

Lancaster  
University



# Choosing a Course and University

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**LYNDSEY SPIERS**

RECRUITMENT & ADMISSIONS

# Where are we?



Well connected with excellent road, rail and airport links to the UK

- London (2.5 hours)
- Manchester (1 hour)
- Edinburgh (2.5 hours)
- Birmingham (2 hours)
- Bristol (3.5 hours)





An aerial photograph of a sprawling university campus. The campus is composed of numerous interconnected buildings, some with traditional red brick facades and others with more modern, light-colored exteriors. It is surrounded by lush green fields, dense clusters of trees, and a few sports fields. A multi-lane road runs along the bottom edge of the campus. A large, teal-colored shield-shaped graphic is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing white text.

Our Campus

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560 acres



# In Today's Session...

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- Why University?
- Choosing a Course
- Researching Universities
- Open Days





# Why University?



# Routes After School

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## Apprenticeship



## University



## Employment



Remember it's about **finding** the **right** path for **you**.  
If you're unsure, don't worry, you're not the only one!



# What can you gain from University?

**Transferable Skills**



**Lifelong friends**



**Confidence**



**Independence**



**New Life Experiences**



**Pursue your passions  
and interests**





# Why University?

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- Exciting life experiences and the chance to meet new people and make new friends
- Pursue a subject you're passionate about
- Build up your confidence and independence
- Choose where and how you want to live



# Why University?

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- Extra-curricular opportunities – take up new activities and hobbies
- Travel abroad or take a work placement
- Gain transferable skills that apply to all sorts of careers





# Why University?

- Access a wider range of careers and professions
- Unlock high-skilled jobs and graduate schemes
- Increase your earning potential by £1,000s per year
- 57% of employers ask for a university degree, regardless of subject (CIPD 2022)



How much more  
can you earn with a  
degree?

**+£6,500 per  
year**

Graduate median salary  
premium, DfE Labour Force  
Survey 2023



# Choosing a Course



# So Much Choice!



You only have 5 spaces to fill on your UCAS application.

How many universities are there in the UK?

How many degree courses are there in the UK?

# Where to Begin?

- What is your favourite subject?
- What subjects do you excel in?
- What do you enjoy?
- What are your hobbies and interests?
- Do you have a career in mind?





# Real or Fake?

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**Fake**

**Real!**

University of  
Birmingham

**Fake**

**Fake**

**Real!**

30 different courses  
across the UK

**Real!**

University for the  
Creative Arts

# Types of Courses

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## **Traditional Courses**

- English, Maths, Sciences, Art

## **Not Available at School**

- Medicine, Accounting, Zoology

## **Combined Courses**

- Psychology and Criminology

## **Specified Subjects**

- Ethical Hacking, Baking Science and Technology





# Study Abroad

- Study for a year at a different university in another country
- Look for Study Abroad in your course title
- Other travel opportunities may be available (terms abroad, summer schools, field trips)



# At Lancaster...

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- Destinations depend on your course
- You pay 15% of tuition fees for a full year abroad programme
- Study Abroad pathway degrees are 4 years, with students taking the 3<sup>rd</sup> year abroad
- Help and support is available to arrange important practicalities





