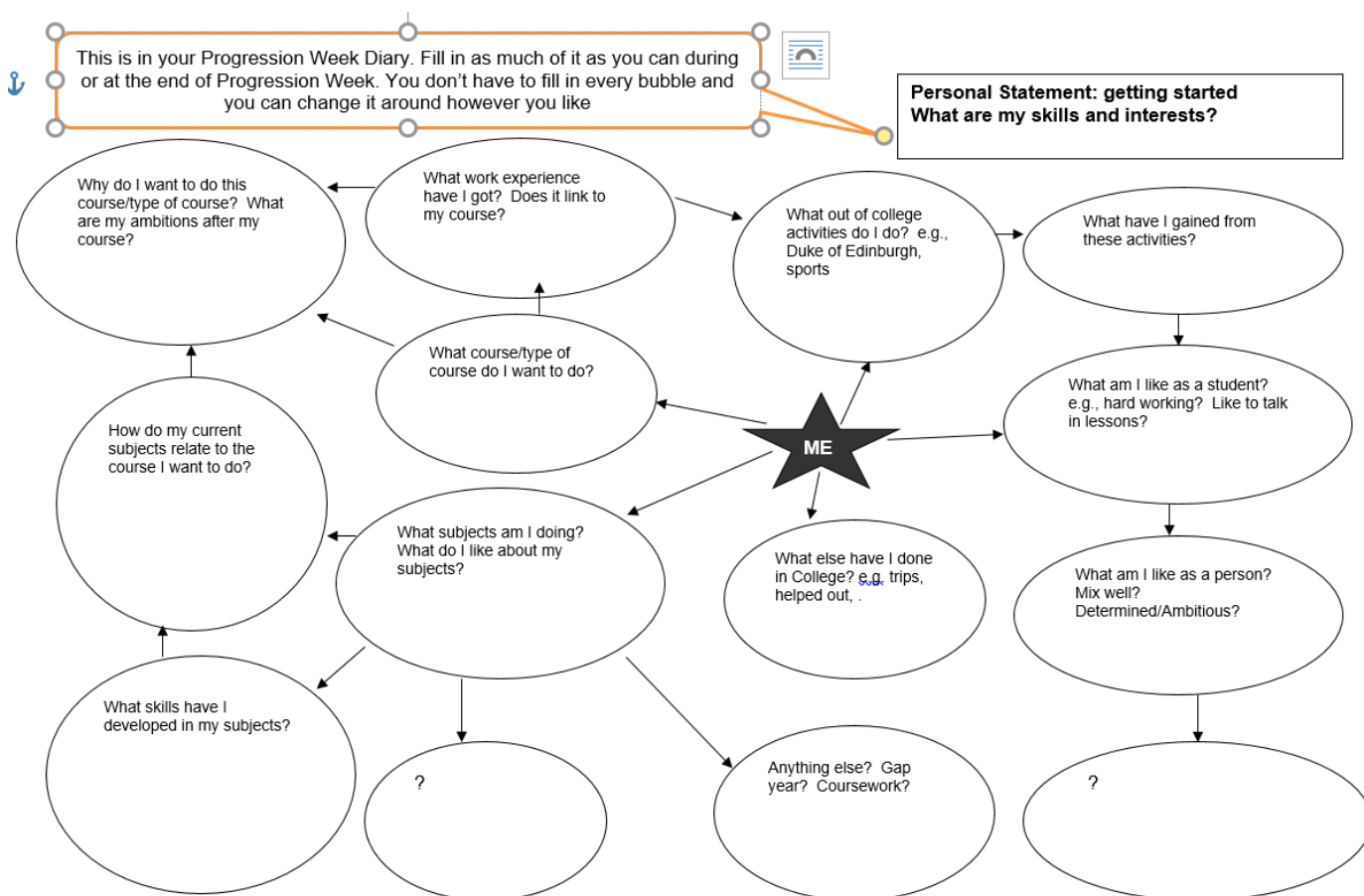
2. The course

- ❑ Does the course contain those aspects of the subject I definitely want to study and avoid those I do not want? Courses with the same course title at different universities often have very different course contents.
- ❑ Is the course taught and assessed in a way which suits me? Do I prefer lots of contact with the lecturers, or being left largely to my own devices? Do I prefer more course work assessment to almost total dependence on written examination assessment?
- ❑ What is the length of the course?
- ❑ How flexible is the course and how much choice do I have in what I study?
- ❑ Is there an opportunity for work placement as part of the course? If there is, will I have to find the placement myself or will the university find it?
- ❑ If I want sponsorship, can I get help from the university?
- ❑ Does the course lead to any professional qualifications which are recognised by the relevant professional bodies?
- ❑ What are the job prospects with a degree from this university?
- ❑ If I want to learn a foreign language do I have the opportunity?
- ❑ Are there opportunities to study part of the course abroad?

What are my skills and interests? (1-2 hours)

