

Choosing an HE Course (KS5)

Enable students to make informed decisions through a higher understanding of higher education

Session overview

This session increases students' understanding of higher education pathways and HE options that are relevant to them.

Touches on Gatsby 3

Session resources

**Computer Room*
PCs, laptops or tablets
Internet access
Whiteboard/Flipchart

Aim 1

Identify different HE routes by comparing universities and courses.

Aim 2

Help students to identify their own decision-making criteria when choosing a course and university.

Aim 3

Help students to create an action plan using SMART targets.

Downloadable session files



[Presentation \(ppt\)](#)

[Interactive worksheet](#)

[Editable Word docs](#)

[Evaluation](#)

[Student case studies](#)

[Video](#)

Differentiation

If students do not want to go to university, they can use the templates to make decisions about employment or other education. The session has two different activities that can be used. It will depend on the time available and group dynamics. If it is an hour, use the interactive worksheet, or run a group activity using the persona profiles. The Diamond Nine activity is beneficial to all and could be adapted for those not wishing to go to university – encourage them to think of criteria in relation to work or choosing a level 3 course.

Key vocabulary

UCAS

HE/FE

BA

FdA

Modules

Content and Timings	Description	Resource
Introduction (6 mins)	<p>Introduce yourself and the student ambassadors in the room.</p> <p>Safety and Safeguarding Briefing.</p> <p>Explain to students what the session learning objectives are.</p> <p>Introduce the Student Ambassadors (if you have them) and ask them to talk about their own choices (after slide 3).</p>	PPT 1-3
Kahoot quiz (4 mins)	If you have access, use the Kahoot quiz start with this activity as a warm-up. The answers to the questions are on slide 5. Hide slide five if you can use Kahoot or vice versa.	PPT 4 or 5
Qualifications	Explain the different routes and pathways available – mention distance learning and the fact that you can access a HE qualification through your local FE institution.	PPT 6
What to consider	<p>Ask the students to discuss in pairs what they think is important when considering which course or university to attend.</p> <p>Use slide 8 to raise awareness of some of the things other people have thought about.</p>	<p>PPT 7</p> <p>PPT 8</p>
Diamond Nine activity (5 mins)	<p>Print or use the interactive worksheet for the diamond nine slide (PPT 9) activity. Get students to complete.</p> <p>Ask the students to give some feedback on what they could consider when choosing a course or university using slide 10.</p>	<p>Interactive worksheet</p> <p>PPT 9</p> <p>PPT 10</p>
Homework or classroom activity (5 mins)	<p>Some students may finish earlier than others so be responsive to the students in the room.</p> <p>Use slides 11-17 to provide an explanation of the worksheet for the students to take away and complete at home or during tutor time. Encourage them to complete the SMART action plan.</p>	<p>PPT 11-17</p> <p>SMART action plan</p>

Content and Timings	Description	Resource
...continued	Aim to ask questions when you are explaining how to complete it to check understanding.	Worksheet – How to choose a HE course
Further information (4 mins)	<p>Talk the students through what they can do next to be proactive and let them know about some useful websites, especially UCAS where they can search for relevant HE courses (take with you the 'sites we like' postcards if you have some).</p> <p>If some students have time to spare you can use the case studies to raise their awareness of other student's experiences.</p>	<p>Sites we like postcards.</p> <p>PPT 18-19</p> <p>Student Stories</p>
Newsletter sign-up (1 mins)	<p>Refer the students to our website and encourage them to sign up to our newsletter to be kept informed. Also follow us on social media.</p> <p>Complete the evaluation survey.</p>	<p>PPT 20</p> <p>Evaluation form</p>
Summarise (2 mins)	<p>Make sure work is saved and logged off correctly.</p> <p>Safeguarding de-brief.</p> <p>"If any questions or concerns that have come up during this session, just speak to one of us on the way out or speak to your tutor".</p>	
Further Reading / Suggested Links:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ucas.com • careerpilot.org.uk • universitycompare.com • university.which.co.uk • whatuni.com • thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables • ukeducationguide.com/universities (for parents) • universitycompare.com/app (mobile app) 	<p>Sites We Like</p> <p>Qualifications Chart</p> <p>Find Your Career Events & Activities</p>