# Where might you Study Abroad?



Italy



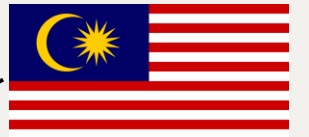
Spain



USA



China



Malaysia



Australia

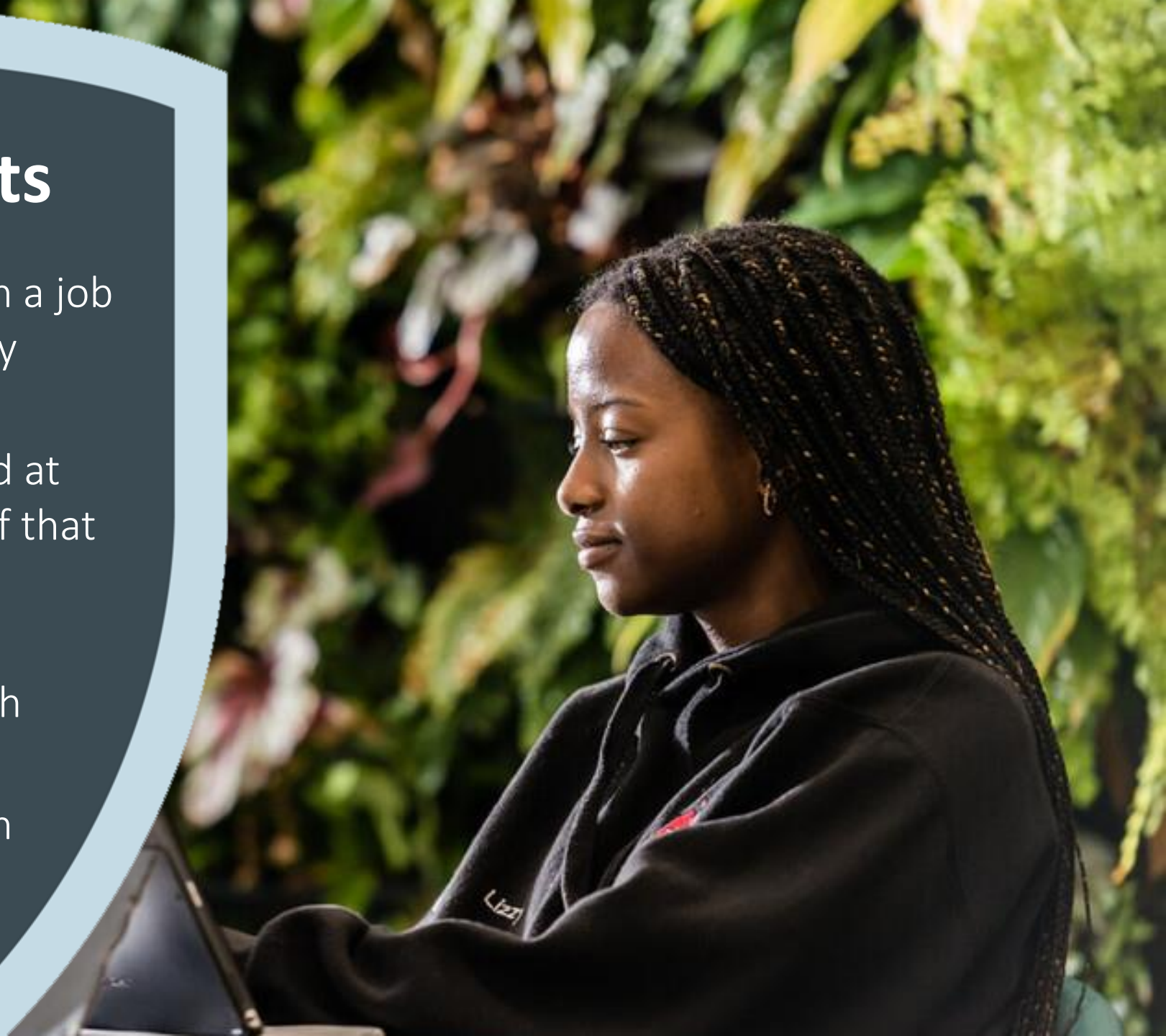




# Industry Placements

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- Take an extra year and work in a job designed to develop university students and their skills
- Most placements are paid and at Lancaster you pay only 20% of that year's tuition
- Check for support from your university when applying, both practical and financial
- Look for placement degrees in UCAS





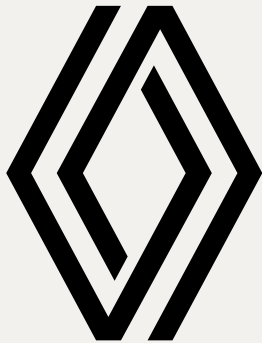
# Placements for Previous Lancaster Students

L'ORÉAL



The  
WALT DISNEY  
Company

Deloitte.



