



Where could Humanities take you?

Wondering what to do after your Level 3 course?

Use this booklet to get an idea of your possible next steps after studying a Humanities subject.

Included in this booklet:

- What do we mean by Humanities?
- Why study a Humanities subject?
- Examples of Humanities degrees in the UK
- Career profiles
- Useful resources to help research your options

Aspire Higher

This booklet was produced by **Aspire Higher** with **Linking London**.

Both organisations are regional Uni Connect (formerly NCOP) Outreach Teams. This booklet was produced in Spring 2021 and information was correct at that time. The aim of the programme is to provide students with impartial advice about their future options with an emphasis on encouraging progression to higher level study. This booklet has been produced to help schools and colleges provide information with clear links between their curriculum and future career options.

If you have any comments, questions or feedback, please contact us via our dedicated email address (aspirehigher@northampton.ac.uk) or via the Chat box on our website, www.aspire-higher.co.uk.

Acknowledgement

Thank you to **Linking London** for their help producing this guide.

What do we mean by 'Humanities'?

We have deliberately chosen a broad subject area for this guide in order to reflect the breadth of opportunities available to students currently studying a Level 3 humanities (or humanities related) course. The benefit of studying a humanities course can be that there are a multitude of options available to students; this can also prove the largest challenge when advising students of possible next steps! We have tried to include some subjects that might not immediately come to mind when thinking of the humanities, as well as some social sciences and arts courses.

We have chosen **not** to include Law in this guide; law is a particularly unique subject with a variety of higher level study options available and there are already a large number of resources out there focusing on law by itself. Law could take up a whole guide by itself – it is for this reason also that we have not included Business (and the huge breadth of related subjects and combinations) in our university course mapping on pages 5-8. Law and Business are very well known and popular subjects, whereas this guide is designed to highlight lesser known avenues of progression.

The definition of what is considered a humanities course is hotly contested, however to provide a steer of what kind of subjects you'll find in this guide, here is a brief list of subjects we have included in our definition of 'humanities':

- **English**
(including: literature, language, creative writing, journalism, film, drama)
- **History**
- **Politics** (including: PPE, international relations)
- **Philosophy**
- **Liberal Arts**
- **Foreign Languages**

Some HEIs also include Social Sciences such as Criminology, Sociology and Anthropology in their Humanities. You can sometimes still find Psychology in Humanities offerings, although its more commonly found in Social Sciences or Sciences today.

Many Humanities subjects can be combined into a Joint Honours degree - you should check to see what combinations are available that interest you at different HEIs. If you want to explore a wide range of Humanities subjects then a more general Humanities degree might be a good option for you.



Why study a Humanities subject?

Transferable Skills

In 2020, the most in-demand soft skills employers were looking for were: **creativity, collaboration, persuasion, adaptability, and emotional intelligence** (*LinkedIn Learning, 2020 - The Skills Companies Need Most in 2020*). Humanities, social sciences, and arts degrees will often equip students with these crucial skills.

A report produced by The British Academy in 2017 highlights three broad skillsets that their analysis has shown arts, humanities and social science students all possess. These are: **communication and collaboration; research and analytical skills; and independence and adaptability** (*The Right Skills: Celebrating Skills In The Arts, Humanities And Social Sciences (AHSS)*).

In the 2018 CBI Education and Skills Survey, 60% of businesses rated a broad, flexible skillset among their top three priorities when recruiting.

