Choosing a Course and University

Deciding where to apply to is a big decision. Here are some important factors to consider when choosing a course and university.
Which Course?

Some important things to consider when choosing your course:

The Subject
- You'll be studying this subject for at least 3 years, so make sure it's something you really enjoy
- If you're not sure which university course to study, start by thinking about which subjects you currently enjoy most at sixth form or college

Career Prospects
- Some professions require a certain degree, e.g. doctor, teacher,
- If you have a career in mind, do some research find out if you need a specific degree to go into that area of work
- Remember: Approx 60% of graduate schemes accept graduates from any degree discipline. So by having a degree in any subject, you'll be able to apply to lots of graduate opportunities.

The Course Content
- The same subject can vary greatly from university to university, as different institutions will offer different modules and course content
- Look up courses that you are interested in on university websites and you'll be able to see exactly what classes they offer at each stage of the degree. Make sure these are in topics that interest you.

Accreditation
- Accredited courses have been approved by a professional body, such as the British Psychological Society, Solicitors Regulation Authority etc.
- Accreditation is a mark of quality and means that the course content is relevant for a career in that particular industry
- Check university website to see if a course is accredited
Which University?

Some important things to consider when choosing which universities to apply to:

Campus or City?
- A campus university has all of its teaching buildings, student accommodation, leisure facilities etc. based closely together.
- A city university has its facilities spread out across a city.
- Look on university websites for virtual campus tours to see which type you would prefer - each provides a different university experience.

Local or Further Afield?
- Think about whether you would want to stay studying close to home or move further away to a new place.
- If you’re considering moving away, have a look at the accommodation options at universities.
- There are advantages to both studying locally and further away, think about what you want most from your student experience.

The Facilities
- Look into what the facilities are like at different universities for the courses you are interested in e.g. laboratory facilities for science-based courses.
- You might also want to look into other facilities such as sports centres, libraries, study spaces, cafes etc.

Graduate Prospects & Rankings
- What are the prospects like for after graduation? University ranking guides such as The Guardian League tables are useful for this and allow you to compare universities by subject.
- At Newcastle University, 96% of our graduates progressed to employment or further study within six months of graduating, with 85.5% in graduate-level employment or further study.