RENAULT

intel®

LLOYDS BANK

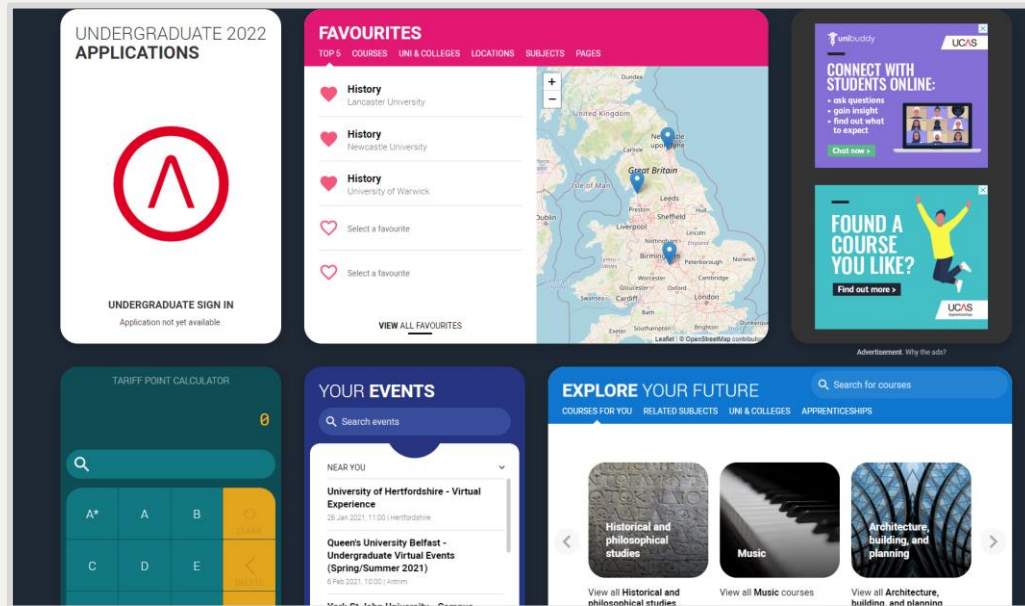


# What Can I do With a Degree in...?

<b>Art:</b>	television, arts admin, web page design, tourism...
<b>Biochemistry:</b>	forensic science, management, IT, sales...
<b>Biology:</b>	environmental consultancy, finance, marketing...
<b>Geography:</b>	journalism, banking, accountancy, law, sales...
<b>History:</b>	law, finance, IT management, computing...
<b>Law:</b>	accountancy, banking, the media, industry, sales...
<b>Languages:</b>	law, tourism, civil service, diplomatic service...