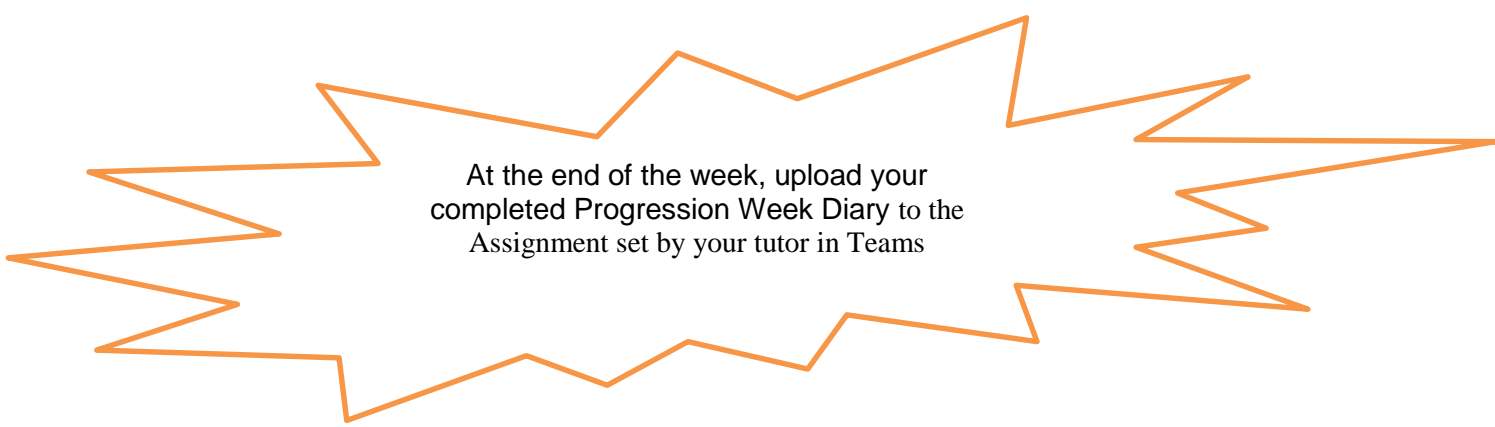
A key part of your application to university will be your personal statement. This is the biggest part of your UCAS form. Creating and finalising your personal statement takes a lot of time, but it is something BHASVIC is very good at helping students with. In the autumn term your personal tutor will provide you with advice and guidance and will give you feedback on your draft statement.

At this stage a good starting point is to reflect on your skills and interests. In your Progression Week Diary is a copy of this spider diagram. Please fill it in as part of your Diary before uploading it to your tutor's Assignment on Teams.



Complete my Progression Week Diary

**and upload to Teams
(1 hour)**



At the end of the week, upload your
completed Progression Week Diary to the
Assignment set by your tutor in Teams

Additional resources:

Study abroad, Further Education, Art Foundation and Visual Arts Degrees, Gap Years, Apprenticeships and Employment

Study Abroad (Overseas University)



Many degrees offer students a chance to study abroad, for example most foreign languages courses will include a year abroad, as will American Studies courses.

