



# JARGON BUSTER

Here at DMU we recognise that applying to university can be a stressful time, not only for students but for parents and guardians too. We've put together a jargon buster to help make sense of the application process and life at university.

**This list covers most of the common words and phrases used but of course if there's something you are unsure about, or isn't included below please contact our friendly advisers on +44 (0) 116 2 50 60 70 or [enquiry@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:enquiry@dmu.ac.uk) alternatively you can visit [www.dmu.ac.uk/enquiry](http://www.dmu.ac.uk/enquiry) or tweet @dmuenquiry**

## ACADEMIC

### **Bachelor's Degree**

This is a full undergraduate degree qualification which normally takes three to four years to complete on a full-time basis.

### **BA, BSc, LLB, BEng, BEd**

These titles refer to the subject discipline of your course. For example, BA is Bachelor of Arts, BSc is Bachelor of Science.

### **Foundation Degree**

Foundation Degrees can offer a different route onto a bachelor's degree for anyone with qualifications slightly below those required for the course.

### **Sandwich Course**

This is a course which incorporates a placement year, normally between your years of study, where you will spend a year in industry.

### **Placements/Internships**

A placement or internship is where a student works in a field/organisation similar to the course they're studying in or area of interest to gain experience, they can range from a few weeks to a year and can be paid or unpaid depending on the placement.

### **Single Honours**

An undergraduate degree on which students study a single subject.

### **Joint Honours/Combined Honours**

An undergraduate degree on which students study more than one subject.

### **Undergraduate**

The first level of study in higher education.

### **Postgraduate**

Higher education study for students who have completed an undergraduate degree. This may be a Master's degree or a PhD.

# APPLYING TO UNIVERSITY

## **Prospectus**

A prospectus is a book produced by individual universities detailing the courses and support available at their institution.

## **UCAS - Universities and Colleges Admissions Service**

This service deals with university applications for undergraduate courses and provides general advice and guidance.

## **Personal ID**

The 10 digit number given to students when registering on UCAS Apply.

## **Conditional Offer**

An offer made to an applicant by a university or college, whereby the applicant must fulfil certain criteria before they can be accepted on the relevant course.

## **Unconditional Offer**

An offer given to a student by a university or college, whereby the applicant has satisfied the criteria and can attend the course.

## **UCAS Extra**

This service is for students who have used all of their 5 choices on their UCAS application and have either been unsuccessful or wish to change their course/university. This runs from March until June and students can make one application at a time.

