

MYTH: Uni isn't for 'people like me'

Have you got a picture in your mind of the type of person who goes to university? Are you worried that they aren't like you? You aren't alone.

Some data about who was at university in 2022/23 might reassure you:



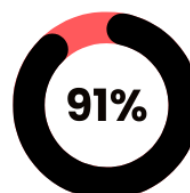
Of full time undergrads were eligible for free school meals



Of students were the first person in their family to go to uni



The number of Black & Asian students has increased by 22% since 2017



Of undergraduate students were from state schools

Sources: HESA, *Higher Education Student Statistics, 2024* & Office for Students, *Access and Participation Data, 2024*

All change!

There's been a big growth in the numbers of people going to university in recent years.

That means the student population has become much more diverse, as demonstrated by those statistics above.

It also means that universities have adapted to ensure they provide the learning experience varied groups of students expect.

For example:



Many universities teach in different styles, using practical projects or presentations rather than only essays and exams.



All universities make sure their students have access to support for their mental health and any disabilities.

Looking at the numbers

There's no getting away from the fact that everyone is affected by the current high cost of living. Students are no exception. However:

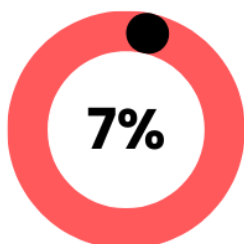
- Universities will have some additional financial support available if you are concerned about costs.
- Some universities arrange their timetables to support students to work part time while they are studying.
- The government have just announced a 3.1% increase in student maintenance support for next year.
- UCAS are also helping university applicants out. Free School Meals students no longer pay the UCAS application fee.

What will you choose?

As to whether going to university is the right choice for you, well only you can decide. Some **information from recent students** might help though:



Of graduates say their degree was worth it for the overall experience and benefits and for gaining knowledge and skills.



Only 7% of full-time undergraduates said they would do something other than go to university if they could make the choice again.

Source: Advance HE, *Student Academic Experience Survey, 2024*

Information is key

Going to university is a big decision, but there's plenty you can do to ensure you make the right choice for you.



Look out for **live chats** with current students which are often offered by universities. That's a great opportunity to ask about anything which worries you and get an answer from someone who's currently experiencing the course.



If you can get to **open days**, they can give you a true feel for what the place is like, as well as being another opportunity to ask questions and meet others considering applying for the course. **Some universities offer open day bursaries to help cover your travel costs.**

What do you think?

Are you wondering if uni is right for you? What next steps might you take based on the information we've shared? If there are questions you'd still like the answer to, find UniMythsBusted online and let us know!

Top tips:



Ask universities what their teaching and assessment style is: Over 50%* of students worry about not being 'academic enough' for university, and if that sounds like you, you might prefer a course that's taught in a more practical way, with more applied assessments.



Ask universities what support they offer: most will offer financial support, mental health support and a whole range of other tailored support, like specific support for care leavers.

*Source: University Alliance, Savanta, *University applicant poll, 2024*