



Understanding **UNIVERSITY**

WHY STUDY AT

YOUR FUTURE CAREER

It's never too early to start thinking about the job you might like to do in the future! If you're thinking of becoming a nurse, teacher, lawyer, doctor or vet then you'll need formal qualifications – the kind you only get at university. By going to university you also increase your chances of getting a higher paid and more interesting job.

STUDY WHAT YOU LOVE

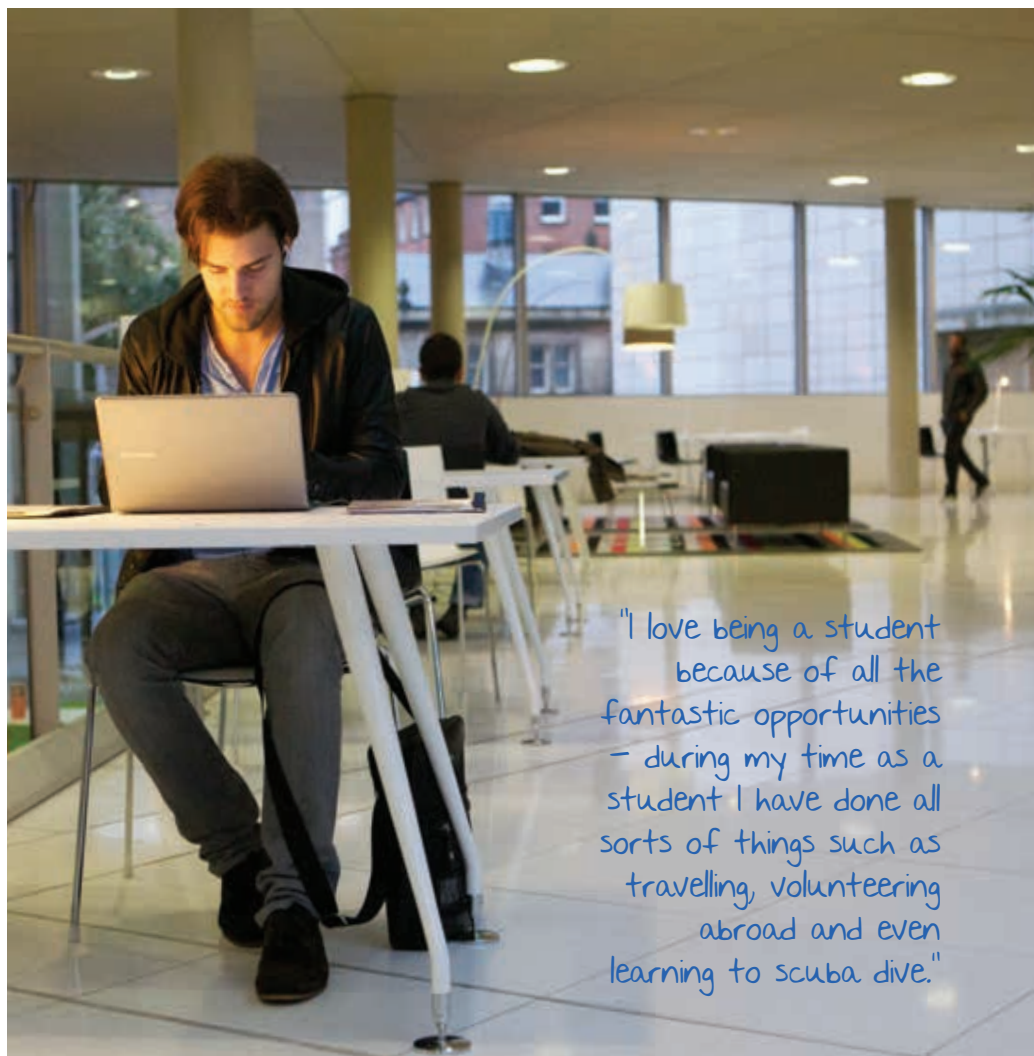
One of the good things about university is that you get to spend more time studying subjects you really love. Unlike sixth form or college, at university you don't have to study any subjects you don't like. Just choose your favourite subject or the one you need to get your dream job.

THE UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

Learn to be independent, manage your time and money, live somewhere new, meet new people and experience new things.

"At university you have the opportunity to study a subject you really enjoy in depth, while having fun and meeting new people."

UNIVERSITY?



"I love being a student because of all the fantastic opportunities - during my time as a student I have done all sorts of things such as travelling, volunteering abroad and even learning to scuba dive."

HOW DO I GET TO UNIVERSITY?

GCSEs are really important for your future. Most colleges and sixth forms will require 5 A*– C GCSEs including Maths and English as a minimum. Some universities even take GCSE grades into account.

It's important to make the right choices when you go to sixth form or college. If you know you want to go to university, it's worth checking whether you need to have studied a particular subject before, in order to get onto a course. If you're not sure whether university is for you, choose subjects you enjoy and that will keep your options open.



