

# Choosing a university

13

Recommended:  
Year 13



Length  
95 minutes

## About this lesson

To identify factors to help make higher education decisions, students will explore universities to help them understand what's important to them in potential higher education providers, investigate how a university stacks up to their priorities, and evaluate their choices to help them revise their higher education goals based on what they've learned.

## Learning objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- identify which factors are important to them in a potential university
- investigate how a university stacks up to their priorities
- reflect on why a potential higher education provider is a good choice to help them achieve their goals

## Driving question

Why does choosing a postsecondary school matter to my career/life goals?

## Future-ready skills

Prioritisation

Research

Reflecting

Evaluating

## Lesson breakdown

20  
minutes

### Activity 1: University exploration

In this activity, students will explore universities in Xello, saving at least 3 and identifying factors that influenced their choices by sharing them in a class discussion.

65  
minutes

### Activity 2: Xello Lesson: Choosing a university

Direct students to complete the Xello lesson **Choosing a university** where they will identify which factors are important to them in a potential university and investigate how a university stacks up to their priorities.

10  
minutes

### Activity 3: Narrowing options

In this activity, students will reflect on their higher education goals by adding or updating their top 3 potential university choices in their Xello **My plans**.

## Xello entry point

As part of the first activity, students will save 3 schools in Xello, which is a prerequisite for Xello's lesson **Choosing a university**. It's also recommended they are familiar with the **My plans** section in Xello and have completed the **Learning pathways** lesson and supporting activities prior to this lesson to better understand the education pathways available to them.

## Vocabulary

- University
- Apprenticeship
- Vocational training
- Confidence
- Responsibilities
- Admission requirements
- Scholarships
- University factors
- Student life

## Benchmarks & Curriculum

Gatsby Benchmark 7: encounters with Further and Higher Education.

# Activity 1: University exploration

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20 minutes

## Inquiry prompts

- What do you need to be happy at university?
- When considering higher education, what would be your top priorities?

## Before you begin

- It is recommended that students are familiar with the **My plans** section in Xello and have completed the **Learning pathways** lesson and supporting activities prior to this lesson to better understand the education pathways schools offer.

## Teaching strategies

In this activity, students will explore universities in Xello, saving at least 3 and identifying factors that influenced their choices. By completing this activity students will fulfil the prerequisite for Xello's lesson **Choosing a university**.

- 1 Provide the [instructions](#) on the next page to your students and set a time to return as a whole group to share their list of factors.
- 2 After 15 minutes, bring the whole class back together, if you have a larger class you may want to divide the class into smaller groups to ensure everyone has time to share.
- 3 Lead a round robin style discussion that gets each person to share one of their top factors when saving a university.
- 4 **OPTIONAL:** Document the list of factors during the discussion and then ask students to vote their top 3 priorities when choosing a university. Is there a clear consensus in the class?

## Materials required

- [Student instructions](#)
- Computer or tablet with internet access
- Synchronous learning environment for a live class discussion

## Artefacts

Students will save at least 3 universities and share the factors that influenced their decisions in a class discussion.

# University exploration

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## Student instructions

Even if you're not sure you'll be heading to university after sixth form or college, you never know where your future career will take you. It may be later in your career that you decide a higher education course is necessary to advance your career. So why not start thinking about potential universities that would make a good fit for you. In this activity you'll explore universities in Xello to help you identify factors that you feel are important to your higher education goals.

Use the next 15 minutes to **Explore universities** in Xello. Your goal is to save at least 3 universities by the end of your exploration, while also keeping track of your reasons for saving a university. Following your search you will be sharing these factors with your classmates. Here are some tips to help you with your search:

- 1 If you've already saved a university in Xello, review the university profile and note a couple reasons why you chose to save it. If you've already saved a in Xello, look at a few university profiles that offer the or a related programme. Why would you choose one university over the other?
- 2 In **Explore universities**, use **More filters** to search universities within a set of parameters. What filters did you apply? Why are these factors important to you?

## Activity 2 - Xello Lesson: Choosing a university

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Length:  
65 minutes

### About this activity

In activity 1, students explored universities in Xello, saving at least 3 and identifying factors that influenced their choices by sharing them in a class discussion.

In this activity students will complete the Xello lesson **Choosing a university**, where they will identify which factors are important to them in a potential university and investigate how it stacks up to their priorities.

