

A TOOLKIT FOR PLANNING YOUR FUTURE

GETTING THE MOST FROM SACU



NAME

SCHOOL

DATE STARTED



USING SACU TO PLAN YOUR FUTURE

WHETHER YOU HAVE JUST STARTED STUDYING LEVEL 3 QUALIFICATIONS OR HAVE BEEN DOING THEM FOR A WHILE, IT'S TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT YOUR FUTURE.

YOU MAY KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU WANT TO DO, YOU MAY NOT HAVE A CLUE OR YOU MIGHT BE SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN! BEFORE YOU FINISH SIXTH FORM OR COLLEGE, YOU'LL NEED TO MAKE SOME DECISIONS ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT TO DO NEXT.

This workbook will help you with the next stage of decision making. It will guide you through SACU – a fantastic online tool. Using SACU can help you discover and decide on a career as well as the university courses you could study.

If you are unsure about what you want to do in the future, SACU helps you figure out what really interests you. And if you already have your future all mapped out, it will give your research a boost.



USEFUL AREAS TO EXPLORE ON SACU

+ CAREER QUIZ

Discover careers, university level courses and apprenticeships that you could study

+ YOUR CLOUD RESULTS

The quiz results provide clouds in which each career or course links to resources where you can find out more

+ YOUR BOOKMARKS

Save all the careers and/or courses you are interested in

+ YOUR TOP 10

List your top 10 careers or courses

+ SHARE WITH FAMILY OR TEACHERS

Share your results with a teacher, parent or a friend to get their thoughts on your future plans

+ MATCH YOUR A-LEVELS

Discover what students who studied the same A-Levels as you have gone on to study at university or what their average salary is once they are in a job. Find out how much you might be likely to earn based on the A-Levels you are studying and the results you get

+ LABOUR MARKET EXPLORE

Find out the average weekly hours, pay by location and estimated pay by age for the jobs you are interested in

+ YOUR CHECKLIST

A handy checklist to make sure your UCAS application is on track

+ PERSONAL STATEMENT CHECKER

Check how good your personal statement is and see where it needs improvement

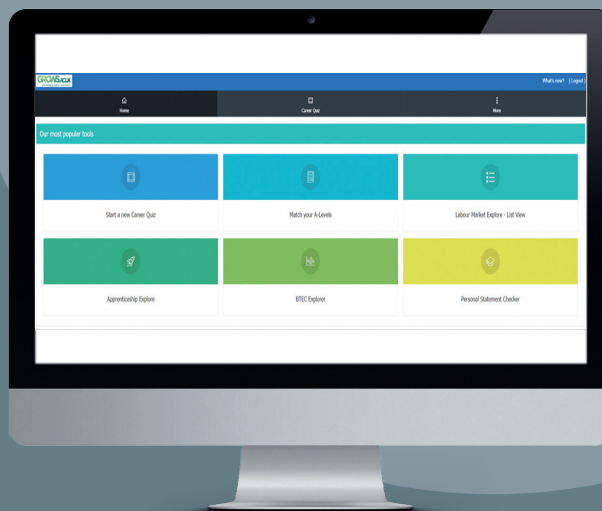
GETTING STARTED

IN ORDER TO DO THE ACTIVITIES IN THIS WORKBOOK, YOU NEED TO REGISTER ON SACU. HERE'S HOW TO DO IT:

- + Go to www.grows.ac.uk/sacu
- + New Students Register
- + Select your school from the dropdown menu*
- + Use an email address you can access now (you need to verify your email address)
- + Enter your full name
- + Create a password
- + Don't worry about Voucher Code (unless given one by your school)
- + Click REGISTER
- + Look out for an email from SACU (check your JUNK folder)
- + **Open email from SACU Student** and click 'Click here to share my information'
- + Complete the registration process by logging in with your new details

*IF YOUR SCHOOL DOES NOT APPEAR GO TO WWW.SACU.COM TO REGISTER

ONCE REGISTRATION IS COMPLETED YOUR HOMEPAGE WILL LOOK SOMETHING LIKE THIS...



YOUR FUTURE PLANS...

