

Top Tips for choosing & applying to a Masters Course

Choosing a Masters course

- Work out what you are really interested in and search for courses that replicate this. Look at the different modules and what content/skills these will cover.
- Find a course which matches your style of working and how you prefer to be assessed. Do you enjoy labs and fieldwork, or prefer coursework over exams?
- If you can, contact lecturers about the course. They may be able to put you in touch with previous students who can tell you more about it and answer your questions.
- Taking some time after your Undergraduate degree can allow you to work out what you are most interested in, and find the best course for you without rushing into anything.
- Keep your options open. Don't feel like you have to stay at the same University just because you know the campus and people there - you might find a much more suitable course elsewhere!

Your application

- The application process will differ between Universities and courses - check the course website to find out more.
- Give yourself plenty of time to complete the application and gather any documents required.
- Highlight what you enjoy as much as any relevant experience you have. University's will want to see that you are passionate about an area.
- Indicate your transferable skills and how they will benefit you throughout the course.
- Discuss what motivates you and where you hope the course will lead you.
- Make it personal to the course and the University - why do you want to study there?

Funding

- Tuition fees vary between Universities and courses - you can find these on the course website.
- As with an Undergraduate degree, you can apply for a loan through the relevant funding bodies.
- Many universities will offer a discount on course fees for students who return to the same University that they studied their Undergraduate degree - try not to let this be a deciding factor in your decision!
- Universities will often have pages on their website which outline different scholarships and funding opportunities.
- There may also be course-specific scholarships/funding - check out all your options.

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What are some key differences between an Undergraduate degree and a Masters?

- A Masters degree may provide a more in-depth focus on a specific area within a discipline.
- Depending on your course, a Masters may be more research-based.
- The workload is greater than an Undergraduate degree, and you may have a shorter period of time to complete assignments.
- You will work more independently during a Masters course, and will likely have fewer timetabled contact hours.
- As a Masters student, you are part of a smaller group of like-minded people who share the same interests and passions, and therefore you can become a lot closer as a course.

What do our students wish they knew before starting a Masters course?

- "Make the most of your postgrad time - you get to meet lots of really cool people and sometimes you get to work with them!"
- "The workload is intense and can be hard to juggle with other commitments such as part time jobs, so it is important to think about if the timing is right for you to take this degree."
- "How much I would enjoy it compared to my undergraduate degree and how much more confident in my knowledge it would make me"
- "My masters degree increased my interest in the subject area, provided me with great skills and experiences for my CV, and introduced me to a group of people with the same interests and passions as me."

Helpful links & resources

- Search for a course through [UCAS](#) - filter by subject, location, course type and more!
- Check whether you're eligible for funding through the relevant finance bodies: [England](#), [Scotland](#), [Wales](#), and [Northern Ireland](#).
- Click [here](#) to learn more about the academic expectations of Masters students from academics at the University of Leeds.