



Thinking about university



- 01 What do you want to be when you grow up?
- 02 How do you decide?
- 03 Choosing a University
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You will need: Pen, Paper, Internet





What do you want to be when you
grow up?



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What do you want to be when you grow up?

The decision to go to university is an important one, and so is the decision about what to study there.

Some people have a clear idea about what they want to do when they are older, some people know what they want to study, and some have no idea whatsoever - that's ok!

Some questions that can help are:

- Where do you want to be?
- What are your strengths?
- What do you enjoy doing?
- What are your GCSE grades like?
- Do you have a particular career or course in mind?
- Do you want a "9-5" job?
- Do you want to earn a lot of money?
- Do you want to go into academic research?
- Do you want a course that involves a lot of reading?
- Do you want a course that is practical based?

What
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Working backwards

Some of these questions are easier to answer if you know (or have an idea) what type of job you would like to do when you are older, for example, if you want to be a doctor then you need to apply for medicine.

Task:

- Write down three jobs that you could see yourself doing when you are older.
- Then write down what subjects would be useful/necessary to study in order to get there.

Example:

Working with children/young people

> Could study Psychology, Education, Sociology, Politics...

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Working forwards

Sometimes it might be easier to think of what you really enjoy at school/home now and think of what you could do with that.

Task:

- Write down three subjects or interests you have,
- Then write down what courses would allow you to develop those interests further.

Example:

I like Mathematics

> Could study Mathematics, Economics, Accounting, Finance...



How do you decide?

How do
you
decide?

Website 1: Prospects.ac.uk

This website has lots of great information on how courses and careers are linked.

A great page is:

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree>

Here you can see what jobs people did after studying a particular course.

Task: Visit the website and choose a course (maybe you like that subject, maybe it just looks interesting!)

- Are you surprised by any of the options?
- Did the options match what you predicted in the previous activity?



How do
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Website 2: UCAS

This website is where you will apply for university in Year 13, but it is great to have a look around before then.

A great page is: <https://www.ucas.com/explore>

(Make sure it says "undergraduate" at the top of the page!)

Here you can see guides for what different degree courses are available, and what universities are in each part of the UK.

Task: Visit the website and choose a course (maybe you like that subject, maybe it just looks interesting!)

- What subjects does it say you have to study at A-level?
- What options are there for studying this subject, e.g. apprenticeships, travel abroad, etc?



How do
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Website 3: University League Tables

Different universities have different strengths and weaknesses, and a degree from one university is sometimes considered "better" than one from another.

The website

<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings> tells you which universities are considered the "best" in the UK - but BE CAREFUL! Sometimes a specific course at one university is really good, even if the whole university is lower down the list!

Task: Visit the website and read down the list of universities

- How many of the universities on the list have you heard of?
- Which universities would you think of applying to?





Choosing a University

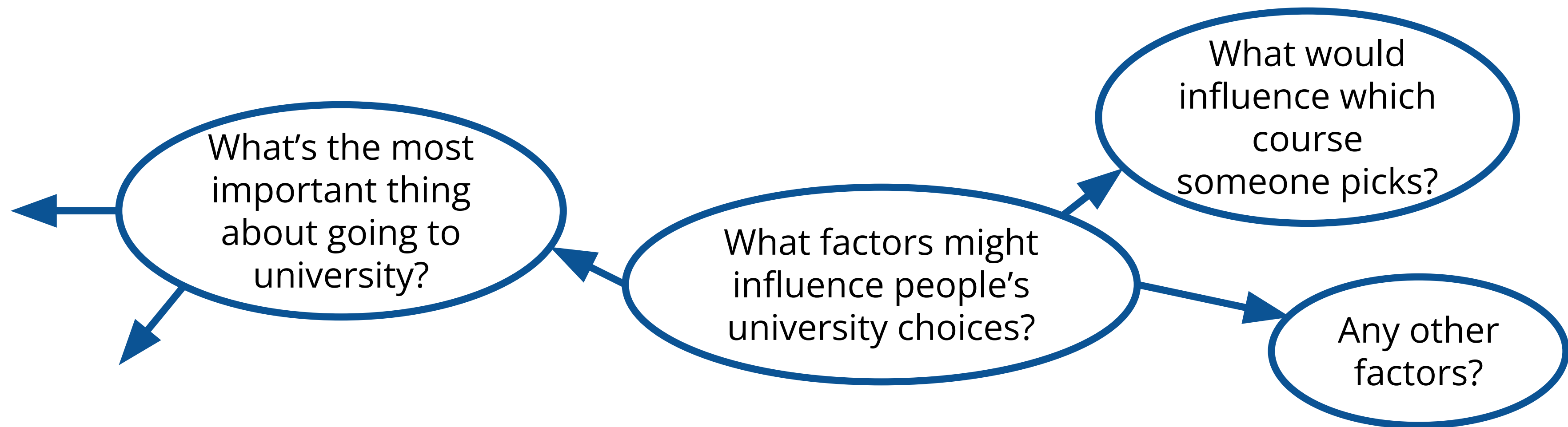


What's important to you?



When you apply to university in the UK , you can choose up to **five universities and courses** per application. But how do you narrow down your options?

To help, create a mind map of all the different things someone might consider when choosing a university and course.



Choosing a university

Pick your Top 9

You have lots of different priorities to juggle when you're choosing a university!

A **Diamond 9** grid can be helpful for weighing up options.

Start by looking at your mind map and choosing the **nine most important factors** for you.



To narrow down all the different factors on your mind map, start by crossing off the ones that definitely don't apply to you!