However, increasingly, UK students are considering studying all of their degree abroad. This is largely due to the fact that the increase in fees for UK universities has meant students are looking abroad for possibly better value courses or a new and now affordable experience.

BHASVIC can help provide you with a lot of information about this route and we can pass on the advice and guidance based on the experience of previous students who have applied to study abroad.

However, because each country is slightly different in what it wants from an application, you must be prepared to **take responsibility for your own route through the various application processes. This will include:**

- The timings of the application process
- The requirements – in terms of personal statements, grades etc.
- Studying for and sitting any required tests, such as the USA's crucial SAT tests
- Thinking about money, working out the full costs and how you will fund your studies

University Opportunities	http://thestudentworld.edufindme.com/
Degrees in Europe	http://www.eunicas.co.uk/
Undergraduate opportunities abroad	http://astarfuture.co.uk/
Study Abroad	https://www.studyabroad.com/
Study Abroad	http://www.studyoverseas.com/
University rankings	https://www.topuniversities.com/
Study in Holland	http://studyinholland.co.uk/

If studying abroad is of interest to you take a look through these websites, and fill in the questions in the boxes below

USA Applications	http://www.fulbright.org.uk/
Australia & New Zealand	http://www.studyoptions.com/
Canada	http://www.educanada.ca/

Think about studying abroad; what are the advantages?

As you can see there are a lot of good reasons to consider studying abroad. But there are other things you need to consider.....

What might be the problems with applying to an international university and studying abroad?

What might be the advantages of taking the opportunity to study abroad at some time during your university degree?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Struggling to think of any? Try <https://www.topuniversities.com/student-info/studying-abroad/studying-abroad-benefits>

Have you got particular universities in mind.

What opportunities to study abroad might they offer and where?

- 1.
- 2.

3.

Further Education

You may decide that you don't want to go straight to uni but want to continue studying locally. If this is the case you could look at other local colleges or school sixth forms – remember if you have studied at BHASVIC for two years you have potentially one more year of free education. This may be useful if:

- You want a complete subject change and different pathway (although sometimes university foundation years might be better option)
- You wish to stay local and continue studying at Level 3
- If you feel your results may not be as expected you can add a course to top up your UCAS points

Check out the full list of other colleges and providers on BHASVIC's Careers page on BHASVLE. Let your tutor know if this is your preferred option so that they can guide you through this process.

Art Foundation and Visual Arts degrees

There is a separate Progression Week Guide for students who are interested in Art Foundation courses or visual arts courses at university. Students in this groups should have chosen the Visual Arts tutorial pathway already. If you are just interested in this as a possibility, take a look at the Visual Arts pages on BHASVLE.

If you think you should have chosen the Visual Arts pathway, please contact your tutor urgently to let them know.

Gap Years

There is lots of useful information out there if you are thinking of a gap year however, the landscape for gap years in the next year or two is very likely to change. Global travel may well not be possible in the same way as it has been in the past.

General Advice	Lots of general good advice and information http://gapadvice.org/ It is worth having a look at the costs.
Work Opportunities	Really useful info on working through your gap year https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/gap-year
Government Advice	Useful government advice https://www.gov.uk/guidance/gap-year-foreign-travel-advice Name 3 issues to consider before travelling abroad on a gap year

	1. 2. 3.
More useful travel advice	https://travelaware.campaign.gov.uk/
Year in Industry	Fancy a year in industry – have a look at some of the opportunities available http://www.etrust.org.uk/the-year-in-industry
Student forum	Great ideas from those who have taken a gap year, or are considering it with all the research done http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/search-beta/?tsr-search-query=gap+year
Great advice on gap years	Including a useful section on A level retakes https://www.studential.com/gap-year-guide https://successatschool.org/advice/gap-years https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/alternatives-higher-education/gap-years

Apprenticeships and employment

There is a separate Progression Week Guide for students who are interested in apprenticeships and employment. Students in this group should have chosen the Employability and Enterprise tutorial pathway already. If you are just interested in this as a possibility, take a look at the Employability and Enterprise pages on BHASVLE.

If you think you should have chosen the Employability and Enterprise pathway, please contact your tutor urgently to let them know.