"The ability to communicate is fundamental to the study of [arts, humanities, and social sciences] and is therefore a skill which students develop to a highly refined level." (*The Right Skills*)

"Students are required to consider how different cultural contexts may affect how individuals react and to be able to negotiate the tensions and opportunities this creates... This is a key component of team work" (*The Right Skills*)

"From financial services to education, social work and the media and creative industries, the richness and the diversity of the careers [arts, humanities, and social science] graduates embark on constitute some of their key strengths in, and contribution to, the labour market." (*The Right Skills*)

Often, studying arts, humanities, or social sciences at a higher level "is not designed to prepare students for one particular career direction; rather, students develop knowledge and skills which open up a wide range of options, across the private, public and third sectors" (*The Right Skills*)

Experience and Employment

- Humanities graduates are slightly more likely than all other graduates to be working abroad after graduation
(Prospects, 2018/19 – What do graduates do?)
- Humanities graduates commonly change careers and occupations multiple times in their lifetime, demonstrating the flexibility of the skills gained through humanities degrees
(Prospects, 2018/19 – What do graduates do?)
- While many humanities degrees will have far fewer 'contact hours' than, for example, an engineering or medical degree, this means students usually have time during their studies to gain part time employment, participate in volunteering schemes, and thus gain valuable experience which will come in handy when looking for graduate employment.
- In a 2015 study, the British Council found that 55% of global professional leaders had an humanities or social sciences degree.
(The Educational Pathways of Leaders: An International Comparison)



Below are a range of destinations that humanities graduates may work in after higher level study:

- **Education**
- **Wholesale and retail trade**
- **Professional, scientific, and technical areas**
- **Accommodation and food service**
- **Administrative and support services**
- **Information and Communication**
- **Journalism/Publishing**
- **Public Administration and Defence**
- **Health and Social Work**

Key sectors that employ graduates with higher level humanities qualifications include:

- **Local and central government**
- **Social and education services**
- **Leisure and tourism**
- **Publishing and journalism**
- **Voluntary/charitable organisations**
- **Public sector**
- **Digital media**
- **Psychology and counselling**

We have included more detailed career profiles towards the end of this guide to provide some insight into the different career paths many humanities graduates pursue.

Examples of Humanities Entry Requirements in UK Universities

Here's a cross-section of the type of course you can find in Humanities Departments at university. The actual courses on offer and the subjects covered vary between universities, so spend a bit of time exploring what's available online -there are over 10,000 humanities degrees at over 200 different HEIs in the UK! Many universities offer Foundation Years, Work Placements or Study Abroad opportunities too.

HEI	UCAS Points	A-Level	BTE	Access	GCSE
University of Kent BA (Hons) Liberal Arts (with year abroad)	94-104	BBB	DDM	Assessed on an individual basis	Grade C / 4 in Modern European Language or equivalent Grade C / 4 in English Language or equivalent Or demonstrable experience of learning a second language
Loughborough University BA (Hons) English with Digital Humanities	-	AAB including English Language or Literature (or both) General Studies accepted	D + AB in 2 A levels including English to DDM + A level English at Grade B	Pass with 60 credits overall including 45 at Level 3.	Grade C / 4 in English language or equivalent Grade C / 4 in Maths or equivalent
University of Hertfordshire BA (Hons) Creative Writing	104	BCC	DMM	Overall Merit profile with Distinction in 45 credits at Level 3	Grade C / 4 in English language or equivalent Grade D / 4 in Maths or equivalent
Cardiff University BA (Hons) Human and Social Sciences	-	ABB - BBB	DDM		Grade C / 4 in English language or equivalent
Newcastle University BA (Hons) Combined Honours	-	AAB	DDD	At least 30 Level 3 credits at Distinction and 15 at Merit	Grade C / 4 in English language or equivalent Grade C / 4 in Maths or equivalent

