

How do I help my students choose a university and course?

Name of school/organisation



Session introduction

Learning outcomes

By the end of this session, you will have:

- a deeper understanding of the differences between universities and degree courses
- identified an effective structure and process for helping students choose the most appropriate universities and courses to apply to
- considered ways to improve the support provided to students making university decisions.



Reflecting on current practice



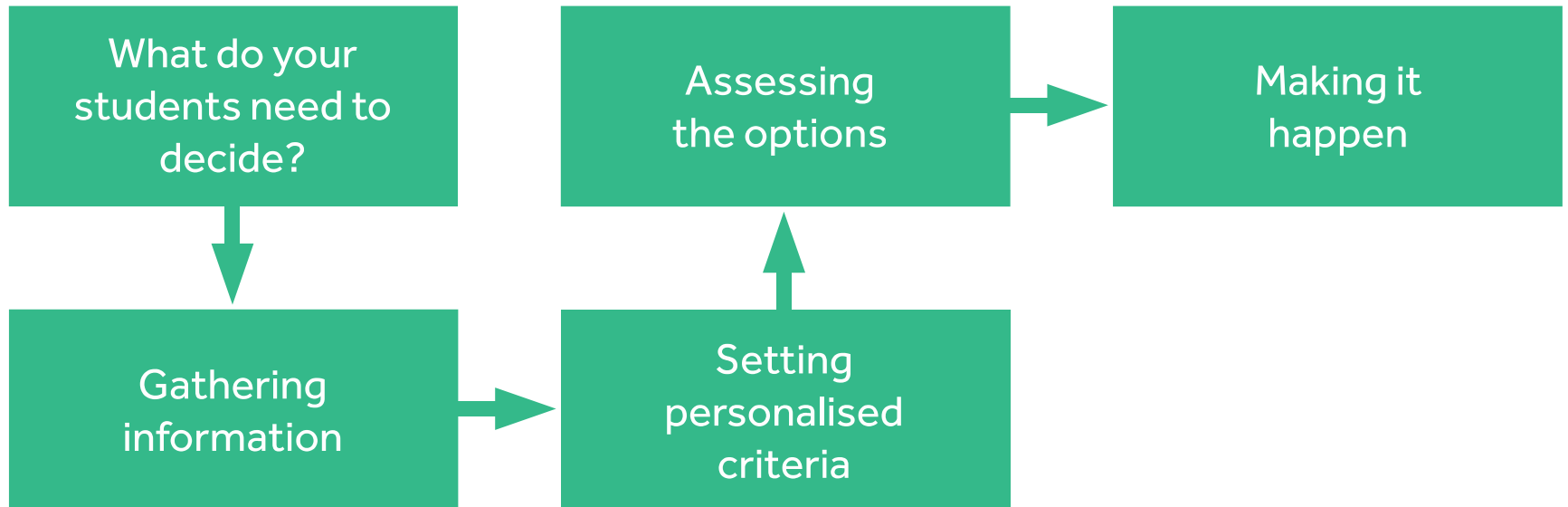
Working in groups

- Discuss how you support students choosing whether to apply to university and which universities and courses to apply for.
- Share aspects of good practice that you would recommend to others.
- Consider where there might be any room for improvement.

 10 minutes



Decision-making process



Decision-making process

Louise

- achieved five grade As and A*s at GCSE in English, mathematics, French, biology and chemistry
- achieved five grade Bs at GCSE in history, physics, music, art and Welsh
- excelled in biology at GCSE but it took a lot of revision and hard work
- is studying A-levels in chemistry, biology and mathematics
- is a keen musician and plays 5-a-side football
- enjoys working with people and has a Saturday job in a local shoe shop
- wants her degree to provide a good chance of getting a well paid job and successful career.



Using section 1 in the 'How do I help my students choose a university and course?' guidebook follow the decision-making process to decide which subject areas Louise could apply for and set a plan of action.

Decision-making process

After using the decision-making process to make a plan of action for Louise, in groups consider:

- which aspects of the decision-making process you feel your students currently focus on
- which steps your students miss out
- how you currently support each step of the decision-making process.



Encouraging your students to reflect

Your students should consider:

- their interests and strengths
- how to build on their experience
- their future career aspirations.

Only **50% of graduate-level** jobs require a particular degree subject.

Work experience can help students to confirm their strengths and consider career pathways.

Remember: Work experience is not a requirement for all courses but it can be vital when applying for courses like medicine, veterinary science, law, nursing, social work and midwifery.



Universities and courses

Universities and courses vary significantly in:

- content
- teaching styles
- assessment methods
- types of accreditation
- availability of work experience
- reputation
- career prospects.



Different types of course



Joint honours



Study abroad



Sandwich courses



Integrated masters



Alternative entry routes



Degree apprenticeships



For more information see page 24 of the guide



Different teaching styles



Lectures



Seminars and tutorials



Case studies



Group work



Work placements



Problem-based learning



Practical work



For more information see page 28 of the guide



Different assessment methods

 Examinations

 Presentations

 Research projects

 Dissertations

 Project work

 Reports and essays

 For more information see page 30 of the guide



University and course choice



List all the reasons why students choose a particular course and university and rank them in order of importance.

location

financial support

sports facilities

league table position

student satisfaction survey

experience during an open day

number of societies

teaching style

near a city

close to home

employability

where friends are applying to

Sources of information

- Universities (in their prospectuses and websites, student blogs and YouTube channels and at Open Days)
- Discover Uni
- League tables
- UCAS
- Prospects
- Total professions
- University outreach activities



Are there any other good sources of information available to your students?



Comparing universities and courses



Use the Discover Uni website to compare one degree subject across all universities.

Step one - choose a degree subject

Step two - chose two universities as follows:

- one university from the local area
- one university that is popular with your students.

Step three - load the Discover Uni website to compare the degree subject at the universities you have selected.



Questions

What does Discover Uni tell you about the course?

What differences between the courses does it highlight?

Does Discover Uni tell you all you need to know about the course?

If not, what is missing?

Where would you find additional information?

Discover Uni

Discover Uni can tell you:

- how the course will be taught – if it is available full or part-time, course length and if distance learning is available
- student satisfaction levels
- entry information including the percentages of students who enrolled onto the course after A-levels or different higher education qualifications etc.
- Earnings and employment data 6 months and 3 years after the course, including common jobs
- UCAS Tariff points
- whether there is the option to take a foundation or placement year as well as the opportunity to study abroad



For more information see page 33 of the guide



After today's session.

“What have you learned and how could you embed some of the information from today's session into the support you provide to students?”



ADVANCING ACCESS

24 leading universities
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London School of Economics and Political Science / University of Manchester / Newcastle University
University of Nottingham / University of Oxford / Queen Mary University of London / Queen's University Belfast
University of Sheffield / University of Southampton / University College London / University of Warwick / University of York