Career Paths and Ideas – additional information

Career Paths & Ideas

Consider any potential career path in your research but remember your future job might not have been invented yet!

UCAS Ideas:	For students that have no idea about what university course to study at degree, a good starting point is https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/what-study
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Higher Ideas	The ' Higher Ideas ' site can also help. It's on the VLE: VLE > Student Services > Careers > Help with Decision Making . Select the Ideas Generator and enter your current A-level subjects / interests to get some ideas on possible degree options.
SACU	SACU (UCAS backwards) : The Spartan Test is excellent for giving course and career options http://sacu-student.com/?page_id=2850
HEAP Online	HEAP Online is excellent as all the university course choices are grouped together in UCAS points, not alphabetically. Go to VLE > Student Services > Careers and Next Steps > Help with Decision Making for access to the site and instructions on how to log in.
Careers Advice	This guide provides a good overview of how to support young people making career choices http://www.careersadviceforparents.org/p/choosing-career-paths.html
National Careers Service	The National Careers Service has a good overview of different job profiles which includes their entry requirements and training paths, duties and hours of work: https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/home
Career Videos	Explore career videos: http://icould.com/
Career Planner	Career Planner Questionnaire : https://www.prospects.ac.uk/planner
Career Sectors	Target Careers has information by sector and a parents section of the website https://targetcareers.co.uk/
Careers	Plotr has information on a wide range of careers http://www.plotr.co.uk/
Carers, Education and student life	https://www.brightknowledge.org/
Range of options if you are not going to Uni	http://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/
Exploring options	https://successatschool.org/

Graduate Jobs

Take the time to research where any degree will take you.

Prospects	Explore jobs related to different degrees through Prospects https://www.prospects.ac.uk/
OCR Careers	OCR Careers page for learners and parents http://www.ocr.org.uk/ocr-for/learners-and-parents/careers/

London taster courses	Careers websites offering information on a range of options https://www.brightknowledge.org/ https://successatschool.org/
What can I do with my degree?	https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree
What degree for what career?	https://targetcareers.co.uk/careers-advice/choices-about-uni/242-which-degree-do-you-need-for-which-career#specific

Appendix

Glossary of terms, List of links

Glossary of terms

Institutions

- ❑ **Higher Education** Course at an institution, which leads to a post advanced course qualification (E.g. Degree, Foundation Degree, Diploma in Higher Education, etc.)
- ❑ **University** Institution which provides primarily academic courses leading to degrees and in some cases other Higher Education qualifications (E.g. HND)
- ❑ **Oxbridge** The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge
- ❑ **Colleges and Institutes of Higher Education** A variety of institutions, which offer degrees validated by a local university.
- ❑ **Campus University** Style of more modern university design, where the university is situated on a green field site outside a city, has large grounds with all buildings, accommodation, lecture rooms, laboratories, Union buildings together (Surrey and Sussex are examples).
- ❑ **Collegiate University** A large traditional university comprising a group of colleges each of which has its own character and teaching staff (E.g. Oxford, Cambridge, Durham and York).
- ❑ **College of Technology/Technical College** Further Education institutions providing mostly vocational courses for full and part-time students for diploma or other certificated qualification. Some colleges also provide degree courses validated by a local university.
- ❑ **Russell Group** This is an association of 20 major research-intensive universities of the UK. These universities are Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Imperial College, King's College, Leeds, Liverpool, LSE, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Queen's (Belfast), Oxford, Sheffield, Southampton, UCL, Warwick.



Degree Structure

- ❑ **Single** One subject.
- ❑ **Joint** Two subjects studied equally.
- ❑ **Combined** Two or three subjects studied in varying proportions.
- ❑ **Foundation/Access/Conversion Course** One year course for students lacking appropriate A-level qualifications (does not necessarily guarantee progression to degree study).
- ❑ **Foundation Degree** These degrees were introduced in 2001 and are learning degrees delivered by further education colleges, universities and other training institutions working in partnership. Students will often study at a further or higher education college, but their degree will be validated by a university.
- ❑ **Modular** Self-contained units, minimum number required to be studied, mix and match.
- ❑ **Vocational** Directly linked to a career.
- ❑ **Sandwich** Practical experience included.
- ❑ **Sponsorship** Schemes by which some industrial and professional organisations find financial assistance for some courses. Competitive. May involve a commitment to working for the organisation
- ❑ **International element** Chance to study and work abroad.