HEI	UCAS Points	A-Level	BTE	Access	GCSE
Teesside University BA (Hons) English Studies	96-112	Sufficient UCAS points from at least 2 A levels	Sufficient UCAS points from grades	Sufficient UCAS points from grades	Grade C / 4 in English language or equivalent Grade C / 4 in Maths or equivalent
London South Bank University BA (Hons) History with Politics	96-104	BCC	MMM	45 Level 3 credits; 9 credits at Distinction; 36 at Merit	Grade C / 4 in English language or equivalent Grade C / 4 in Maths or equivalent
University of Winchester BA (Hons) Archaeology	104-120	Sufficient UCAS points from at least 2 A levels	Sufficient UCAS points from grades	Sufficient UCAS points from grades	Grade C / 4 in English language or equivalent Grade C / 4 in Maths or equivalent
University of Portsmouth BA (Hons) Language Studies	104-120	Sufficient UCAS points from at least 2 A levels	DDM-DMM	Sufficient UCAS points from grades	3 GCSEs at C / 4 or above including Grade C / 4 in English or equivalent Grade C / 4 in Maths or equivalent
University of Reading BA (Hons) Art & History of Art	120-141	BBB	DDM	Including 18 Level 3 credits at Distinction and 27 Level 3 credits at Merit	Grade C / 4 in English Language or Literature or equivalent Grade C / 4 in Maths or equivalent
SOAS University of London BA (Hons) Politics	144	AAA	DDD	Minimum 30 Level 3 credits at Distinction	

HEI	UCAS Points	A-Level	BTE	Access	GCSE
University of East Anglia BA (Hons) Philosophy, Politics and Economics	-	ABB	DDM	Minimum 30 Level 3 credits at Distinction and 15 Level 3 credits at Merit	Grade C / 4 in English Language or Literature or equivalent Grade B / 5 in Maths or equivalent
University of Manchester BA (Hons) American Studies		ABB-BBB	DD + 1 A Level at Grade B to DDM + 1 A level in essay based subject	Minimum 30 Level 3 credits at Distinction and 15 Level 3 credits at Merit	Grade C / 4 in English language or equivalent Grade C / 4 in Maths or equivalent
University of Wales Trinity St David BA (Hons) Classics	96	Sufficient UCAS points from at least 2 A levels	Sufficient UCAS points from grades	Sufficient UCAS points from grades	
Manchester Metropolitan University BA (Hons) French and Japanese	104-112	BCC-BBC including A Level French at Grade B or above	DMM	Pass in a relevant subject equivalent to at least 106 UCAS points	Grade C / 4 in English language or equivalent
University of Bedfordshire BA (Hons) Criminology	80+	Min 2 A levels at C or above	MMP	Completed	Grade C / 4 in English language or equivalent
Goldsmiths, University of London BA (Hons) Sociology	-	BBB	DDM	Pass with 45 Level 4 credits, 30 of them at Distinction	Grade C / 4 in English language or literature or equivalent Grade C / 4 in Maths or equivalent

HEI	UCAS Points	A-Level	BTE	Access	GCSE
University of Plymouth BA (Hons) Anthropology	104-112	UCAS Points from minimum of 2 A Levels	DMM	Pass with at least 33 Level 3 credits at Merit/Distinction	Grade C / 4 in English language or literature or equivalent Grade C / 4 in Maths or equivalent
University of South Wales BA (Hons) Performance and Media	80-112	BCC-CDD	DMM-MMP	Sufficient UCAS points from grades	At least 5 GCSEs including Grade C / 4 in English language or equivalent Grade C / 4 in Maths or equivalent
Durham University BA (Hons) Religion, Society and Culture		AAB	DDD	Pass with 60 credits, at least 45 at Level 3; 30 of these at Distinction and 15 at Merit	At least 5 GCSEs including Grade C / 4 in English language or equivalent Grade C / 4 in Maths or equivalent

Career Options

As we highlighted in the introduction to this guide, the possible career options for humanities students are as varied as humanities courses themselves. Below we have included brief snapshots of careers and roles that humanities graduates could pursue. Much of this information was sourced from Prospects – we recommend looking online at their job profiles. The salary ranges we have included are estimates for those earlier in their careers (up to approximately five years of experience).

Marketing/Communications Professional

Salary

£20,000-£40,000

Brief Description

May involve developing marketing communications strategies to drive brand messaging and generate sales. Need to be target driven, analytical and good with numbers as well as good at developing engaging content. Strong communication skills (including written).

Qualifications required

Educated to degree level. Some roles specify that a Marketing or similar degree is desired, but relevant experience is usually more important.

