

INTRODUCTION

Applying to university can be exciting as well as stressful. The two most important choices are **WHERE** to go and **WHAT** to study and these are big decisions which can have an enormous impact on your future life. They will determine where you live, the friends you make, and your future career. With tens of thousands of courses and thousands of universities to choose from, how do you decide?

Actually having decided that you want to go to university after school is a big step in itself! The next thing is to decide what you want to study at university.

Here you will be considering what your future career will be? All well and good if you are one of the lucky few who “know” what you want to do; then you can get on with deciding which university and where.

To put you on the right track think carefully about which subjects you enjoy the most and then leave plenty of time to research your options.

Some students have already decided on their future career and will aim for the appropriate degree/major course which will lead to that career and in many cases to a recognized job qualification.

However, choosing a degree/major does not necessarily mean you have chosen your future occupation. You could choose a degree/major which is the same or similar to your favourite subject at school and then make a career decision during or towards the end of your university degree. You could choose a degree/major which relates in general to a type of career or group of careers which may interest you.

If you have a vague idea of the type of career which might interest you check out the occupations (jobs) that are grouped together into “families”, for example a scientific background.

You could then make a start by considering a degree/major which is related to certain occupational families or career groups.

The search is limitless - the websites are limitless – on any given topic. Give yourself plenty of time to research this decision. Talk to people about your thoughts.

Discuss your options with your family – remember they are paying your university fees so tuition and living costs have to be taken into consideration!

Try to talk to people in the profession you are interested in and find out what resources are available to you other than the internet: careers advisor, educational sections in embassies, bookshops and university visits where possible.