"I started looking into university in Year 11 because I knew that I may need to take particular A-levels to get onto the courses that I had in mind."

AFTER GCSES OR EQUIVALENT

SIXTH FORM OR COLLEGE

A-levels

Job specific
courses

BTECs

Apprenticeships

International
Baccalaureate

UNIVERSITY



There are around 50,000 courses to choose from across the UK! At Nottingham Trent University we offer courses in:

Accounting and Finance

Architecture and the Built Environment

Art and Design

Biosciences

Business and Management

Chemistry and Forensics

Civil Engineering

Communication and Society

Computing, ICT and Information Systems

Conservation

Construction

Creative Writing

Ecology

Economics

Education, Teaching and Early Years

English

Environment

Equine Science

European and Global Studies

WHAT CAN I STUDY?

At university you can study for a degree which usually lasts for three years if you are studying full-time. Some courses may last longer. You can also take a placement year where you work in a job linked to your course and get paid a salary, while gaining valuable experience. You then return to university to complete your degree.

"I chose a subject that I loved at school and I know that by studying at uni, it will help me to secure a job that I will enjoy in the future."



"I decided to study Law at university because I wanted to be a barrister."



Fashion and Textiles

Film and TV

Forensics

Games Technology

Garden Design and Horticulture

Geography

Health

History

International Relations

Journalism

Languages (including modern languages and Joint Honours degrees)

Law and Criminology

Linguistics

Marketing

Media

Pharmacology

Philosophy

Physics and Maths

Politics

Product Design

Property

Psychology

Social Work

Sociology

Sport and Exercise Science

Surveying

Wildlife and Animal Sciences

STUDENT LIFE

IT'S NOT ALL HARD WORK

There is more to being a student than just studying. The other activities you take part in alongside your course will be a big part of your student life...



"I have got involved in so many exciting activities since starting university. I have volunteered in the local community, raised money and climbed Mount Kilimanjaro. I also help to run the drama society and regularly put on shows."

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Universities have a wide variety of clubs and societies that students join in their free time. Whether you have a sport or hobby that you want to continue at university or whether you just want to try something completely new and meet new people, there will be a club or society to suit you. At NTU there's everything from snowboarding to cheerleading to computer gaming to hip hop dance.

INDEPENDENT LIVING

Lots of students choose to move away from home to study at university. It's a great opportunity to gain some independence, live somewhere new and meet new people. Most first year students live in halls of residences, which are blocks of flats where just students live – usually really close to the university.

WHAT ELSE?

During their time at university students also volunteer in the local community and get work experience which helps them to get a job when they finish their degree.

YOU'RE NOT ON YOUR OWN

If you need a bit of extra support while you're at university there are lots of people in the Student Support team who can help you. They provide support with finance, accommodation, workload, disabilities, faith and mental health.

"I love living away from home! The independence that comes with it and also the freedom is great. It is exciting to live with your friends and one of the best parts of uni is living on campus."



STUDENT FINANCE EXPLAINED!

Unlike school and college, you have to pay to go to university. The main costs are tuition fees and living costs (these would be less if a student lived at home) **but nobody has to pay anything upfront.** Here's how it works...

Tuition fee loan	A loan from the government paid directly to the university to cover the full cost of the course. All UK students are entitled to this loan of up to £9,000.
Maintenance loan	A loan of up to £7,675 a year to cover living expenses such as rent, food, books, travel etc .
Maintenance grant (non-repayable)	Up to £3,354 paid into your bank account. Whether you can receive this, and the amount you get depends on your household income.
Bursaries and scholarships (non-repayable)	Extra money available to some students depending on household income and circumstances. You don't have to pay this back.
Part-time job	Lots of students also have a part-time job while they are at university and during their holidays.
Paying it back Students only start to pay back the loan once they have finished university and are earning over £21,000. They only pay back a little amount each month and the loan is wiped after 30 years. If a graduate earned £25,000 a year, they would only pay back approximately £30 each month. Having a student loan does not affect their credit rating or eligibility to apply for a mortgage.	

"Don't let the cost of uni put you off! I come from a single parent family and I was able to apply for various bursaries to help out with living costs which I won't have to pay back."



"University sounds like it's a lot of money but it's an investment in your future and means that you can apply for jobs where you can earn a much higher salary."

USEFUL CONTACTS

www.ntu.ac.uk – info about Nottingham Trent University

www.ucas.com – info about all HE courses in the UK

www.studentfinance.direct.gov.uk – finance information

www.slc.co.uk – financial support information

www.futuresnn.co.uk – careers advice

www.passportfolio.com – search engine for progression routes

www.brightknowledge.org – info about careers, education and student life

www.push.co.uk – independent guide to UK universities

unistats.direct.gov.uk – the official website for comparing UK higher education course data

ANY QUESTIONS?

Schools Colleges and Community Outreach

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