Civil Service/Local Government including the Civil Service graduate scheme (Fast Stream) or local government officer

Salary

£25,000-£50,000

Brief Description

Local government officers are responsible for the practical development of council policies and procedures, and need to ensure that local services are delivered. Local government and the Civil Service have a massive range of departments and roles, but they all require the ability to work with others, organisational skills, and project management skills.

Qualifications required

Educated to degree level. A politics degree is not essential, but may be helpful.



Charity worker

Salary

£16,000-£35,000

Brief Description

This involves working for a charitable or non-profit organisation and may also be known as a charity officer or administrator, community liaison officer or project development officer. Large charities have a large range of roles, such as marketing, fundraising, relationship management, finance, communications, and volunteer management. You need excellent communication, interpersonal, and administrative skills.

Qualifications required

Depending on the role, a degree is usually required.

HR Professional

Salary

£19,000-£25,000

Brief Description

HR Officers support organisations to make sure their staff have the right skills and experience to be effective. They also advise on policies and processes to make sure the organisation runs smoothly. You need strong organisational and interpersonal skills.

Qualifications required

Educated to degree level. A particular subject is not required, but a degree in psychology or a language can be helpful.

Recruitment consultant

Salary

£22,000-£40,000 (including bonuses)

Brief Description

Recruitment consultants are responsible for attracting candidates for jobs and matching them to temporary or permanent positions with companies. Recruitment is a very fast-paced, target driven area of work so you need determination and excellent communication, problem-solving, and organisational skills.

Qualifications required

Educated to degree level.

Accountancy

Salary

£30,000-£60,000

Brief Description

Accountants give advice and provide trustworthy guidance for finance related issues. Strong numeracy skills are essential, as well as problem-solving and analytical skills.

Qualifications required

To get onto a training scheme you usually need a degree, but this does not have to be in a finance-related discipline. You do however need strong numeracy skills, and will have to do a range of tests.

Television/Media Professional such as a production coordinator

Salary

£22,000-£35,000. Work is often contract based.

Brief Description

A television production coordinator is responsible for the administration and organisation involved in producing a television programme. You need excellent communication, organisational, and prioritisation skills.

Qualifications required

Educated to degree level. A media-related subject is helpful but not essential. Relevant work experience is more important than the specific subject you've studied.





Teaching

Salary

£29,000-£40,000 for primary or secondary school teachers.
Teaching assistants can earn £15,000-£25,000.

Brief Description

You can train to become either a primary or secondary school teacher, where you will then develop lesson plans and work schemes for your students as well as delivering lessons.

Qualifications required

Educated to degree level, and at least a grade C/4 in GCSE English and Maths. Unless your degree is a BEd or gives you qualified teacher status (QTS), you need to then get a graduate teaching qualification.

Advertising

Salary

£20,000-£50,000

Brief Description

There are a range of roles in the advertising industry, such as copywriters, account executives, and art directors. Work can involve liaising with clients to discuss advertising needs, planning campaigns, and pitching ideas. Communication and interpersonal skills are crucial, as well as the ability to be flexible and solve problems creatively.

Qualifications required

A degree in a subject like communications, English, or marketing can be helpful but not essential.

Police officer

Salary

£20,000-£35,000

Brief Description

Police officers maintain public order by combating crime. They also work closely with the communities they serve. Strong communication skills are needed, as well as professionalism and problem-solving skills. There are also fitness and medical tests involved, as well as enhanced security checks.

Qualifications required

Graduates with a degree in any subject can apply for a two-year work-based training programme to become a qualified police officer. There is also a Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship route available to those with Level 3 qualifications.

Campaigns Officer

Salary

£25,000-£40,000

Brief Description

Many charities run local, national, and/or global campaigns to raise awareness and/or money for different causes. A Campaigns Officer helps with this, often working on the planning and budgeting of a campaign, including working on social media and with external partners to make sure a campaign is effective. Key skills include communication, organisation, and working with others.

Qualifications required

Educated to degree level. Relevant experience is more important than the subject studied.