ONE OF THE BEST FEATURES OF SACU IS THE CAREER QUIZ, A PERSONALITY QUIZ WHICH SUGGESTS CAREERS, UNIVERSITY COURSES AND APPRENTICESHIPS THAT MAY SUIT YOU. IT IS A GREAT TOOL IF YOU ARE UNSURE ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT TO DO AS IT SUGGESTS DIFFERENT OPTIONS THAT MIGHT SUIT YOU. EVEN IF YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO DO, IT CAN BE AS USEFUL FOR FINDING IDEAS YOU HADN'T CONSIDERED.



WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?

Use the space below to list your top 3 future choices. If you are unsure of what you want to do, leave this blank and revisit the task when you have completed the workbook. You'll have more ideas about your future plans when you've worked your way through the tasks in this book.



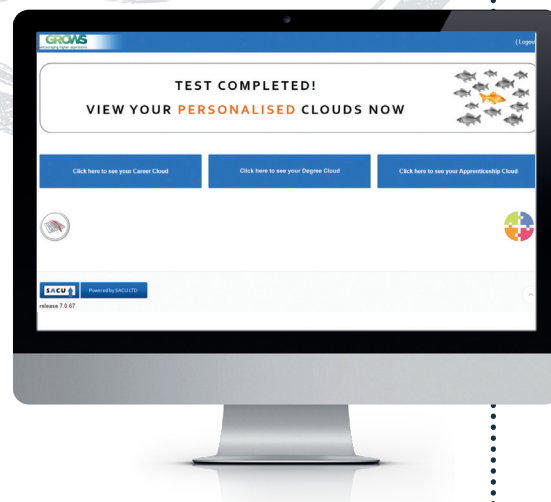
TOP 3 COURSE / SUBJECT CHOICES...

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

TOP 3 CAREERS CHOICES...

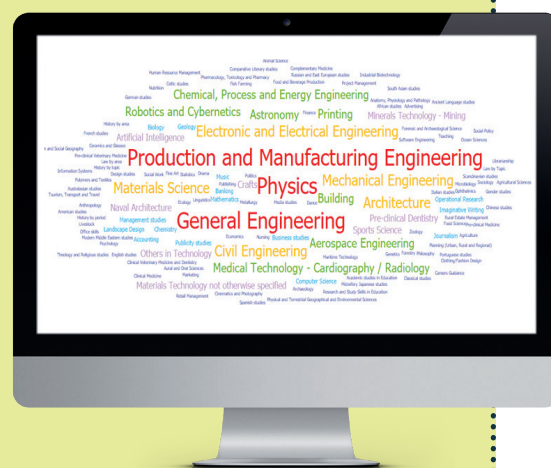
- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

- When taking the quiz try to select the picture which you feel matches your personality the best. If none of them do then you can select the 'none of the above' option . Once completed you will see three clouds: Career Cloud, Degree Cloud and Apprenticeships.**

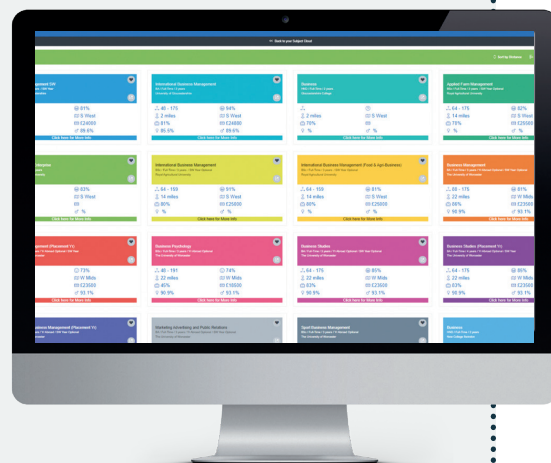


THE DEGREE CLOUD...

Subjects in the centre of the cloud may be of most interest but any of them are worth exploring further.



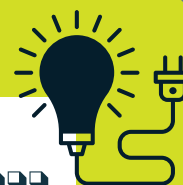
You can see a range of information in these grids and get more details by clicking on them. You can also view them in a list view by clicking on the **'Switch to List View'** button.



YOUR DEGREE

CLOUD

TOP TIP...