### Inquiry prompts

- What's most important to you in a university?
- What do you need to do now if you want to go to university?
- What does an ideal university look like to you? (What does it have that you love? What's a deal-breaker for you?)
- When talking about your options, whose opinion do you trust the most? Why?

### Before you begin

Before diving in with your students:

1. Create a copy or download the [Choosing a university slide presentation](#) to use as a helpful teaching aid before and after the Xello lesson.
2. Review the slides (including the speaker notes section) for suggested discussion strategies and prompts.
3. Update slide 5 of the presentation with your students' Xello sign in format. If you don't know your students' Xello login format check out [Sign in to Xello](#) for support.

### Teaching strategies

Use the following strategies to set your students up for success:

- 1 Before students start the Xello lesson, take 5 minutes to have them review and consider the inquiry prompts from the **Warm up** activity slide of the [Choosing a university slide presentation](#), or choose your own. Advise students to keep these questions in mind as they complete the lesson. You will revisit these questions with them in the **Exit activity** afterwards.
- 2 Help your students log in to their Xello account. Project your screen as you model how to navigate to the lesson using your demo student account. From the student dashboard, click on a lesson to get started. If the lesson you want isn't visible, access it by selecting **View all lessons** below the lesson shown.
- 3 Students finished early? If students have time after completing the Xello lesson, encourage them to add interests they'd like to explore in university to their interests section in Xello.
- 4 Once students have completed the Xello lesson, return to the [Choosing a](#)

### Materials required

- Computers or tablets with internet access
- Whiteboard/projector
- [Choosing a university slide presentation](#)

### Prerequisites

- Save 3 universities

### Artefacts

Students will complete the Xello lesson: **Choosing a university**.

## Activity 2 - Xello Lesson: Choosing a university



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[university slide presentation](#) to have students revisit the inquiry prompts you posed at the beginning of class.

- 5 Classroom discussion strategy: Round robin:** Lead a round robin style discussion that gets each person to share their answer to the inquiry prompt: What do you need to do now if you want to go to university?

**OPTIONAL:** Document the responses. Ask students to reflect on and share their observations about them. Encourage students to make connections, and notice themes, similarities, or differences about what they and their classmates believe they need to do now if they want to go to university?

## Activity 3: Narrowing options

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Length:  
10 minutes

### Inquiry prompts

- Can a university still be a “dream university” if it doesn't meet all of my top factors?
- Which university will help me reach my higher education goals?

### Before you begin

- Ensure students have completed the first activity which includes saving 3 schools in Xello, which is a prerequisite for Xello’s lesson **Choosing a university**. It’s also recommended they are familiar with the **My plans** section in Xello and have completed the **Learning pathways** lesson and supporting activities prior to this lesson to better understand the education pathways university offer.

### Teaching strategies

After completing the Xello lesson Choosing a university, students will be in a good place to reflect on their higher education goals by adding or updating their top 3 potential university choices in their Xello **My plans** section under **Goals & plans**.

- 1 Provide the [instructions](#) on the next page to your students.

### Materials required

- [Student instructions](#)
- Computer or tablet with internet access

### Artefacts

Students will update their **My Plans** in Xello with university choices and short reflections that demonstrate their personal preferences.

## Narrowing options

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### Student instructions

Now that you have a clearer idea of what your priorities are when choosing a university you can revise your plans to help you achieve your higher education goals. Complete the following in Xello:

- 1 Confirm the universities you've saved in Xello match the priorities you identified in the Xello lesson Choosing a university. Refer back to your lesson responses by reopening the lesson to review:
  - Part 3: Institution Intuition  
Do your saved universities meet your personal preferences for:
    - Location
    - Student life
    - Services and facilities
    - Courses
    - Campus setting
  - Part 4: Your university must-haves  
Do your saved universities rank well on your most important factors?
- 2 Remove any saved universities that don't reflect a good match to your personal preferences or important factors.
- 3 Update your **My plans** in Xello's **Goals & plans** section to reflect your higher education providers of choice.  
**NOTE:** If you haven't already created a plan in Xello, follow step 4 to start one.
  - **Edit** the plan to reflect university preferences
  - Within the text field of the plan, add a short reflection explaining how the chosen university in your plan meets your personal preferences and important university factors.
- 4 HOW TO CREATE **MY PLANS** IN XELLO:
  - Under **Goals & plans** select **My plans** to create a + **New plan**
  - Select **College or university** as the starting point and follow the prompts
  - Return to step 3 to complete this activity