

applying to uni

MAKING CHOICES



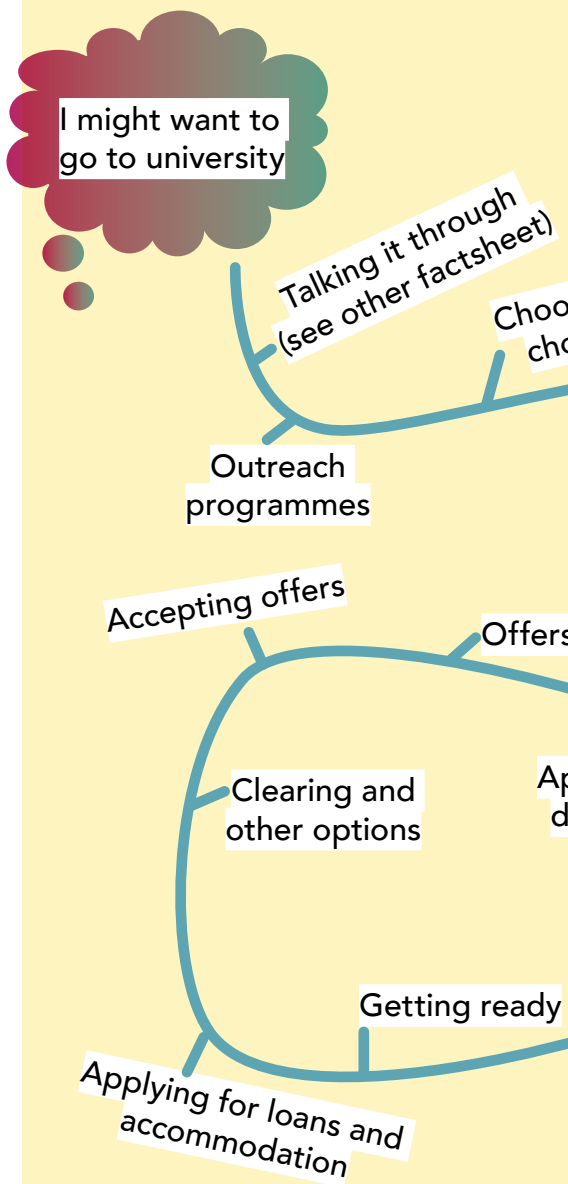
Top Tips: Choosing a university

With over 150 universities in the UK alone, and eight here in Wales, how do you even start? Here are some questions to get you started.

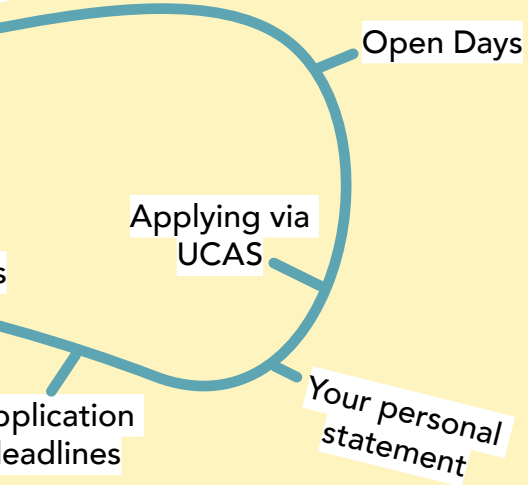
- **Do I want to move away?** Or do I have friends, family or work commitments I need to be close to?
- **Town or Campus?** Do I want to be in a city? Or would a campus university where everything is on one site be more comfortable?
- **Wales? Or further afield?** If I'm entitled to local authority support, this will still apply if I study outside of Wales.
- **Who else has been there?** Have any siblings or friends had a good experience at a particular uni?
- **Are there any hobbies I want to continue or start up?** What sports, societies and attractions do different universities and cities offer?

More information and handy links can be found on the [CLASS Cymru website](#).

Your university application timeline



Choosing a university;
Choosing a subject



and we're off!



Top Tips: Choosing a subject

Imagine a subject, there is probably a university course related to it. This doesn't just mean subjects you know from school or college, or courses that lead to specific professions. With so many options, how do you choose? Why not think about...

- ➔ **Is there something I studied in school or college that I really enjoyed, or wanted to learn more about?**
- ➔ **Is there a specific job I want to do that means I need to do a specific course?** (Like medicine, nursing or law).
- ➔ **Is there something I really care about that links to a degree?** (Like the environment, or politics, or social justice).
- ➔ **Do I want to do something creative?** There are so many courses related to art and design.

More information and handy links can be found on the [CLASS Cymru website](#).

Top Tips:

Understanding finances

The first thing to remember is that whilst it does cost money to go to university, this is not paid up front. Most people pay for their university fees and living costs like accommodation through a combination of loans (which are paid back when you've graduated and are earning a certain amount of money) and bursaries or grants (which you don't need to pay back). And if you're care experienced, there are various things that can help:

- **Care leavers are entitled to financial support from their local authority.** If you think you're entitled to this support and you're not getting it, a university's designated contact for care leavers can help you.
- **Most universities offer bursaries for care leavers** – this means money you can use to pay for fees and living costs without having to pay it back. Check [propel.org](https://www.propel.org) to see what universities offer!

- If you're care experienced but don't class as a care leaver, most universities will offer financial support in the form of bursaries.
- **Many universities also offer this support to students who are not care experienced** but have become estranged from their families, either before or during their studies.
- **Universities also have hardship funds**, which any student can apply for if their circumstances mean they are struggling financially .
- **Go to [propel.org](https://www.propel.org) for more information on individual universities' offers**, and check university websites for financial advice for care experienced students.
- **Go to <https://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/>** and search for 'independent and estranged students'.