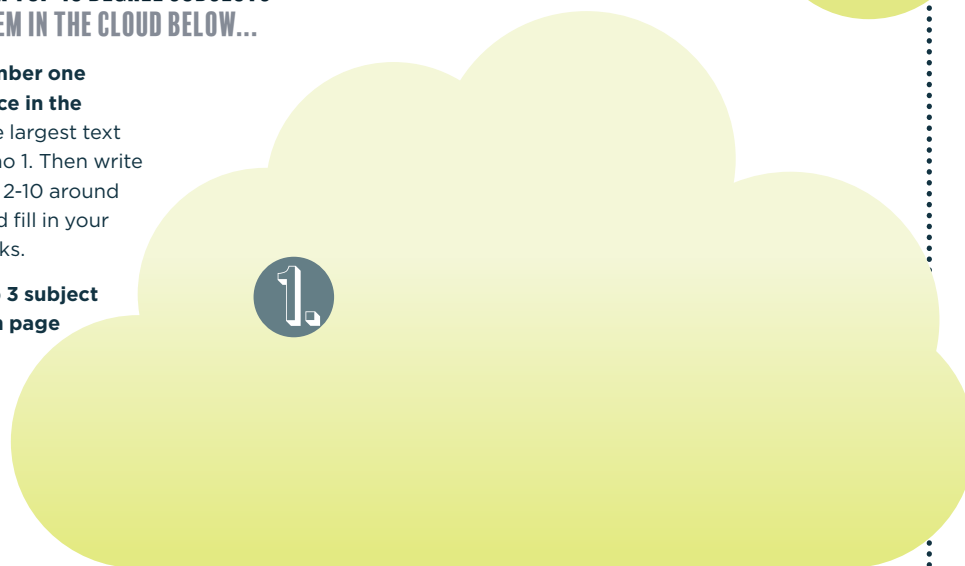
BOOKMARK THE COURSES YOU HAVE CHOSEN SO YOU CAN LOOK BACK AT THEM LATER.

YOUR TOP 10...

CHOOSE YOUR TOP 10 DEGREE SUBJECTS AND PUT THEM IN THE CLOUD BELOW...

Put your number one subject choice in the centre, in the largest text and next to no 1. Then write the numbers 2-10 around the cloud and fill in your next nine picks.

Are your top 3 subject choices from page 2 in here?
YES / NO



PICK THE 3 SUBJECT AREAS THAT INTEREST YOU THE MOST, FROM YOUR TOP TEN.

Then complete the table below.

SUBJECT AREA	COURSE TITLE THAT INTERESTS YOU	WHERE COULD YOU STUDY THIS?	STUDENT SATISFACTION % FOR THE COURSE	UCAS POINTS REQUIRED	AVERAGE EARNINGS AFTER 3 YEARS
1					
2					
3					

The offer rate for courses can be useful to know when choosing which university to study at.
Try to apply for courses that have a higher chance of giving you an offer to have a better chance of securing your place



YOUR CAREER CLOUD

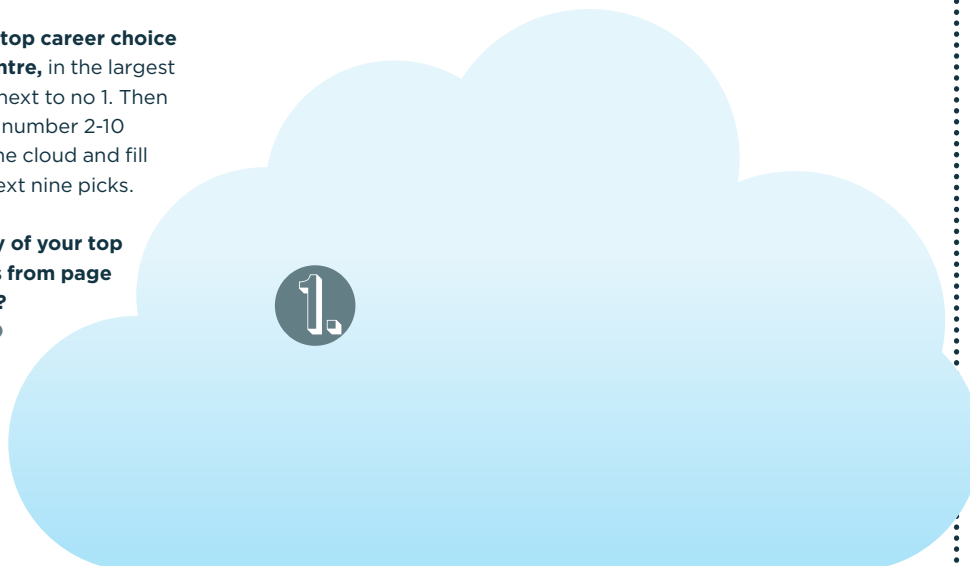


CLICK ON YOUR SACU CAREER CLOUD TO FIND LOTS OF JOBS BASED ON YOUR QUIZ RESULTS. DO ANY OF THEM SURPRISE YOU?