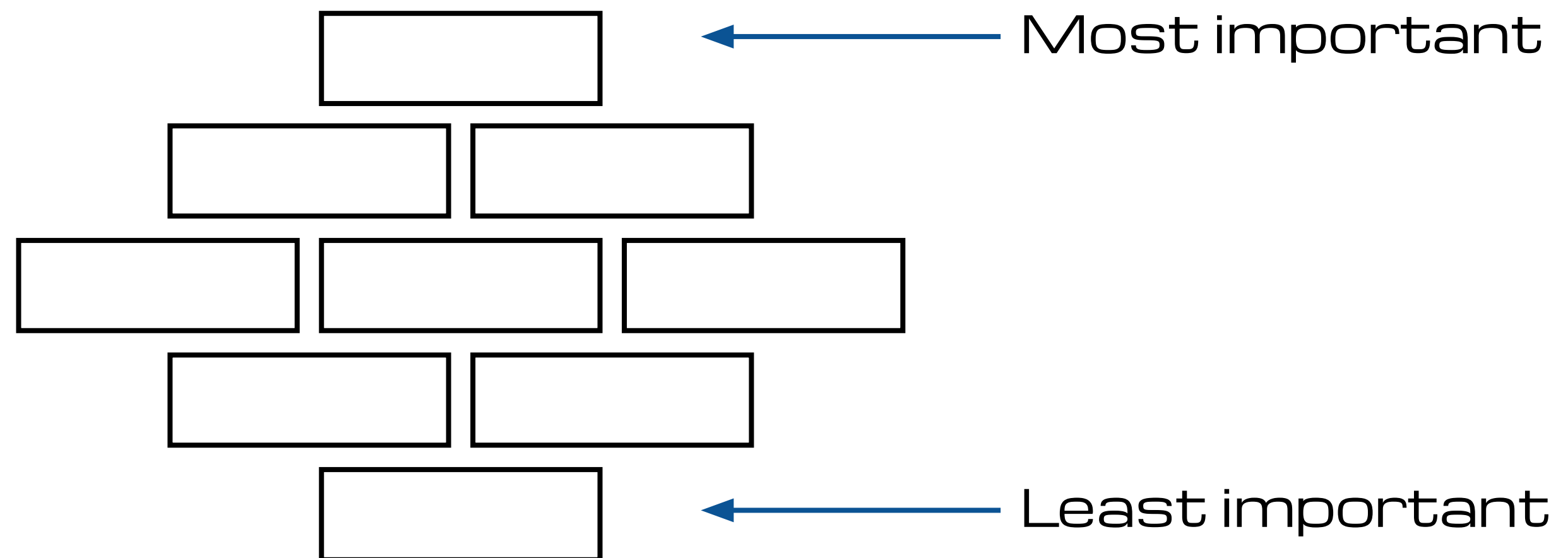
Choosing a university



Diamond 9 - Ranking

Rank the factors you've chosen in order of importance using the **Diamond 9** structure.

Get ready to share your reasoning with everyone else!

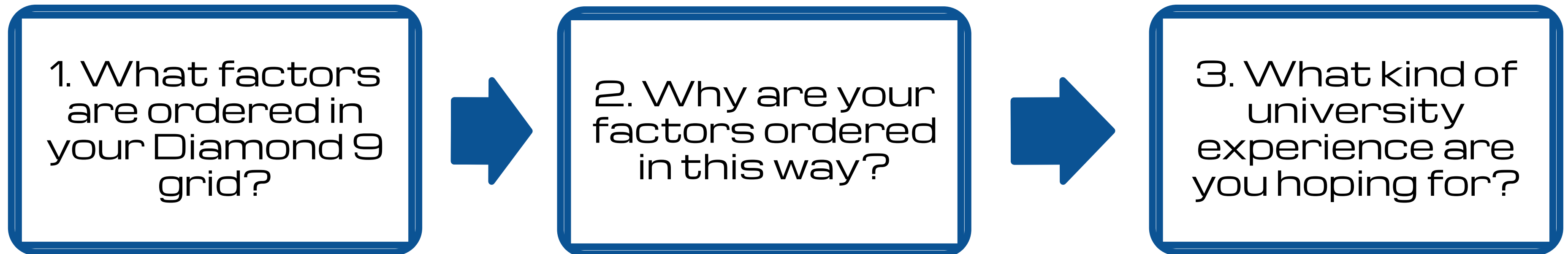


Choosing a University



Justify your choices

Now that you've finished creating your Diamond 9, get ready to explain your reasoning to the rest of the group!





What can you do now?



What can you do now?



Do more Research

Now you can use your Diamond 9 priorities to help with your research.

For example, if you know that you're looking for a university where you'll be able to study abroad for a year, make that a priority in your search.

TASK: In pairs, compare your Diamond 9 charts. Discuss the following:

- Are there any factors you're both considering?
- Are there any factors in your partner's Diamond 9 which you may want to consider? If so, you may want to make changes to your Diamond 9!

What can you do now?



Go to an Open Day

If possible, you should visit each university you're considering applying to. This will give you the opportunity to experience the campus and speak with staff and current students. Take a look at this video for some advice on how to prepare for, and get the most out of open days.

Preparing for UK uni open days

Seven tips for getting the most out of UK university Open Days



What can you do now?



Reflect on the experience

Well done for thinking about all the different factors that will influence your university and course choices!

As you finish this session:

Name **one other thing** you want to learn about universities before you choose one.

See if you can think of one that hasn't already been mentioned in today!

Next Steps...



UNIFROG helps students compare every opportunity by bringing all the available information into one single, impartial, user-friendly platform. Students are able to make the best choices, and submit the strongest applications for their chosen future.

They also empower teachers and counselors to manage the progression process effectively.

You can contact them [here](#) to learn more and find out how your school/college could get involved.

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