



DISCOVERING YOUR ROAD AHEAD

Your Future in
Higher Education

Jargon Buster

ACCESS COURSE - A course designed to prepare mature students without other qualifications for entry into university or college and to provide the underpinning knowledge and skills needed to progress onto a Degree or Higher Diploma course.

ADMISSIONS - The dedicated team at a university that process potential students' applications.

A LEVELS - The academic qualification gained from studying at a sixth form or college after completing GCSEs.

ASSESSMENTS - Can include: written assignments, presentations, scenario assessments, digital assessment, essays, practical assessment and academic posters.

BA/BSc/BEng - Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Engineering. A bachelor's degree (also called a first degree) is the qualification you receive after successfully completing a three (or four) year programme of degree-level study at university, or college.

BLENDED LEARNING- Delivery of education through a combination of face-to-face activities with online learning.

BTEC - Business and Technology Education Council. Vocational qualifications that provide theoretical and practical knowledge in a range of subjects.

BURSARY- A non-repayable monetary award made to students who satisfy certain criteria as set by the awarding universities and colleges.

CAMPUS - This usually refers to the buildings and surroundings of a university where the university has everything in one place; the lecture theatres, halls of residence, libraries and admin buildings.

CONDITIONAL OFFER - Offer of a place, made by a university to an applicant, which is dependent on them meeting specific grade or qualification requirements.

DEFERRAL - In your application to a degree course, this is what to do if you'd like to carry an offer over to start it in the following academic year.

DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS - These are an alternative route into higher education, combining full-time work for an organisation with part-time university-level study, where students can achieve a full bachelor's or master's degree.



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DSA - Disabled Student Allowance. Monetary awards made to those students who may need additional support (e.g. specialist equipment, printing costs, or a note taker) through their studies as a result of a disability, learning difficulty or long-term health condition.

DISSERTATION - A very long essay (between 10,000 to 80,000 words!) that counts towards the final marks for your degree.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS - Grades or qualifications a student needs to get onto their chosen course.

FIRM CHOICE - A student's first choice of higher education, this is the institution and course they will attend if they meet the conditions of their offer.

FRESHER - A student in their first year; who has just started university.

FRESHERS' WEEK - Sometimes called 'Welcome Week' is your first week at university, and is packed with events and entertainment to help you settle in.

FURTHER EDUCATION (FE) - Refers to the qualifications taken after school between the ages of 16 and 18, usually in college or sixth form.

GAP YEAR - An optional year out before starting university.

GCSE - General Certificate of Secondary Education. These qualifications are achieved in Year 10 and 11.

GRADUATE - A person who has received a degree or diploma on completing a course of study, from a university or college.

HIGHER EDUCATION (HE) - Refers to the qualifications that are taken at level 4 or above, taken after A Levels or equivalent. This includes university degrees, higher apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships. This qualification can be studied at university or college.

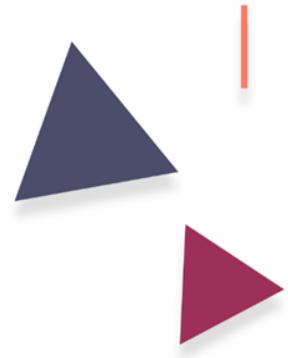
HNC - Higher National Certificate

HND - Higher National Diploma



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INTEGRATED FOUNDATION YEAR - If you have non-standard qualifications or do not meet the admissions requirements, you may study a 4 year programme which includes the foundation year and 3 year degree. The foundation year helps to develop theoretical/practical and academic skills needed to successfully complete a full degree.

JOINT HONOURS - A form of degree which offers students the chance to study two subjects at once.

LECTURE - A talk given by a member of academic staff or an expert in their subject about their ideas or theories, often in a lecture theatre.

MASTERS DEGREE - Refers to a degree achieved at level 7. They are usually studied after an undergraduate degree (or equivalent) and are 1 – 2 years in length.

PLACEMENT YEAR - This is a year of either work experience or study placement.

PERSONAL STATEMENT - A crucial part of a university application where students can demonstrate their interest in a subject, what skills and experience they have to help admissions tutors understand their motivation to study a course.

PROSPECTUS - A university booklet which gives details of degree programmes available.

SINGLE HONOURS - An honours degree course in which a student studies a single subject.

SFE - Student Finance England:– Student Loans Company who manage applications for maintenance and tuition fee loans across England for potential students to fund their university study.

UCAS - Universities and Colleges Admissions Service which is the centralised service that students use to apply to university courses in the UK.

UCAS TARIFF - A system UCAS uses for allocating points to post-16 qualifications. Points are used by universities and colleges to make broad comparisons between qualifications for entry to Higher Education.

UNCONDITIONAL OFFER - Offer of a place, made by a university to an applicant, which is not dependent on students reaching their predicted exam grades.

UNDERGRADUATE - A university student who is currently studying for their first degree.

