

# **Different Types of University Degree**

## **Foundation degree**

- This is a one-year 'Year 0' course that would lead to a full-degree course at the same University.
- It will have lower entry grade requirements, or may be for those who have the 'wrong subjects' at A level. It leads to entry at Year 1 of a degree.
- Art – a Foundation course is the usual entry level as it enables you to get broad experience of different areas or Art and Design before you specialise within a main degree.
- Gateway courses – a 1 year course similar to a Foundation year, but is reserved for 'widening participation' applicants only (typically, low-performing school, in-care or other disadvantage).

## **Undergraduate level**

- a normal degree, the one most students take straight from school
- usually 3 years long, sometimes 4 years if there is a Year Abroad or Placement year built-in.
- Will have a 'B' prefix - BSc, BA, BEng etc. The B stands for Bachelor - an undergraduate degree. The second letter(s) indicates the type of subject – A for Arts/Humanities, Sc for science (including social science), Eng for Engineering etc. Law degrees as called 'LLB', Medicine 'MChB'.

## **Undergraduate 'M' degrees**

- However ! Some undergraduate degrees are 4 year 'M' degrees (MSci, MEng, MMaths etc). Do not confuse this with a postgraduate Masters degree (usually 1 year and taken after an undergraduate degree – see below).
- These are usually in STEM subjects – Science, Technology and Maths subjects.
- MA in Scotland – 4 years long, an undergraduate degree (the first year is effectively a foundation type year – some Scottish applicants enter with lower qualifications).
- Undergraduate 'M' degrees in England/Wales/N Ireland – these are 'undergraduate Masters degrees'. You do the same 3 year course as BA/BSc etc students, then have an extra 4<sup>th</sup> year tacked on as preparation for research/postgraduate study. Often the 'M' degree will have higher A level grade requirements than the 'B' version.
- Some Universities will allow you to start at 'B' level (BSc etc), and then later transfer to the 'M' (MSc etc) degree final year - if that is available at that University and you have good enough University grades.

## **Postgraduate degrees**

- These are 1 year (or exceptionally 2 year) higher degrees that you can do after an undergraduate degree. It's a *postgraduate* degree – ie. after you have graduated from your first degree.
- They are also (confusingly) called 'M' degrees – MA, MLitt, MSc, MEng etc If you aren't sure whether it's an undergrad 'M' or a postgrad 'M', check how long it is – 1 year (postgraduate), 4 years (undergraduate)
- These are 'higher study' degrees to allow you to focus on a specific area within your subject, often as preparation for a PhD or DPhil (a 'Doctorate' – a 3 or 4 year intensive postgraduate research degree that allows you to call yourself 'Doctor').
- There are also postgraduate courses called PGDip (postgraduate Diploma), or PGCert (postgraduate Certificate) – 1 year courses. Also, PGCE (Post Graduate Certificate in Education) to train as a graduate teacher.

## Foundation Degrees

Many Universities offer Foundation Year courses - an 'extra year' before starting the first year of a degree. Foundation Year courses are a great option for anyone expecting lower grades than they need for the main degree at that University, or if you need a lower grade safe choice. You need to apply through UCAS for these courses - *please apply as soon as possible*.

Typically, the A level entry requirements are CCC/CCD. Check the entry requirements carefully. If you are taking a combination of A levels and BTECs - look for entry requirements in UCAS Points rather than specific A level grades.

**University of Sussex** - [Foundation Years, undergraduate courses : University of Sussex](#)

10 different subject pathways - including Arts & Humanities, Engineering, Design & Business, Maths, Physics with Astronomy, Psychology, Social Sciences - lower A level grade requirements.

**University of Surrey** - [Foundation courses | University of Surrey](#) Practically every course at Surrey can be taken with a Foundation course - including subjects like International Hospitality and Tourism, Media and Communications, Automotive Engineering, Sport & Exercise Science, Nursing, Business Management - lower A level grade requirements.

**Bournemouth University** - [Foundation years | Bournemouth University](#) Subjects include Forensic Science, Psychology, Health & Social Care, Environmental Science, Business. Typical offer 48 to 72 UCAS points.

**University of Portsmouth** - [Science with Foundation Year BSc \(Hons\) | University of Portsmouth](#) would lead to any of the science degrees at Portsmouth and include units in biology, chemistry, earth sciences, psychology, sport and exercise and health sciences. Typical offer 56 UCAS points.

**UWE, Bristol** - [Foundation courses - Find a course | UWE Bristol](#) - a very wide range of course/subject options including Building & Surveying, Business & Law, Criminology, Fashion, Games Technology, History, Wildlife Conservation, Marketing, Philosophy, Real Estate, Robotics, Sociology. Typical offer 48 UCAS points.

## Music Conservatoires

There is an early closing date for UCAS applications to Music Conservatoires, so you need to start doing your research soon. The UCAS closing date is **1 October** to start courses in autumn 2022. (For most dance/drama courses the deadline is 15 January, but check carefully).

A Conservatoire is a specialist University level 'Music School'. Each conservatoire has its own strengths and specialisms, so it's important to research all of them to find the right fit for you. For example, although all conservatoires offer music courses, only two offer drama courses, and some also offer subjects like film and production. General information here : [download \(ucas.com\)](#)

UCAS has a page with links to all of them so you can research what courses are on offer : [Conservatoires - Education and training in the performing arts \(ucas.com\)](#)