

## Sources of information

### How to read them

When reading any information about a university or course, ensure your students:

- are aware of who is putting forward the information
- go to the university and speak to people within the department
- get advice from many different sources
- compare courses at different universities.

#### UCAS

The first port of call for all things related to university admissions:

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

#### Universities

University websites and prospectuses provide more detailed information about the course and what it is like to study with them. Speak to admissions staff to find out more about the range of offers and alternative offers that may be available. Also ask about outreach programmes, summer schools and masterclasses provided by universities. These could provide information and advice to support your students' decision-making.

#### Open days

**Open days can give your students a real sense of what it would be like to live and study at a particular university.**

To get the most out of the open days we have some suggestions for your students:

- Book a place – these can be very popular events.
- Plan the day – there can be a lot of activities to fit in.
- Ask questions, speak to student ambassadors, academic staff and professional staff to find out more about life at university.
- Go to subject talks and activities.
- Take a look at the accommodation.
- Explore the campus and the town or city.
- Write a list of questions to ask and take it with you.

#### Current or former university students

Your former students are one of the best sources of information about what it is like to study at a particular university or take a particular course. Encourage them to come back and speak to your current students. Many leading universities also ask their students to visit schools and colleges to give talks about their experience of applying to and studying at university. Contact university admissions, recruitment and widening participation teams to find out what support they can offer. The Advancing Access website provides links to the relevant university websites.

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## Discover Uni

Discover Uni ([discoveruni.gov.uk](https://discoveruni.gov.uk)) allows your students to search and compare data on courses across the UK.



Here are our top five tips to get the most out of Discover Uni:

- Remember that experiences for each course will be different for each person and differ year on year.
- Some of the information (such as student satisfaction and employment outcomes) is retrospective and may not show what it will be like for your students.
- Do not give too much credence to small differences between courses, particularly if there are only a few students on the course.
- Sometimes there is no data, but that should not have a bearing on students' views of the quality of the course.
- The entry profile represents all qualifications and is not wholly representative of the grades your students may need to get in.

## League tables

The three main national league tables that are used:



Each league table may focus on different elements of a university or student experience.

It is important to remember that all data can have its limitations and we urge students to read up on courses, go to open days and talk to careers advisers and others to find out which degree course will suit them.

The Guardian



The Times and Sunday Times  
Good University Guide



The Complete University Guide

