

# Tutorial 3

## Exploring University Options



**Post-16**



**Consortia Gwella Ysgolion Rhanbarthol**  
**Regional School Improvement Consortia**



# Tutorial 3: Exploring University Options

The purpose of this session, is to help you begin navigating the UCAS website, alongside other useful platforms, to discover entry requirements for subjects of interest to you.

## Task 1

- Visit the UCAS website [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com). (*“Find courses, information and more”*) and search for one subject from your year 12 options. You can navigate straight to the UCAS search engine by clicking on the link below.

<https://digital.ucas.com/search>

- Using the filters, scroll down to **“Where do you want to study?”** E.g. South West, West Midlands, East of England, Wales, North East, London, Scotland etc. and research which universities in five different regions of your choosing, offer this subject course.
- Choose a university in each region offering the course and record their entry requirements in the table below.

University/Region	Entry Grades/points

## Task 2

In the first task, we have asked you to carry out research into possible university courses based on your current year 12 options. There are currently over 50,000 undergraduate courses at more than 400 providers in the UK, so in this task, we would like you to look beyond your current subject options. You may already have an idea about a possible area of study you would like to pursue, e.g. law, medicine, design, business, sport etc. If so, you can explore this further in this task. Do not worry if you don't have any idea about what course you might like to study in the future or if you are unsure whether university study is even right for you, most students will be in this position when they start year 12. This exercise is all about giving you practice in using the UCAS website to explore possible options. So if you are unsure about course/university options, choose a course that just fits your current interests.

- **Decide which area of study you would like to research.**
- **Search "Find courses, information and more".**
- **Select five universities in areas of the UK you would be prepared to go to, and enter the entry requirements of each in the table on page 3**

Visit [www.whatuni.com](http://www.whatuni.com) website and / or [www.theuniguide.co.uk](http://www.theuniguide.co.uk) " to filter by possible grades at the end of year 13. **Be realistic!**

UCAS tariff points are used by some universities (around a third) when making conditional offers. Instead of asking for grades (e.g. BBC), a university may express the offer as 112 points. The table below shows the UCAS points for popular qualifications.

Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate	AS level	A level	Tariff points	BTEC Diploma	BTEC Subsidiary Diploma
			112	D*D*	
			104	D*D	
			96	DD	
			80	DM	
			64	MM	
A*		A*	56		D*
A		A	48	MP	D
B		B	40		
C		C	32	PP	M
D		D	24		
	A		20		
E	B	E	16		P
	C		12		
	D		10		
	E		6		

**Remember that most courses accept the Welsh Baccalaureate as an alternative to an A-level or BTEC subject. The grades you get in the Welsh Baccalaureate are equivalent to the grades obtained at A-level**

- If your GCSE predicted grades are all A \* / A, look for universities that require grades \*\*\* - AAB
- If your predicted GCSE grades are all A / B, look for universities that require AAA-BBC grades
- If your GCSE predicted grades are all B / C, look for universities that require BBB-CCD grades
- If your predicted GCSE grades are all Cs, look for universities that require CCC-DDE grades

Use the table below to help you calculate equivalent entry points to grades required.

Grades range	UCAS points value		Grades	UCAS points value
***	168		*	56
**A	160		A	48
*AA	152		B	40
AAA	144		C	32
AAB	136		D	24
ABB	128		E	16
BBB	120			
BBC	112		Grades AS	UCAS points value
BCC	104		A	20
CCC	96		B	16
CCD	88		C	12
CDD	80		D	10
DDD	72		E	6
DDE	64			
DEE	56			
EEE	48			

	University	Entry requirements
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

### **Task 3**

Now you have learnt how to use the UCAS search tool, we would like you to explore some other areas of the UCAS website.

One excellent section of the website, whether you are thinking of applying for university, apprenticeships or school leavers programmes is the subject guides section.

<https://www.ucas.com/explore/subjects>

In this task we would like you to use this section to carry out a little more research into the area of study you chose for Task 2.

**1. Click on the relevant guide for this subject area and in the space below write down a summary of what you feel are the key pieces of information it contains.**

**2. After carrying out this research, reflect on whether you are still interested in finding out more about this subject area and possibly pursuing it as a career/university option.**

#### **Task 4: Student Reflection**

In the tables below, record **five** things you have learnt from this tutorial and **three** further questions you have about university and university applications.

	<b>Five things I have learnt from this tutorial are:</b>
<b>1</b>	
<b>2</b>	
<b>3</b>	
<b>4</b>	
<b>5</b>	

	<b>The three further questions I have are:</b>
<b>1</b>	
<b>2</b>	
<b>3</b>	



Before the next tutorial, carry out some research to help you answer these questions. Your teachers will be able to help you if you are still unsure of anything after completing this research.