

UNIVERSITY JARGON BUSTER QUIZ



UNDERGRADUATE VS POSTGRADUATE

- An **Undergraduate** is a student studying either full or part time for a **first degree** (eg: BA, BSc)
- **Postgraduate** qualifications are courses at a higher level that are usually only available for those who have already passed their Undergraduate degree.
- Postgraduate study can lead to qualifications such as:
 - Masters degrees
 - Postgraduate Certificate or Diplomas
 - PhD (Doctorate)

BSC AND BA

- **BA** = The short title for **Bachelor of Arts degrees** e.g. BA Sociology, awarded to students who have successfully passed (graduated) their degree course in Arts subjects.
- **BSc** = **Bachelor of Science** e.g. BSc Computing, awarded to students who have successfully passed (graduated) their degree course in Science subjects.
- There are also other subject specific versions eg:
 - **BEd** = Education/teaching degrees
 - **BEng** = Engineering degrees

COMBINED/JOINT HONOURS DEGREE

- A degree in which a student studies a combination of two (or more!) different subjects
- These degrees can be of equal weighting between the subjects eg: History **and** Politics, English **and** Media.
- ...or could be Major/Minor degrees with 2/3^{rds} to 1/3rd weighting eg: Psychology **with** Sociology
- Notice the differences in the language used (and vs with)
- Useful for students who do not want to narrow their field of study
- Be careful about professional accreditation

SANDWICH COURSE

- Sandwich courses are degree courses which include an **extra year** 'sandwiched' between the years of study.
- During the extra year, the student usually goes on work experience with an organisation or department in their subject field.
- If the degree is in languages, the extra year will usually involve a trip abroad e.g. a sandwich course in French may involve a year living and working in France.
- Sandwich degrees therefore often last at least four years, with the third year being the year 'out'.

RUSSELL GROUP

- The **Russell Group** is a self-selected group of twenty-four research intensive universities in the UK.
- In 2010, Russell Group members received approximately two-thirds of all university research grant and contract income in the UK.
- The group is widely perceived as representing some of the best universities in the country
- The members are: Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Imperial College London, Leeds, Liverpool, London School of Economics, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Oxford, Sheffield, Southampton, University College London (UCL), Warwick, Cardiff, Kings College, Queens University Belfast, Durham, Exeter, Queen Mary University of London and York

SCHOLARSHIP AND BURSARY

- **Bursary** = A non repayable grant of money awarded to a student on application who fulfils specific criteria, eg: low income families. Bursaries are often paid directly from Universities.
- **Scholarships** = grants (not repayable) of money made to a student. They are a little like a bursary, but scholarships are usually based on **academic merit** and excellence as opposed to financial need.
- Many more universities are offering scholarships as well as bursaries. However far fewer scholarships are given than bursaries.

SEMINARS AND LECTURES

- A **Lecture** is usually a formal presentation of ideas and information by a member of the academic staff to a fairly large number of students.
 - Many lectures are accompanied with student handouts, although you will generally be encouraged to make your own notes too. Normally held in lecture halls of up to 300 seats. Often little to no chance for interaction and/or questions.
- A **Seminar** involves a small group of students meeting with a tutor to discuss a subject area.
 - Often pre-reading or even a presentation must be completed to present/discuss at the seminar
 - Seminars are more interactive than a lecture and are often student led.
- Many universities now offer **tutorials** where a very small group (possibly one to one) of students meet with a tutor to discuss their progress and receive feedback on essays

READING WEEK

- A period during a semester or term when students can concentrate on their individual learning and research.
- During these weeks there are usually no formal teaching sessions.

SEMESTERS

- Some universities divide the student year into 3 terms (like in school), some divide it into 2 semesters.
- A semester is therefore half a study year.
- There are often exams at the end of each semester eg: Exams in January and May of each academic year
- Many courses only count the results of exams/essays from the 2nd year onwards for your final degree qualification
- This means you are required to 'pass' the first year to progress onwards.

CATERED VS SELF CATERED HALLS OF RESIDENCE

- When selecting halls of residence, you can choose between Catered or Self catered.
- **Catered halls** normally include three cooked meals a day within the weekly cost of the room – a little bit like school dinners. Food is normally served at set times only.
- **Self catered halls** have no food provided in the weekly cost. Self catered halls therefore come with shared kitchens allowing you to prepare your own food.
- Self catered halls are therefore usually cheaper than catered ones.
- NOTE: All utility bills are included in the cost of Halls whether catered or self catered.
- The vast majority of First year uni students are offered a place in halls (unless the university is close to your parents home)
- Most students in the second year and beyond live in rented accommodation off-campus

PERIODICALS

- Periodicals are specialist journals which are published on a regular basis and contain articles written mainly by university researchers.
- These are a useful and important source of information for study and are often found in the deepest, darkest bowels of university libraries
- There are for reference only and cannot be loaned.
- Some of them go back over 100yrs!
- Many can now be accessed by using online search engines

ACCESS/FOUNDATION COURSES

- These are courses offered by universities to help prepare students for starting a full Bachelors degrees. They are typically one or two years in duration.
- They often require lower grades to get onto as the university will treat them as a 'trial year' where they upskill you
- Successful completion of a foundation course will often then lead to a full offer
- Foundation courses are often offered in quite academic fields to ensure that students have the correct skills before they progress eg: Medicine, Engineering etc.

