**Your Priorities in choosing a Master’s Course**

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| Look at the following factors and decide how important they are to you and your postgraduate study. ‘Not Important’ means that you don’t really mind about that factor. ‘Avoid’ means you would rather not have this at all. There are some blank spaces down the bottom to add any factors that may not be listed. | Very important | Quite important | Not important | Avoid |
| **Reputation** – studying at a well-known University |  |  |  |  |
| **In a City** – studying at a city based university that may not have a huge campus |  |  |  |  |
| **Campus Location** – studying at University with a big campus that may be out of town |  |  |  |  |
| **Course content** – the specific subject or mix of subjects |  |  |  |  |
| **Research opportunity** – a course with a large research project to help prepare for a potential PhD |  |  |  |  |
| **Inspiring lecturers/researchers** – a course that has lecturers who you admire |  |  |  |  |
| **Lab-based study** – having the opportunity to carry out research in a lab  |  |  |  |  |
| **Teaching** – course with a lot of taught content |  |  |  |  |
| **Seminar/tutorial based teaching** – course with a high quantity of small or group work projects |  |  |  |  |
| **Geography** – a University needs to be within a certain part of the country |  |  |  |  |
| **Vocational course** – a course with generally leads to a specific career or a PhD |  |  |  |  |
| **Multidisciplinary course** – a course in which you can include a range of content from different departments |  |  |  |  |
| **Employer based projects** – a course that allows you to do projects to address and work with real industry issues |  |  |  |  |
| **Intellectual challenge** – a course which will stretch you academically and intellectually |  |  |  |  |
| **Competitive** – a course in which students are often ranked against each other |  |  |  |  |
| **Exam-based assessment** – a course assessed mainly by exams |  |  |  |  |
| **Course-based assessment** – a course assessed mainly by coursework |  |  |  |  |
| **Employer engagement** – a chance to talk to lots of employers who value the course |  |  |  |  |
| **Networking opportunities** – a course/University that offers a range of opportunities to network with alumni, researchers and/or employers |  |  |  |  |
| **Creative** – a course which enables you to express your creativity |  |  |  |  |
| **Extra-curricular options** – a course which enables you to become involved in lots of clubs/societies |  |  |  |  |
| **Existing friends** – a course where you will already know people from previous studies |  |  |  |  |
| **Part-time options available** – a course which is flexible to fit around your other life commitments |  |  |  |  |
| **Work experience opportunities** – high amounts of support given by the University to access volunteering and work experience |  |  |  |  |
| **Online content** – a course that makes use of large amounts of technology so you can learn at your own pace |  |  |  |  |
| **Cost of living** – a course offered in a part of the country were living is cheaper/affordable |  |  |  |  |
| **Student support offered** – a range of other support the University can offer you |  |  |  |  |
| **Amount of funding available** – a course offering grants/scholarships  |  |  |  |  |
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**Questions to ask when choosing a Master’s Course**

**Specific criteria**

* How much interaction will I have with lecturers/tutors on this course?
* How much variety is there in this course? i.e. different ways of teaching, research, assessment, different lecturers, industry input?
* What opportunities will I have to develop different interests or skills?
* How frequently will I collaborate with other students and peers on this course? What form does this collaboration take?
* What further study options will this course open up for me?
* Can I take modules from other departments as part of my course?
* How often will I receive feedback on my work?

**Performance and success**

* What sort of assessments are used on this course?
* What skills will I use most often or are most vital on this course?
* What could I be doing now to best prepare myself for this course?
* How competitive is this course? To get onto, stay on and within each module?
* How will I keep myself up to date with information important for this course?

**Your Career**

* Where do students who graduate from this course go/do?
* How many employers or other researchers will I get to meet while I’m on this course?
* How active are the alumni of the course/University? Will I be able to network with them?
* What employers come onto University campus to talk to students?
* How active/big is the Careers Service?
* Will I have access to a wide range of extracurricular activities to grow my skills?
* Is collaboration with employers or researchers an option in this University/course?
* Does the University have an enterprise department?

**Questions for you to ask yourself around your choice**

* What made me choose this course/University?
* What do I want to do after this course? Will this get me there?
* How did I find out information about this course? Was my source biased?
* What other courses did I consider? Why did I reject them?
* How confident am I in my choice? What is my back-up plan?