

MYTH: I will struggle to find a job if I don't go to the 'right' uni

There are over 300 universities and higher education institutions in the UK and choosing which will be right for you is complicated.

You might be thinking about the type of place you prefer (e.g. a city centre or a rural campus), whether you want to live at home or move away, and you may have heard that some universities have particular reputations.

You might also be thinking that only graduates of 'the best' universities will find jobs.

You are not alone.

68%

Of university applicants feel anxious or very anxious about choosing the 'right' university.

There are high levels of concern that employers will judge students who make the 'wrong' choice.

Location, location, location?

It might reassure you to hear that in a recent survey asking employers which factors they considered important when hiring graduates, the university a graduate attended was consistently one of the *least* important things.

When employers were asked to select the top 3 things they most valued when hiring graduates:



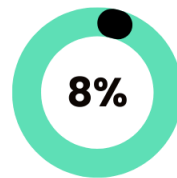
Valued a graduate's enthusiasm and positive attitude



Valued skills and attributes outside of academic knowledge



Valued relevant subject knowledge



Valued which specific uni a graduate had been to

Source: CBI Economics, University Alliance, *To What Degree? Understanding what employers look for in graduates*, 2024

What *is* important to employers?

Far more important than university choice, are enthusiasm and 'skills and competencies other than academic knowledge'. That might include transferrable skills like:



Communication



Team working



Problem solving

When it came to how graduates performed at interview, those transferrable skills were important to an enormous 90% of employers, while 85% felt that gaining vocational experience alongside or as part of their degree improved graduate's performance at interview.



Of employers said that gaining vocational experience during or alongside their degree improved graduate's performance at interview.

Source: CBI Economics, University Alliance, *To What Degree? Understanding what employers look for in graduates*, 2024

Find your fit

So, it seems that the skills you develop at university and how you present yourself to a potential employer are far more important than which university you attend.

It might be most helpful, then, to think about which university will best support you to develop your confidence, transferrable and practical skills.

Some universities use different teaching styles and some courses will be more practical, while others are more theoretical. Think about how you like to learn as well as things like where you want to live.

It's good to be different

The only 'right' choice is the one that is right for you. You can investigate that by going to university open days, checking out their websites and testimonials from current or former students, making sure they offer the course you're interested in and that your teachers feel you're on track to meet the grades required.

There's plenty of choice available. Good luck with making yours!

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!

Visit www.unimythsbusted.co.uk or search [#UniMythsBusted](https://twitter.com/UniMythsBusted) for more information

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