

Studying in the UK



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WARWICK

Why study in the UK?

Tradition and experience

- some universities are up to 800 years old
- strong reputation of UK education worldwide

Academic excellence – high quality teaching and world class research, creativity and independent thinking, small group teaching for taught courses

Courses often **shorter** than elsewhere

Good career prospects... Tier 2 visas for skilled workers with a job offer: requires applicants to have received an offer of employment. Tier 2 ties you into one job and one employer for the duration of the visa's validity (up to 3 years in the first instance with the possibility to extend to 5). UKBA will be introducing a sub-category of tier 2 which may be applicable to students – an on-going process...



UK Quality & Standards

All academic departments have Government assessments of:

Teaching Quality:

- TQA (Teaching Quality Assessment) - scores out of 24 points - www.qaa.ac.uk
- National student survey – www.unistats.com

Research Quality (RAE):

- RAE 2008, scores of 1*- 4* - www.rae.ac.uk
- Provides quality profiles for research in all disciplines
- Shows quality and standing of academic departments in research

“Overall” ranking – League tables:

- e.g. Guardian, Good University Guide, Times



UK Study opportunities

Foundation programmes

Undergraduate study

Postgraduate study (taught or research)

Summer schools

English language courses

... In the UK or via distance learning?



Undergraduate study



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WARWICK

Undergraduate study

All applications to undergraduate study in the UK are made online via UCAS and not to individual institutions. There are a wide variety of institutions and courses to choose from...

I enjoy lots of different subjects. How do I know which course to apply for?

How do I decide which University to choose?



Talk to a careers advisor about careers or subjects that interest you

Look at the UCAS.com website – there is detailed guidance on choosing a course and university that matches your skills and interests

Some courses with same title can be VERY different in teaching methods and content: do your research on university websites and speak to university representatives or current students if you get the chance

Consider the qualifications needed: do you meet the entry requirements for the university you are interested in?



What can the university offer you?

Internship

Accommodation

Location

Town or country?

Study abroad

Placement year

Sports? Music?

Course content: does your department offer modules you are interested in?



Parents

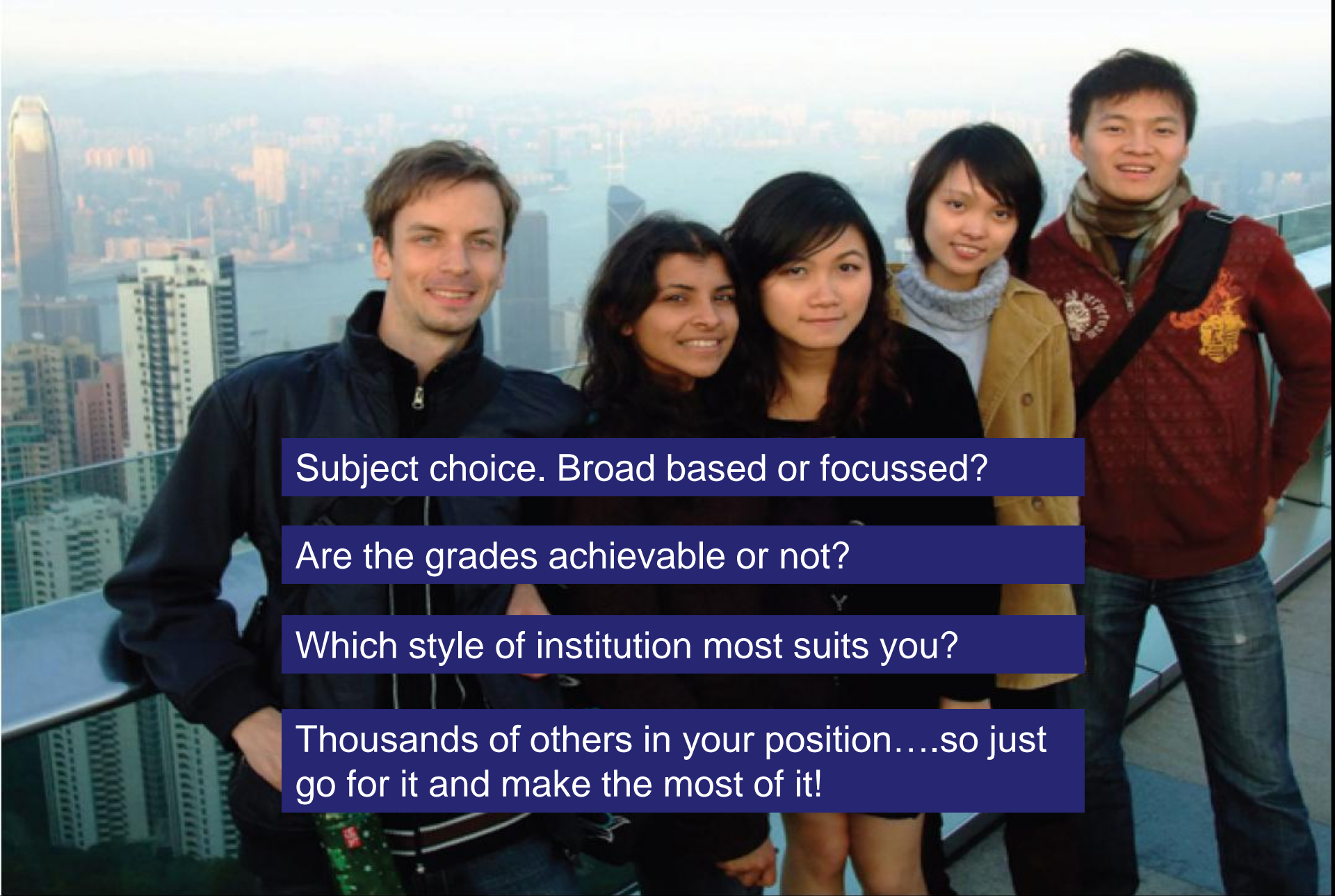
Friends

Blog websites

Career prospects

Gut feeling

Does the degree need to be related to the job?



