

Thinking about university?

A guide to researching your options in 2020



It is unlikely that you will be able to visit a university to attend an open day until spring at the earliest. Do not let this stop you from making an informed choice if you are considering university. Remember that you can apply for up to five universities **and** you can still apply for other pathways such as apprenticeships.

The **UCAS Course Search** is a powerful tool that lists every single course on offer in the UK.

Start by searching for the subject you want to study. You can then apply filters to narrow your search. For example, you might be more interested in universities located in a particular region, like the south west.

<https://digitalucas.com/search>

Looking at **University League Tables** can be helpful if you find the UCAS Course Search overwhelming. Select a subject and you will see a rank order for universities that offer that subject. Remember that the rankings take into consideration several factors. Do not disregard a university just because it is lower in the rankings.

<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings>

Once you have made a shortlist of potential universities, you can narrow your search by focusing on individual university websites. The best starting point is **the course page** as it will provide information about the content of the course, modules that you will study, entry requirements and career progression.

For example, here is the Bournemouth University course page for Paramedic Science:

<https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/study/courses/bsc-hons-paramedic-science>

You should also consider other aspects of the university, such as accommodation. It would be sensible to attend a **virtual open day**. These are often prominently displayed on a university's main website.

The Bournemouth University Events section is linked from the website home page:

<https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/about/news-events/events>

If you still have questions then you should **contact the university directly**. Whether you have questions about the content of a course or queries about accommodation, all universities have dedicated teams to answer your questions or put you in contact with someone who can.

Even if you don't really have a question, it would be wise to get in touch with your shortlisted universities! You can learn a lot about a university from the way they handle your query.

Bournemouth University has a comprehensive 'Contact Us' page, as do all universities:

<https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/about/how-contact-us>

The Thomas Hardy Sixth Form deadline for UCAS applications is 23rd November for current year 13 students, to give us time to add the reference before the final deadline (15th January). After this date, universities will make you offers based on the entry requirements. Once you have received all of your offers, you can choose a 'first choice' and an 'insurance choice'. **You don't have to make this decision until the end of May.**