Jot down your top 10 jobs in the cloud below. You can explore lots of information related to the careers in the cloud, such as number of job vacancies and what higher education course to study. Another helpful area to research is the labour market information. Often referred to as LMI, this details things like starting salaries and which jobs are in demand.

Put your top career choice in the centre, in the largest text and next to no 1. Then write the number 2-10 around the cloud and fill in your next nine picks.

Were any of your top 3 careers from page 2 in here?
YES / NO



YOUR TOP 10...



PICK YOUR TOP 3 CAREER CHOICES... WHAT DEGREE SUBJECTS COULD YOU STUDY FOR THIS JOB?

1 _____	1 _____
2 _____	2 _____
3 _____	3 _____

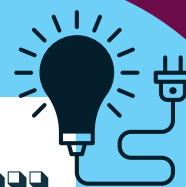
You can find out more about each of these jobs by clicking on them and selecting 'information on this career.' The links from this section will help you to find out more about what the job entails and the responsibilities involved, the routes into that job, the average salary and working hours, where you could work and what career prospects the job has.

Select your top choice of career and make some notes about the following points in the box below...

- + What responsibilities might you have in this role?
- + What is the average salary?
- + What qualifications do you need?
- + What are the average working hours?
- + What skills might you need for the role?
- + Where could you get work experience for this job?
- + What career prospects does this job have?

HOW DO YOUR A-LEVEL CHOICES MATCH UP?

TOP TIP...



BOOKMARK ANY COURSES YOU ARE INTERESTED IN WHICH WEREN'T INCLUDED IN YOUR SUBJECT CLOUD SO YOU CAN REFER TO THEM LATER.

IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY STUDYING A-LEVELS, THE MATCH YOUR A-LEVELS TOOL ENABLES YOU TO SEE EVERY COURSE THAT STUDENTS WHO STUDIED THE SAME A-LEVEL SUBJECTS AS YOU HAVE GONE ON TO STUDY IN HIGHER EDUCATION.

You probably chose your A-Levels because you enjoy the subjects, or maybe you have a specific career in mind. Whatever the reason, it can be helpful to see the choices made by other students after their A-Levels. All the links are clickable.

**If you are studying BTECs or similar then select the closest related A-Level subjects to what you are studying to see relevant results for you.*

TASK...



SELECT 'MATCH YOUR A-LEVELS' THEN ENTER THE A-LEVELS YOU ARE CURRENTLY STUDYING BELOW.

Write down 3 subjects that other people have studied at university

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Are any of these missing from your subject cloud? Yes / No

If there is an additional subject listed here that you had not thought of before?

Make a note of it in the box below...

YOUR FUTURE EARNINGS...

As well as finding out what those who studied the same A-Levels as you went on to study, you can use SACU to find out how much they went on to earn.

TASK...



- + SELECT 'MORE' FROM THE TOP RIGHT CORNER OF THE HOME PAGE
- + SELECT 'A-LEVELS SALARY MATCH'
- + ENTER YOUR A-LEVELS TO SEE THE RESULTS
- + SCROLL DOWN AND AMEND THE TARIFF POINTS TO YOUR PREDICTED GRADES

What is the lower salary? _____

What is the median salary? _____

What is the upper salary? _____

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION

WHEN YOU ARE CONSIDERING WHAT TO STUDY AT UNIVERSITY AND WHAT CAREER TO CHOOSE, IT IS IMPORTANT TO CONSIDER THE LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION.

OFTEN REFERRED TO AS LMI, IT GIVES AN INSIGHT INTO WHAT CURRENT AND PROJECTED SALARIES ARE LIKE FOR DIFFERENT JOBS. LMI ALSO INDICATES WHICH JOBS ARE IN DEMAND AND WHERE.

TASK...