CLEARING & EXTRA

- Clearing is the system operated by UCAS to enable students to find places on courses that still have vacancies after the publication of the A level/BTEC results.
- About 30,000 students go through the clearing system each year. For further information on the process visit www.ucas.co.uk/clearing
- It is mainly used by those:
 - Who have not made the grades required by their chosen universities
 - Or for last minute applications
- **UCAS Extra** is the process which allows you to continue to apply for one course at a time if you do not gain any offers from your first 5 course choices

ADJUSTMENT

- Students that gain higher grades than predicted on results day and therefore exceed the grade requirement for their firm choice can choose to reject that offer
- They can then enter Adjustment where they have the opportunity to gain access to courses at other universities where the grade requirements are higher and therefore match their results

DISSERTATION

- An extended essay or report usually between 7,000 and 15,000 words on a specific subject completed during a course of study (often in the final year)
- This involves in depth research and independent study.
- Students can normally choose fairly freely the area of study
- Students are normally allocated a personal tutor to meet with to discuss the progress of their dissertation

CAMPUS (VS NON-CAMPUS) UNIVERSITY

- A **campus** is the land a university is built on. The word is normally used when talking about universities where most of the buildings are a single site, known as '**campus universities**'.
- At other universities, the buildings are mixed in with the rest of the city so there isn't a distinct campus.
- Some universities have **more than one campus**. Sometimes this is because the university is split across two areas in the same region, but in other cases a university will open a campus somewhere completely different - for example, the University of Sunderland has a campus in London.

FRESHERS

- Students beginning their time at a university are often referred to as Freshers (First years)
- Freshers Week may be organised to introduce them to university life.
- This can include social events as well as introduction to libraries and other resources.
- Be careful not to blow all your student loans in this time – there are horror stories of this!

REFERENCING

- Referencing means acknowledging your source: in the body of your work (in-text referencing) and/or via a reference list or bibliography.
- There are different forms of referencing systems, you will be instructed of the system used in your department. The **Harvard referencing** system is commonly used, where books or journal articles are referenced like this:

Ward, R (1996). Changes in Biochemistry. London: University College London Press.

- Incorrect (or absent) referencing can lead to a large reduction of marks or even accusations of Plagiarism...

PLAGIARISM

- Plagiarism is the act of taking another person's writing, conversation, song, or even idea and passing it off as your own.
- This includes information from web pages, books, songs, television shows, email messages, interviews, articles, artworks or any other medium.
- Whenever you paraphrase, summarize, or take words, phrases, or sentences from another person's work, it is necessary to indicate the source of the information within your essay using a citation/reference.
- **Universities take plagiarism VERY seriously.** Those found guilty can have a range of 'punishments' from an ungraded mark in that essay to failing your degree/eing asked to leave the university

ADMISSIONS TUTORS

- Each department or faculty at each university will have someone who is responsible for application forms and other enquiries about the admissions process.
- Admissions tutors will read and assess your UCAS application in order to make a judgement as to whether to give you an offer at that university

FIRM AND INSURANCE CHOICES

- When you apply to university through UCAS you can choose up to 5 courses to apply for.
- These do not have to be from 5 different universities
- They should be all in the same field of academic study as you will need to write a personal statement of application
- When you have replies (and hopefully offers!) back from all your 5 choices you will need to chose:
 - A firm choice (your first choice university to attend if you meet the entry requirements)
 - An insurance choice (which has a lower grade offer in case you do not meet your first choice offer)

CHOICES CONTINUED

- Universities will give offers based on the predicted grades that we (your school) provide.
- You should therefore apply for courses that match your predicted grades.
- Example – if you are predicted three B grades:
 - You should apply for around 3 courses that require three B's
 - You should apply for around 2 courses that require slightly less eg: BBC or BCC
- Your firm choice should be an offer on three B's
- Your insurance offer should be lower eg: BCC
- Do not waste applications on courses that require grades higher than your predictions – you will be rejected!

GAP YEAR / YEAR OUT

- A **Gap Year** is when you apply for university courses but ask the to **defer** your place for a year
- This means when you leave sixth form you will have a guaranteed university place – only to start it after a further year
- Students who take an official Gap Year will need to justify **WHY** they plan to do this in their applications
- Common reasons could include: Wanting to travel, employment to save up money, volunteering, further work experience or study or even a combination of reasons listed above
- You can simply take a **Year out or unofficial gap year**, where you do not apply for university while you are at sixth form, wait for your results and then apply the following year. We will provide support for you if you take this option. Many sixth forms wont...