

10 Tips for Making Career and Course Choices



1. Be clear about your **likes and dislikes and strengths and weaknesses**. You can't choose a course or job if you don't understand yourself.
2. What is important to you in doing a course or job? **Make a list of factors** e.g. travel arrangements, money, near home or away, hours, how a course is assessed, whether a job is mainly inside or outside etc. Use these factors to help you consider your choices.
3. Do your **research**. Write down the main choices and then for each find out as much as possible. Read information in detail and compare it to what you thought about yourself at Q1 and Q2. A good start for HE courses is www.ucas.com and a place to find out about any job is <https://nextstep.direct.gov.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>.
4. **Talk to people** already doing some of these courses or jobs. Ask for help in finding useful contacts, if you don't know anyone. Find out why these people chose their jobs/courses, what it involves and what they like and dislike about it.
5. For course choices, **visit the place first**, or at least have a good look at the college/uni via online films. You can't be certain that you would like a place without seeing it yourself.
6. Watch free online **videos of people in a range of jobs/courses**. These can give you new ideas and inspiration. Try www.icould.com and www.careersbox.co.uk.
7. For 3-5 of your options, **write down the advantages and disadvantages** of each then show this to someone else to get their opinion.
8. Try putting your main options in **rank order** from most to least attractive/suitable.
9. Test out your ideas by talking to a **careers adviser or teacher/tutor**. They will help you think through the options.
10. Always have a **back-up option** in case your first choice doesn't work out.