

Thinking about University

Teacher Guidance



Who is this lesson for?

This activity is designed primarily for Year 12 students beginning A-level courses and interested in applying to university.

With minor adaptations it would also be suitable for younger students who are being supported to think about university or Year 13 students finalising their UCAS decisions.

Objectives

1. To identify potential career pathways.
2. To understand sources of information regarding universities.
3. To understand the application timeline.
4. To identify opportunities for building a great application in Year 12.

Outcome: Students have created an action plan for university process preparation

Lesson Structure

This lesson has been designed to be delivered either as a one-hour session, or as four 15-minute activities (for use in form time, etc.)

Teachers are welcome to make any reasonable changes to the content in order for it to meet their students' needs.

Please note that there are significant overlaps between activities in this session and those in 'Thinking about a Career' - we recommend that schools choose one of these sessions depending on the needs and ambitions of their students.

Possible Next Steps

Extension Activities: Ongoing completion of the course research table (slide 16) and the experience tracker (slide 18); draft personal statement.

Links to useful organisations: [Prospects](#)

[UCAS](#)

[The Complete University Guide](#)

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Slide	Timings	Content Guidance
1	Title Slide	Thinking about University
2	Contents	Including necessary resources
3	Activity 1	What do you want to be when you grow up?
4	15 minutes	Introduction to thinking about possible careers. Students are tasked with answering a range of questions to establish what they might be interested in.
5		In pairs/groups/whole class, students are tasked to think about how they might choose a course in order to reach a particular career goal (i.e. working backwards from a desired end-point)
6		In pairs/groups/whole class, students are tasked to think about possible careers may follow from a chosen degree course (i.e. working forwards from an established starting-point)
7	Activity 2	How do you decide?
8	15 minutes	Link provided to the careers guidance page at Prospects.ac.uk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where students have internet access they can research the various career options and complete the task. Where students do not have internet access, teachers can pre-select a relevant course page for student discussion.
9		Link provided to the UCAS course guidance page <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where students have internet access they can research the various course options and complete the task. Where students do not have internet access, teachers can pre-select a relevant course page for student discussion.
10		Link provided to a university league table <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where students have internet access they can check the table and complete the task. Where students do not have internet access, teachers can present the table for student discussion.
11	Activity 3	The UCAS process
12	15 minutes	Introduction to the UCAS process, from making a course selection, to applying, and to starting the course. This page does not go into much detail given the introductory nature, however teachers can adapt this depending on the nature of their group.
13		Introduction to what information is required by UCAS. This page does not go into much detail given the introductory nature, however teachers can adapt this depending on the nature of their group.
14		Example timetable of when different application processes/activities take place - note that this will be different for each institution and can be adapted by teachers.

15	Activity 4	What can you do now?
16	15 minutes	Example of a course research table which can be used to collate potential university details.
17		Introduction to the Personal Statement - students are tasked with coming up with examples for each component of the statement.
18		Example of an experience tracker which can be used to keep a record of relevant experiences in Year 12.
19	Link to wearencs.com	