Subject choice. Broad based or focussed?

Are the grades achievable or not?

Which style of institution most suits you?

Thousands of others in your position....so just go for it and make the most of it!

Undergraduate study: how do I know if I'm eligible to apply?

Universities will advise you on their individual requirements for academic grades and English language ability

A level & IB are the most common qualifications for undergraduate entry, but many others are also accepted (e.g. French Baccalaureate, US SATs and APs, Indian CBSE)

If your national qualifications are not accepted for direct entry to undergraduate study, you may be eligible for a Foundation programme



How do I apply?

The logo for UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) is displayed in the top right corner. It features the letters 'UCAS' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. A stylized orange swoosh is positioned above the 'A'.

- Students have 5 choices
- Listed alphabetically, not in order of preference
- Students may apply to more than one course at the same institution
- Submit your application before 15 January in order to be guaranteed equal consideration

Your application will include

- Personal details
- Academic profile – achieved & predicted
- Personal statement
- School reference



What we're looking for in your application...

- Intellectual ability
- Those who can articulate their aims
- Whether you fit the course and it will suit you
- Evidence of motivation, commitment and potential to succeed on the course
- Well-rounded applicants
- **A strong personal statement which shows you have these qualities**



What makes a good Personal Statement?

The personal statement should:

- be reflective, not a catalogue of activities, or books you have read
- include:
 - Why you've chosen the course
 - What you've done – in & out of class
 - What you've learnt from it
 - What your skills & personal qualities are

And perhaps most importantly

-Why is this relevant to your application



Personal Statement Topics

- Choice of course
- Choice of subjects studied at A Level
- Sources of inspiration or interest to you relevant to the subject
- Career aspirations
- Relevant work experience, extra-curricular activities or qualifications
- Personal achievements, hobbies and interests
- Gap year plans



Postgraduate study



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WARWICK

Why postgraduate study?

- For love of the subject – follow a passion
- For personal challenge, intellectual stimulation
- To enhance your employment prospects
 - Gain entry to or progress a specific career path
 - Change career path
 - Wider opportunities & competitive 'Edge'
 - Essential for Career Progression
- Defer job hunting
- Because your lecturer/friend/parent suggested it



Types of postgraduate study

- Taught Masters (MA, MSc, LLM, MEd)
- MBA
- Masters by Research (MRes)
- MPhil and traditional PhD
- Distance learning options?

Taught Masters (MA, MSc, LLM...)

- Usually last 12 months
- Generally one start date per year – in September/October
- Winter & Spring term – taught classes, Summer term – dissertation/project
- Usually need first degree in “relevant” subject (exception: conversion Masters)



MBA

- If you are aiming for a strategic management position
- Usually lasts 12 months (exception: distance learning)
- Need significant work experience in senior management to qualify for entry (at least 2 - 3 years, sometimes more)
- Very competitive entry
- Might need GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test) for entry
- Would a specialist MA/MSc be more suitable?



Masters by Research (Mres)

- Unique 1 year programme combining advanced subject specific modules with training in the methodological, analytical and research skills which are central to further research
- Different to MA / MSc which has greater emphasis on subject modules
- Substantial thesis 15,000 + words
- Natural step onto PhD



MPhil/ PhD

- Extensive investigation of a specific topic.
- May be required to register initially for MPhil, with transfer after year 1 to PhD (quality control)
- Normal MPhil duration is 1 to 2 years fulltime
- Normal PhD duration is minimum of 3 years full time
- Assessment by
 - written thesis judged by internal and external experts
 - oral examination 'Viva-Voce' in which you are required to defend the work and contribution you are seeking to make



Summer Schools



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WARWICK

International Summer School 2012

- The Warwick experience 'in miniature'
- 2 courses: Creative Writing / Global Business
- 1st – 21st July 2012
- Intensive academic study with a varied social programme
- Trips include: London, Oxford and Stratford upon Avon- home of Shakespeare



English language training



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WARWICK

English language training

If you do not meet the required English language level for your course, your university may offer Pre-Sessional English or an intensive one-year English language course prior to starting your study, although you will still have to meet minimum requirements set by the UKBA to study in the UK in order to obtain your visa



Sources of Further Information

- **Printed Prospectus or departmental brochures**
- **University websites and departmental websites**
- **Current and former students**
- **UCAS (undergraduate study)**
www.ucas.com
- **British Council? In-country agents?**
- **University representatives? (Today!!)**





Any questions?

Middle East & North Africa team

MENA@warwick.ac.uk

0044 2476 528299

www.warwick.ac.uk