



You may already have some knowledge of university or it could all be new to you. In this activity you will learn some key information about universities and create your own 'Dream University'

## What is a University?

- A place to continue your education after you've finished school and/or college
- A place that students over 18 go
- You choose what you want to study and where you want to go
- Somewhere to get a degree qualification
- Somewhere that discoveries are made

## Why do people go to University?

- Learning doesn't stop when you turn 18 (there is no upper age limit)
- To study a subject that you enjoy or a new subject that interests you
- Learn new skills and have new experiences
- Because you need to for the job you want to do e.g. doctor, nurse, architect, lawyer, teacher
- Because it can help you get a better job or earn more
- For the whole experience – it should be fun!

## What can I study?

Courses in a wide range of subjects including those you know and some that are new and specialised. Look at lots of university prospectuses and websites to see what is on offer... there are even courses like circus performance and surf science out there!

- There are over 50000 courses to choose from and nearly 200 places you can go.
- Most courses last for at least 3 years. Some, such as dentistry or medicine, last for longer
- You need to complete A level/BTEC or other Level 3 (above GCSE) qualifications to get into University. You may also need voluntary experience, e.g. work with people for nursing, work with animals for veterinary care.





## What are universities like?

All are different depending on their size, location, style

- Old, new or a mixture
- City, Country, Sea Side – or a mix of locations
- College based (Oxford, Cambridge, Lancaster, Durham)
- One campus or many different sites
- Many buildings or one big building
- Teaching and living on the same site, teaching and living in different areas
- Big; 25,000 students. Small; 500 students
- General; do lots of subjects
- Specialist; do a small group of subjects
- Facilities on offer – cafes, studio space, gallery, planetarium, labs, seminar rooms, libraries and workspaces, IT access and much more.
- Accommodation – self-catered, catered, flats, houses, studios, big blocks of rooms, smaller units, shared or en-suite facilities, close to teaching areas or further away.

### TASK: Design your own University

Come up with an idea for your own “Dream University” – what is it like? where is it? what facilities would it have?

Draw your design - you can do this however you want: diagram, map, brain storm....

Your university creation should have:

- a name
- places to live, study and socialise
- something (text or picture) that shows what it is like and where it is (e.g. in the countryside on one site, in a castle, several sites on the side of some mountains, under a city!!!)

Here are some prompts of things you might include: Name; Location; Style; Number of campuses; Type of accommodation; Catering options; Shops and other facilities; Sports facilities; learning facilities; courses; societies

