

# Thinking of postgraduate study?

Can't decide whether to continue with your studies or not?

Complete this short quiz to reveal what advice we have for students in your position.

## What is your motivation for pursuing postgraduate study?

- A) A passion for a particular subject
- B) To improve my chances of securing a job
- C) I need more time to decide on my career

## What did you enjoy the most about your first degree?

- A) The research/learning element
- B) Assignments and project work
- C) Both learning and assignments

## What influenced your decision to go to university after school?

- A) To further my knowledge in an area of interest
- B) To make myself more employable
- C) I wasn't ready to go straight into employment

## How did you decide on what course to study?

- A) I chose a course based on the subject I enjoyed at school
- B) I chose one specific to my ideal profession
- C) I chose a course I thought I'd be good at

**When selecting a university for your postgraduate study, what is your most important criteria?**

- A) A reputation for academic excellence in my chosen field
- B) It should be rated highly among employers
- C) It should be rated highly by students

**What kind of postgraduate course are you looking for?**

- A) One that will allow me to research my chosen topic with more depth
- B) One that will prepare me with the skills and knowledge required in working life
- C) One that explores a wide variety of topics within my chosen subject

**What element of your uni life did you enjoy the most?**

- A) The learning aspect and being in an academic environment
- B) Joining and getting involved in university clubs and societies
- C) I enjoyed the whole experience

## RESULTS

Amount of A tick boxes out of seven

Amount of B tick boxes out of seven

Amount of C tick boxes out of seven

### Mostly As

It sounds as though you're really passionate about your subject area. Your desire to learn more and venture further into your chosen subject will allow you to apply yourself and really make the most of a postgraduate course. Do bear in mind that future employers will expect you to demonstrate what skills you have gained that are transferable to the workplace. When choosing a course, ask yourself: 'Does this course prepare me with the skills I need for my ideal job?'. If you're unsure, we recommend seeing a Careers & Employability Adviser for a career guidance appointment.

### Mostly Bs

You appear to be motivated by your career with an end goal on your horizon. Now is a great time to check on the entry requirements for your chosen career – use the A-Z job profiles on [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk) to look for required qualifications, skills and experience and also check for any required accreditations in your chosen field. Postgraduate study can be a great opportunity to change your career path via a conversion or vocational course if you don't have an undergraduate degree which is directly relevant.

### Mostly Cs

There is a good chance you are undecided about your next move; but there's no need to panic. You'll be relieved to know that you are in the same boat as most of your peers, and there is still time to plan ahead. You might be thinking that a postgraduate qualification could give you an advantage over other jobseekers, or perhaps you are just not ready to enter employment. Whatever your reasons, be aware that further study is very hard work; it demands a lot of time and effort, as well as being a significant financial commitment. Think about what your main aims and objectives are for undertaking postgraduate study – you may find a career guidance appointment with a Careers & Employability Adviser useful for exploring these.

## Checklist and action plan

I am confident in making a well- informed decision about why I am choosing postgraduate study

I've sought advice from people I trust or a Careers & Employability Adviser

I've researched courses of interest

I've researched the funding arrangements for postgraduate study

I have considered my living arrangements

What I need to do next:

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If you need more advice or information please take a look at our 'Starting Further Study' booklet or speak to one of our Advisers.