

University Timeline

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Here's a guide to what your time at university could look like, and how you could make the most of your experience!

FINAL YEAR OF SCHOOL/COLLEGE

This is when you will have to become serious about which path is the best for you. Do you want to study at University? Or become qualified through a different path, such as an Apprenticeship. If it is University that you choose, you'll need to apply through UCAS and also gain the necessary A-Levels (or equivalent qualifications) stated by the Universities you have applied to.

FIRST YEAR OF UNIVERSITY

Your first year at University is a chance to settle into your course. Meet new people and explore the city or area. Live in University accommodation and get to know the people living in your halls, or commute from home to save money. If you want more from your social life, join some clubs and societies - this is your chance to mix with those that share your interests and passion.

PLACEMENT YEAR OR YEAR ABROAD

A placement with an employer is an excellent way to gain work experience in your chosen degree field, and may even lead to a job at the company when you graduate. Some Universities also give you the opportunity to take a year or semester to study at a university abroad.

GAP YEAR

A gap year is an excellent chance to broaden your horizons and learn independence before starting your University career. Some people choose to gain world experience or work to save up for, or volunteer. Other people may decide to travel, or even choose a combination of these.

SECOND YEAR OF UNIVERSITY

This year it is important to start knuckling down as work gets more challenging. In many Universities, second year contributes to your final degree qualification, whether that's only 10% or even up to 50%. Second year is also a chance to live with the friends you made in first year in rented accommodation. You may also choose to join an internship for the summer or find a placement for next year.

FINAL YEAR OF UNIVERSITY

Study for your final exams and complete coursework. An important part of this year is your dissertation, where you can write about whatever you want within your degree subject. This is also a chance to apply for graduate jobs, or postgraduate study. Make sure you get the most out of your last few months of being a student!

