



# Studying at university or college

## Student FAQs

### **What is the difference between school and university?**

University is very different to school – for a start you will be studying only the subject that you enjoy most, and you will have to be a lot more independent than you are at school. Also, being at university is about much more than just studying – it's about all of the other opportunities that will allow you to develop into whoever you want to be!

### **Can you study more than one subject at a time?**

At most universities, you are able to study at least two subjects at the same time. For example, you might be able to study a course in both English and history. Sometimes, you can even study three, so it's worth checking with each university directly. Studying more than one subject is a great idea if you can't choose between those you like best.

### **How much independent learning do you do?**

This really depends on the course. Courses with lots of contact hours such as medicine, dentistry and some science subjects do have some independent learning, but it is courses such as English, history and other humanities subjects that require a lot of independent learning. Generally though, one of the main differences between school and university is an increase in independent learning.

### **How many lectures do you have per day?**

This depends on what course you do. Some courses may have up to seven hours of lectures per day, whereas some may only have one or two. More practical courses like theatre studies and drama tend to have more contact hours. If you are unsure, contact the university.

### **How many years do you study for?**

Most undergraduate courses last for three years, but some courses – especially those with a master's qualification attached – are four years long. Medicine and dentistry degrees both last five years. Sandwich courses enable students to take a year between your second and third year to gain related work experience or study abroad.

### **Will I get help and academic support at university? Or will I have to manage everything on my own?**

You can be as independent as you like when you are at university – but you may be interested to know that there is a lot of additional support available to you if you want it. This includes help with finances and study skills.

In particular, if you come from a care background many universities have a dedicated person who will support you, as well as offer you extra financial help.