Arts administration

Salary

£15,000-£30,000

Brief Description

Arts administration involves supporting an organisation in the arts sector and can involve planning events, contributing to publications, managing budgets, and offering administrative support to other members of staff. Key skills include organisation, administration, interpersonal and communication.

Qualifications required

An Arts related degree is preferable, such as art history, English, or performing arts, but degrees with elements of communications, marketing etc are also beneficial.

Events coordinator

Salary

£18,000-£30,000

Brief Description

In this role, you organise events for a business – you could work for a large venue, such as a hotel, or an organisation that puts on conferences, seminars, fairs, and exhibitions. This involves planning, working with speakers and other external organisations, as well as marketing. Key skills include organisation and time management, as well as interpersonal and administrative skills.

Qualifications required

To enter at a higher salary band, you need to be educated to degree level but work experience is often more important than the subject studied.

Publishing

such as an editorial assistant, editor, or agent

Salary

£15,000-£40,000

Brief Description

Editorial assistants perform a range of administrative and editorial tasks necessary to the production of publications, including books, articles, and websites. Written skills and attention to detail is crucial. Communicating with others is a large part of the industry.

Qualifications required

Educated to degree level, subjects related to English or media are preferable.



The Pay Index

Aspire Higher have signed up with The Pay Index to offer two exciting tools: **'My Future University'** and **'My Future Apprenticeships'**

The tools enable students to:

- Compare courses of study and the locations they are available in;
- Explore their earning potential, 1, 3, 5 or 10 years after graduation based on location;
- Understand what student loan repayments would look like after completion of study;
- Question the gender pay gap and empower females entering the workplace;
- Explore the types of apprenticeships available locally and nationally;
- Open a wider dialogue with teachers, careers advisors and parents about university.

Within each tool, Aspire Higher have uploaded a range of videos, activities and quizzes to deepen your knowledge on both university and apprenticeships.



What type of qualifications do you have?
5+ GCSE passes

What level of apprenticeship should I think about applying for?
Level 3

How long would it take to complete? **18 - 48 Months**

Qualification equivalent when earned
2 A-levels passes

What requirements do I need to have before applying?
Advanced Apprenticeships require at a minimum 5 GCSE passes at Level 9 to 4 / A* to C with 2 qualifications needed in English and/or Maths. Additionally, you are able to apply to a Level 3 apprenticeship if you have completed a level 2 qualification in a relevant framework.

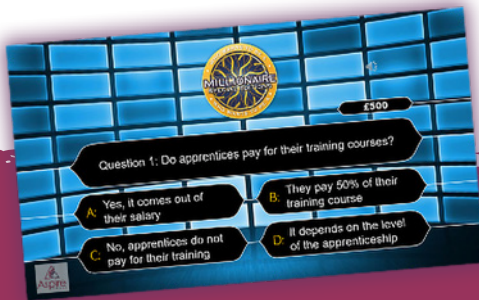


For more, watch this 2-minute video about the tool:
My Future University Introduction Video
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2TFG0k1dzaY>).

Sign up and give it a try:

Sign up once and you will be able to access both tools.

Use this link, **The Pay Index Sign-up Link** or scan the QR code
(<https://www.thepayindex.com/aspire-higher/signup>).



Useful Resources

Aspire Higher

Our website has a wide range of resources to help support you on your higher education journey and make informed choices about what's right for you.

Search **Aspire Higher** or click **www.aspire-higher.co.uk**

UCAS

Help with deciding on a course: **<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/ucas-undergraduate-what-study>**

Subject guides: **<https://www.ucas.com/explore/subjects>**

Course search tool: **<https://digital.ucas.com/search>**

Personal statement advice: **<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/how-write-ucas-undergraduate-personal-statement>**

Discover Uni

Search for and compare courses: **<https://discoveruni.gov.uk/>**

Prospects

Guidance on what students can do with their degree (by subject):
<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree>

The Student Room

Example personal statements for a variety of arts and humanities courses:
https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/wiki/Category:Humanities_and_the_Arts_Personal_Statements