≈57% of employers ask for a degree

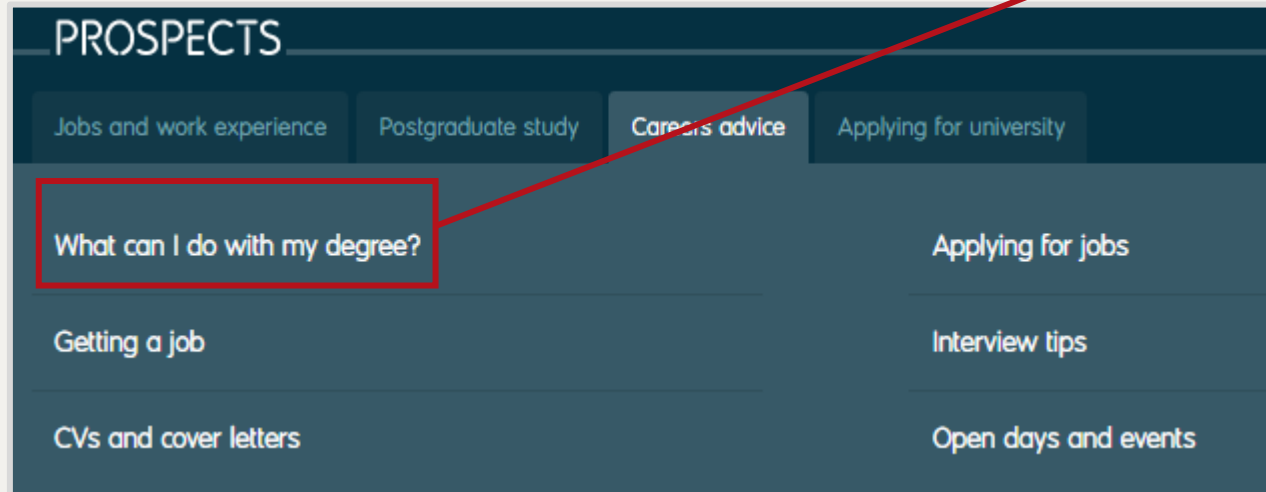
# UCAS Hub



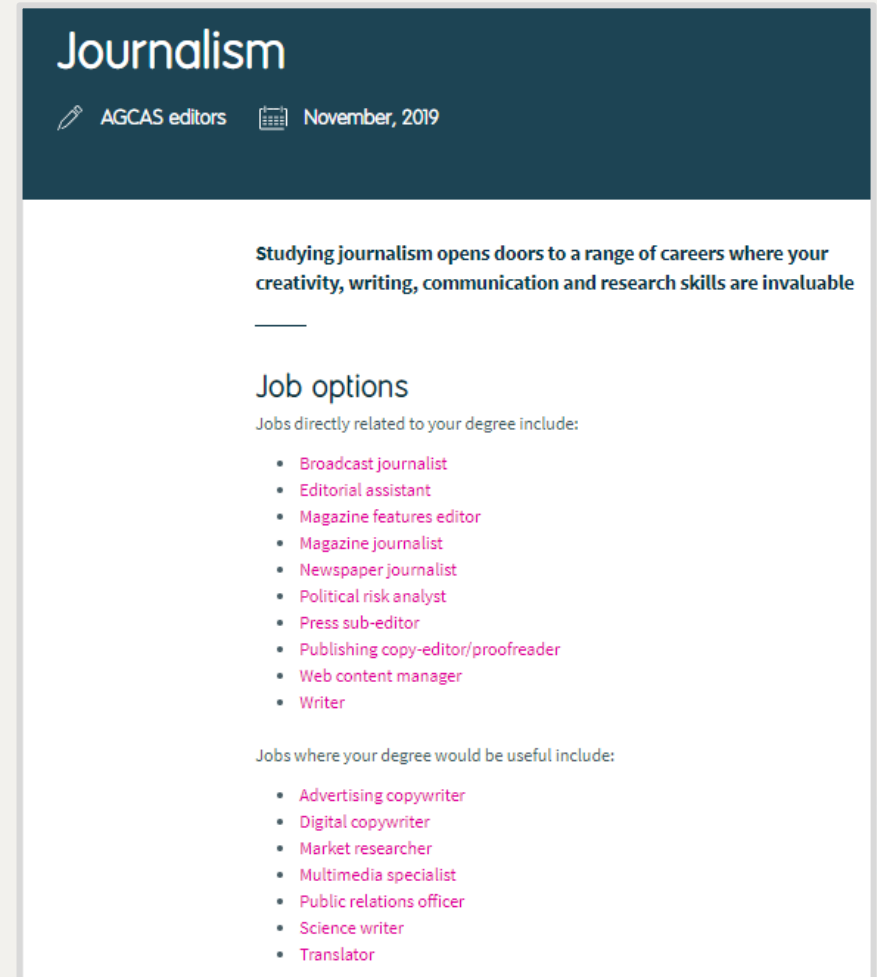
- Customisable
- Detailed breakdown of your choices
- Events listings
- Course/ University Map
- FAQs
- Personal Statement Builder



# Prospects



[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)



# SACU

Free online tool to explore degree courses and careers

- Complete a careers quiz
- Check your personal statement
- Look at job vacancies

Sign up using this link create your own login for free

- [sacu-student.com](https://sacu-student.com)

The screenshot shows the SACU website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the SACU logo and links for Students, Schools, Colleges & Universities, Contact us, and LOGIN. Below the navigation bar, a text block states: "SACU has created a whole host of tools to get you researching your future options. Take a look at some of them below." The main content area features six tool cards arranged in a 2x3 grid. Each card has a title, a description, a colorful splatter graphic, and a button.

Tool Name	Description	Button Text
FREE CAREERS QUIZ	The visual quiz that matches you to HE courses, careers & apprenticeships	Learn More
BOOKMARK & SHARE	It's easy to make your own shortlists and share your research with others	Learn More
Personal Statement Checker	Check your draft UCAS Statement for common errors and mistakes	Log in & use now
Labour Market Info & Job Vacancies	Behind every career in the Career Cloud, there's a wealth of information	Log in & use now
A Level Match tool	The only place to match your A Levels to a personalised degree cloud	Learn More
Latest SACU Newsletter	Read top tips from SACU and great features from excellent universities	Learn More



# **Researching Universities**



# Key Factors to Consider

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**Entry Requirements**

**Location**

**Accommodation**

**Living Costs**

**Modules**

**Rankings**

**Facilities**

**Support**

**Graduate Prospects**

# Entry Requirements

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- Some universities admit students based on total UCAS tariff points
- Others (like Lancaster) consider your best grades instead
- Some courses require an interview
- You may need particular qualifications or subjects
- Not all universities consider resits



# Home or Away?

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- Some people thrive in living away, and some thrive from having friends and family nearby.
- Location affects living costs and opportunities available to you.
- **Remember** there is no right or wrong way to 'do' university, only your way!







## Campus

- Self contained in one location and student orientated
- Community, safety and security
- Accommodation in close proximity to university facilities
- Examples include Lancaster, Loughborough and Exeter

## City

- Closer to more amenities and services
- Useful for fostering work/life balance
- Some people prefer the buzz of a big city
- Examples include Manchester, Birmingham, Oxford

# Accommodation

- Private rental or university halls?
- En-suite or shared facilities?
- What is the price range?
- Where is the accommodation located?
- Is accommodation guaranteed?