- + SELECT 'LABOUR MARKET EXPLORE – LIST VIEW'
- + PICK THREE JOBS THAT INTEREST YOU THE MOST AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW

	CAREER / JOB 1	CAREER / JOB 2	CAREER / JOB 3
WHAT ARE THE AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS?			
WHAT IS THE WEEKLY PAY FOR THE SOUTH WEST?			
WHAT IS THE UNEMPLOYMENT FOR THE SOUTH WEST?			
WHAT REGION PAYS THE MOST?			
WHAT REGION HAS THE HIGHEST UNEMPLOYMENT?			
HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL BE EMPLOYED IN THIS ROLE BY 2024?			
WHAT ARE THE AVERAGE EARNINGS AT AGE 20?			
WHAT ARE THE AVERAGE EARNINGS AT AGE 40?			

WHICH OF YOUR CHOSEN JOBS HAS;

The best weekly pay for the south west? _____

The lowest level of unemployment in the south west? _____

The highest number of people in employment by 2024? _____

The highest average earnings at age 20? _____

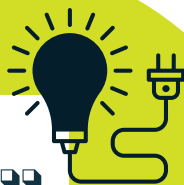
The highest average earnings at age 40? _____

YOUR CHECKLIST

ONCE YOU HAVE DECIDED WHAT YOU WANT TO STUDY AND WHERE, YOU WILL NEED TO COMPLETE A UCAS APPLICATION.

ALL FULL-TIME UNIVERSITY COURSES REQUIRE YOU TO APPLY FOR YOUR PLACE THROUGH UCAS (WWW.UCAS.COM). BEFORE DOING YOUR APPLICATION, ENSURE YOU HAVE DONE ALL YOUR RESEARCH AND HAVE AS MUCH AS KNOWLEDGE AS POSSIBLE TO MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR YOU.

TOP TIP...



HAVE YOU GOT YOUR COPY OF THE GROWS 'PLAN YOUR PATH TO HIGHER EDUCATION' BOOKLET YET? IT WILL HELP YOU STRUCTURE YOUR RESEARCH AND GIVE YOU TIPS ON WHAT TO LOOK FOR. GO TO GROWS.AC.UK/PLAN TO REQUEST YOUR FREE COPY.



A USEFUL FEATURE ON SACU IS THE HANDY UCAS CHECKLIST TOOL – LOOK FOR YOUR CHECKLIST

AS YOU WORK THROUGH YOUR RESEARCH AND COMPLETE VARIOUS TASKS, YOU CAN TICK OFF THE THINGS YOU HAVE COMPLETED TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVEN'T MISSED ANYTHING. WE HAVE INCLUDED THE CHECKLIST BELOW SO YOU CAN CHECK TASKS OFF AS YOU GO – DON'T FORGET TO TICK THEM OFF ON YOUR SACU PROFILE TOO.

☐

Taken a SACU Career Quiz (Spartan Test)
(You can tick this off now you have done it for the workbook)

☐

Researched future careers
(You can tick this off now you have done it for the workbook)

☐

Had a 1:1 careers appointment
(This will probably be with your school / college Careers Advisor)

☐

Looked at possible courses
(You can tick this off now you have done it for the workbook)

☐

Checked course entry requirements
(You can tick this off now you have done it for the workbook)

☐

Created a shortlist of courses
(You can tick this off now you have done it for the workbook)

☐

Created my UCAS list of courses
(This could be from your Top 10 on SACU)

☐

Planned which university open days to attend
(You can find out when the Open Days are when you click on the subject grid)

☐

Registered for UCAS Apply
(Visit www.ucas.com)

☐

Entered my UCAS choices into Apply

☐

Drafted my Personal Statement
(Use the SACU Personal Statement Checker tool to help with this)

PERSONAL STATEMENT

CHECKER

ALTHOUGH THE UCAS APPLICATION REQUIRES YOU TO ENTER SPECIFIC DETAILS, THE ONE SECTION IN WHICH YOU HAVE A BIT MORE FREEDOM TO EXPRESS YOURSELF IS THE PERSONAL STATEMENT.

THE PERSONAL STATEMENT IS YOUR PERSONAL STORY, IT IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE YOUR UNIVERSITY APPLICATION STAND OUT.