List of useful links

Options & Careers

Career and Subject Explorer: https://sacu-student.com/?page_id=2850

Great careers advice: <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/professional-courses>

Choosing a career path: <http://www.careersadviceforparents.org/p/choosing-career-paths.html>

Real stories to inspire careers: <http://icould.com/>

Career Planner Questionnaire: <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/planner>

Careers and Uni advice for school leavers: <https://targetcareers.co.uk/>

Useful Careers Guidance: <http://www.plotr.co.uk/>

Lots of useful advice on life in HE: <https://www.brightknowledge.org/>

Careers advice: <https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/>

University Research

Essential resource: <https://www.ucas.com/what-are-my-options/create-your-ucas-hub-today>

Another essential website: <https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/>

UCAS City Guides: <https://www.ucas.com/city-guides>

UCAS points calculator: <http://www.universityfinder.org.uk/ucas-points-calculator.html>

Free student account: <https://www.whatuni.com/>

Download Uni PDF Prospectuses: <http://www.prospectusfinder.co.uk>

Scottish Universities: <http://www.studyinscotland.org/find-a-university/>

Comments from students: https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/wiki/Choosing_a_University

Complete University Tables: <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/>

Guardian league tables: <https://www.theguardian.com/education/universityguide>

Compare courses & stats: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/student-information-and-data/discover-uni-and-unistats/>

Finance / Scholarships

Student Loans Company www.slc.co.uk

UCAS www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/finance-and-support

Student Finance England www.sfengland.slc.co.uk

Student Finance www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance

Money Saving Expert <http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/student-loans-tuition-fees-changes>

Scholarships available <http://www.thescholarshipshub.org.uk/>

Which Consumer Advice: https://www.which.co.uk/money/university-and-student-finance/student-finance?utm_source=whichcouk&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=teachers050220

Open days / Taster Days / Summer Schools / Events

Open Day details <http://www.opendays.com/> or <https://www.ucas.com/events/exploring-university/find-open-day%20>

Useful open day questions: <https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/open-days>

London taster days: <http://www.london.ac.uk/5197.html>

Uni taster days: <https://www.unitasterdays.com/>

Student events: <http://mystudentevents.com/>

Work Placements

Why a work placement:

http://www.thebigchoice.com/Placements/Advice/Benefits_of_a_Work_Placement.html

Opportunities: <http://www.studentladder.co.uk/work-placements.html>

Info about placements: <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/work-experience-and-internships/work-placements>

Professional Development: <http://www.etrust.org.uk/the-year-in-industry>

Study Abroad

Information & Advice: <http://thestudentworld.edufindme.com/>

Europe: <http://www.eunicas.co.uk/>

Holland: <http://astarfuture.co.uk/>

Information & Advice: <https://www.studyabroad.com/>

Information & Advice: <http://www.studyoverseas.com/>

Information & Advice: <https://www.topuniversities.com/>

Holland: <http://studyinholland.co.uk/>

USA: <http://www.fulbright.org.uk/>

Information & Advice: <http://www.studyoptions.com/>

Canada: <http://www.educanada.ca/>

Benefits of studying abroad: <https://www.topuniversities.com/student-info/studying-abroad/studying-abroad-benefits>

Gap year

Information & Advice: <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/gap-year>

Information & Advice: <https://www.studential.com/gap-year-guide>

Information & Advice: <https://successatschool.org/advice/gap-years>

Safe travel abroad: <https://travelaware.campaign.gov.uk/>

Ideas and thoughts: <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/alternatives-higher-education/gap-years>

Volunteering

Worldwide gap Volunteering: [BUNAC](#)

UK Volunteering: [Volunteering England](#)