PLAY  
YOUR CARDS  
RIGHT



# Play Your Accommodation Cards Right!

	<i>Cost Per Week 2024-25*</i>	<i>Overall Contract Cost 2024-25*</i>
<i>Lancaster</i>	£191	£7,640 (40 weeks)
<i>Leeds</i>	£195	£8,385 (43 weeks)
<i>Cambridge</i>	£217	£6,510 (30 weeks)
<i>St Andrews</i>	£195 / £226	£7,437 / £8,619 (38 weeks)
<i>Bath</i>	£271	£10,298 (38 weeks)
<i>Liverpool</i>	£199	£7,764 (39 weeks)
<i>Teeside</i>	£165	£6,600 (40 weeks)
<i>Keele</i>	£223	£9,155 (40 weeks)
<i>UCL</i>	£326	£12,714 (39 weeks)

\*Based on a Premium En-suite Room

# Modules

## Comparison of optional third year modules for BA (Hons) Geography

### Lancaster University

- Alpine Environmental Processes Field Course
- Coral Reef Ecology
- Environment, politics and Society in Amazonia
- Food and Agriculture in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- Glacial Systems
- The Causes and Consequences of Environmental Radioactivity
- Water, Society and the Istrian Landscape

### University of Sheffield

- Confronting the Anthropocene
- The Planets
- Our Frozen Planet
- Urban Exploration
- Democracy and Citizenship: Dilemmas and Tensions
- Decolonising Geographies
- Urban Transformations

# League Tables

- Independent tables mainly produced by newspapers.
- Provide prospective university students with data to decide which university is the 'best fit' for them.
- Remember to use league tables subjectively - there is no perfect way to measure if one university is better than another.





# What League Tables Measure

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The proportion of graduates with 'good' degree results

Entry Standards

Staff to Student ratio

Teaching Scores and Student Satisfaction

Graduate Employment Prospects

University Spending on Facilities



**What  
DON'T they  
Measure?**

**Resources and Facilities**  
(Lab space and library materials)

**Course Flexibility**  
(What modules can you take?)

**Assessment methods**  
(Is there a variety to suit you?)

**How you FEEL at the university**

# UK University Rankings

10<sup>th</sup>

The Complete  
University Guide 2025

11<sup>th</sup>

The Guardian  
University Guide 2025

12<sup>th</sup>

The Times and Sunday  
Times Good University  
Guide 2025



# Course Rankings

**1<sup>st</sup>**

**Social Work**

**2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Media Studies**

**3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Biomedical  
Sciences**

**3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Linguistics**

**6<sup>th</sup>**

**Creative  
Writing**

**7<sup>th</sup>**

**Architecture**

**7<sup>th</sup>**

**Marketing**

**8<sup>th</sup>**

**Physics &  
Astronomy**

# National Student Survey

An independent survey for graduating students to evaluate their university experience

- An honest insight
- Departmental and overall satisfaction
- Topics covered: academic support, teaching, assessment and feedback, resources available and more
- **NSS 2024:** 88.5% of Lancaster University students are satisfied overall with the quality of their course.



# Facilities

- These could be academic, such as specific science labs, computer equipment or performance spaces
- Think about extra-curriculars – does that university have the right sports facilities, a swimming pool, or a theatre?
- You will spend a lot of time on campus - choose somewhere you like, that feels comfortable and welcoming