Once a university has looked at your predicted grades, they want to know about your interest and passion for your subject and how it might meet your longer-term goals. It is important to get your personal statement right and make it stand out. SACU has a personal statement checker tool which analyses the language in your statement, but always ask family and teachers to check your statement too.

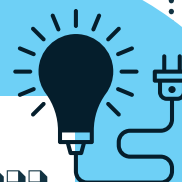
CHECK YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT...



Once you have drafted your personal statement, copy and paste it into SACU's Personal Statement Checker. Make a note below of the things that you still need to work on – they'll be highlighted in the 'here's what we found' results...

Jot down the things you still need to work on in the box below...

TOP TIP...



HAVE YOU SEEN THE FREE GROWS WORKBOOK **YOUR GUIDE TO WRITING A PERSONAL STATEMENT?** IT WILL GIVE YOU HINTS AND TIPS ON HOW TO WRITE YOUR UCAS PERSONAL STATEMENT. GO TO **WWW.GROWS.AC.UK/PSTAT** TO REQUEST YOUR FREE COPY

GET EVEN MORE OUT OF SACU

HANDY TOOLS

HERE A FEW MORE HANDY TOOLS THAT
CAN HELP WITH YOUR RESEARCH.

APPRENTICESHIP CLOUD

If you are not interested in studying a course at university, the Apprenticeship cloud in Your Cloud Results suggests apprenticeships you might be interested in. You can filter these by level e.g. intermediate, advanced, higher and degree.

SHARE WITH FAMILY OR TEACHER

SACU allows you to share your results clouds and bookmarked pages with your teacher, school careers advisor, parents or even a friend. When you share something from SACU, the person you are sharing it with will receive an email. You will also receive a copy of the email that has been sent to them.

MAKE SOME NOTES

This handy feature is often overlooked. If you come across a useful bit of information about a course or a career and are worried you might not be able to find it again, make a note of it here so you can return to it on your next visit.

WHAT TO DO NEXT...

Now you've had a good look around at what courses and careers might suit you, you'll need to start thinking about researching universities and courses and completing a UCAS application, which includes your personal statement.

WE HAVE TWO MORE WORKBOOKS TO HELP YOU WITH BOTH OF THESE GET COPIES AT:

- + The Personal Statement www.GROWS.ac.uk/pstat
- + Plan your path to Higher Education www.GROWS.ac.uk/path
- + Found this booklet useful? Complete our quick feedback for www.GROWS.ac.uk/eval



FIND OUT MORE...



+ GROWS

www.grows.ac.uk

GROWS have put together a bank of useful websites to support you with where to look when doing your research.

Useful when: You aren't too sure where to start and want something which signposts you to websites designed to provide you with more information

+ THE UNI GUIDE

www.theuniguide.com

Impartial advice and guidance on different courses and universities.

Useful when: You want to find courses based on what you are currently studying or are interested in.

+ DISCOVER UNI

www.discoveruni.gov.uk

Official website for comparing UK higher education course data.

Useful when: You know what you want to study and have a shortlist of colleges/universities.



+ SACU

www.grows.ac.uk/sacu

An independent and impartial source of careers information. Take the Careers Quiz to be matched with HE courses and careers.

Useful when: You still not sure of the subjects / courses you want to do.

+ UCAS

www.ucas.com

The official website for applying to universities and colleges. Find information about all courses available in the UK and where these can be studied.

Useful when: You know a subject area, or even the exact course you want to study, but don't know where to study.

+ WHAT UNI

www.whatuni.com

Information about all universities and courses available. Provides profiles for every UK university based on a number of different priorities, including job prospects, courses and facilities.

Useful for: Generating course ideas based on what you currently study or are interested in.

+ OPEN DAYS

www.opendays.com

Lists dates of upcoming open days for all UK universities. Also features advice and top tips on how to make the most of an open day.

Useful when: You're planning open day visits as well as preparing so you can make the most of each visit.

+ UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE WEBSITES

Each one has its own website and social media pages detailing courses and facilities.

Useful when: You want to find out more about a specific university you're interested in applying to.

+ UNI TASTER DAYS

www.unitasterdays.com

A directory of university events

Useful when: You want to find out more about HE in general or a specific institution.

+ PROSPECTS

www.prospects.ac.uk

Advice on graduate careers.

Useful when: You want to see what types of jobs you could do with your chosen degree subject. Also provides a number of different job profiles.