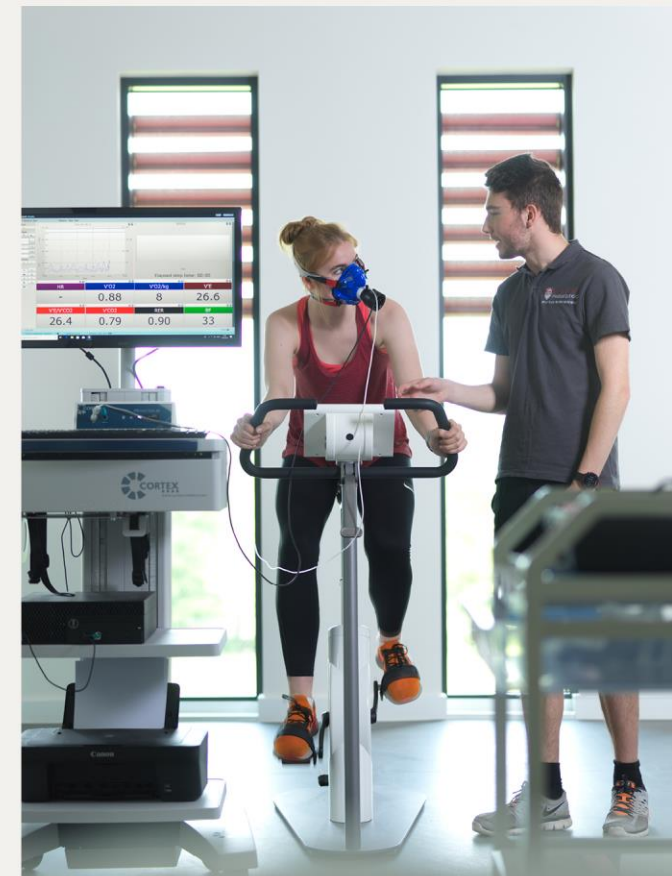
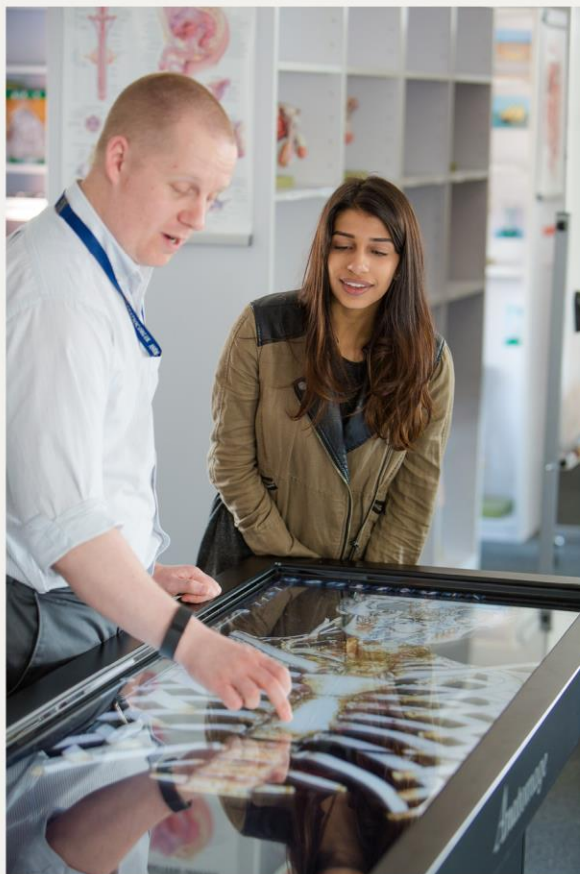


# Facilities at Lancaster

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- Libraries and Study Spaces
- Theatres, art galleries and performance spaces
- Science and Computer Labs
- Social Spaces, cafes, venues







# Sports

- 25 metre swimming pool
- Sports halls
- Studios
- Fitness suite
- Strength and conditioning room
- Climbing wall and bouldering cave
- Tennis courts
- Sports pitches
- 2.6-mile woodland walk
- Trim trail
- Netball courts
- Lacrosse pitch
- Multi-use games areas
- Synthetic grass pitches
- Rugby pitches
- Association football pitches
- Crown bowling green
- Student representation
- Artificial cricket wicket
- 3G pitch
- Advice





# Students' Union

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- Not just a bar and social space!
- YOUR voice at the university – it's run **by** students **for** students
- Support and welfare
- Voluntary opportunities
- Clubs and societies





# Careers Support

- What support is offered?
- What live projects, placement and work experience are available?
- Does the university offer opportunities to connect with employers on campus?
- Look for accreditations, for example The Lancaster Award.



# Research and Priorities

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## What are your priorities?

- The biggest city?
- The best nightlife?
- The best sporting facilities?
- The highest ranked university?



# Open Days





# What Will They Look Like?

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- Information stalls
- Meet recruitment and outreach staff
- Taster lectures
- Meet your department
- Admissions talks
- Student Q and A Panels
- Campus Tours





# How to Prepare

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- Make a list of potential open days
  - [Opendays.com](https://www.opendays.com)
- Register in advance
  - For the Open Day
  - For specific parts of the Open Day
- Have questions ready
- Book your Travel
- Take time off school if required
- Check out the local area!







# Discover Lancaster at an Undergraduate Open Day

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- Saturday 28th June
- Saturday 12th July
- Saturday 13th September
- Saturday 11th October





# Thank You for Listening



[schools@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:schools@lancaster.ac.uk)