## **UCAS Track**

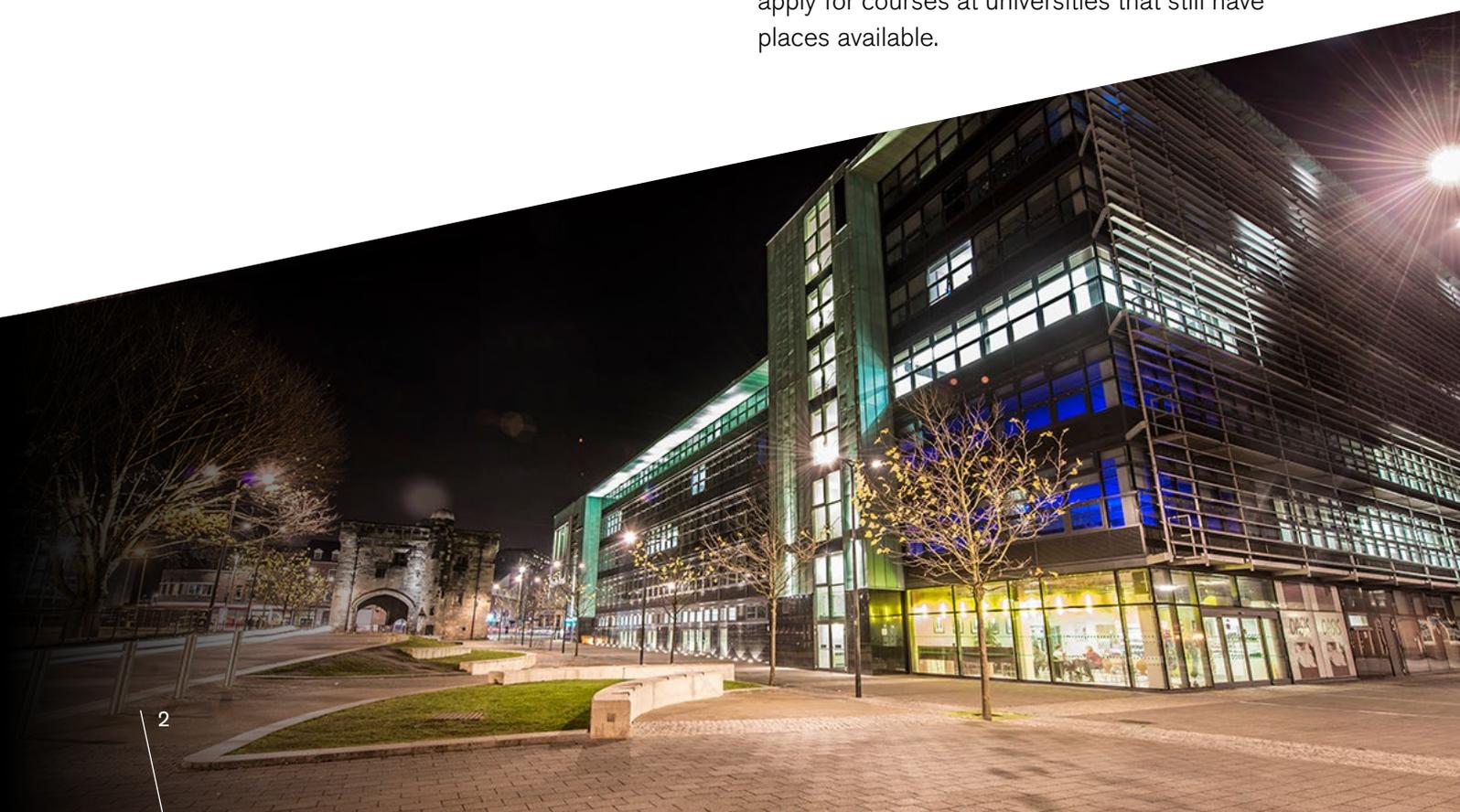
UCAS Track is an online system on the UCAS website, that allows students the opportunity to keep up to date with their applications such as checking if they have been made any offers or what they have replied to an offer (whether they've accepted or rejected it).

## **Results Day**

Result's Day is where students receive their A Level or BTEC results along with finding out if they have made it into their choice of universities or whether they need to go through Clearing or Adjustment.

## **Clearing**

Clearing allows students who didn't receive offers, declined their offers, didn't get the grades they needed, or have not previously applied, to apply for courses at universities that still have places available.



## Confirmation

Confirmation is where a student has gained their place onto their choice of university and needs to confirm their place with the university.

## Adjustment

Adjustment is when a student has achieved better grades at college than they were predicted, and therefore can apply for a university with a higher UCAS point entry for a course of their interest. Technically 'trading up' from their current choices on Results Day.

## Deferred Entry

This is when a student makes an application but delays the start of their course until the following academic year.

## Firm Choice

The offer that a student has accepted as their first choice.

## Insurance

The offer that a student has accepted as their second choice in case they do not meet the requirements of their firm offer. Usually the insurance choice will have lower entry requirements.

## Personal Statement

The personal statement forms part of the UCAS application. Students use this document to explain their suitability for the course and their reasons for applying. Students can only write one personal statement for all five of their application choices.

## Tariff

The UCAS Tariff is used to allocate points to post-16 qualifications for entry to higher education.

## Open Days

Open Days are events held by universities which provide the opportunity to see the campus and talk to staff and students about the university and their courses.

## Virtual Open Day

A virtual Open Day is an opportunity to visit the campus and learn more about the campus online.



# STUDENT LIFE

## Campus

Campus typically refers to the building and grounds of a university.

## Enrolment

Once a student has confirmed their place with a university, they have to bring in documentation, update personal information and fill in forms to formally agree (enrol) onto a course of study.

## Fresher

First year students are often referred to as freshers.

## Fresher's Week

A week where the university and its students welcome new students; it is filled with activities for students to get involved in as well as showcasing societies that students can join.

## Societies

Societies are extra-curricular clubs and activities that students can join and undertake around their studies, and are usually with like-minded individuals.

## SU – Student Union

This is an organisation run for students, by students. The student union represents the student voice and puts together social events, sport clubs and societies.

## Reading Week/

## Enhancement Week

Reading or Enhancement weeks are weeks where there are no classes (no lectures or seminars) and where guest talks or lectures on a range of subjects are delivered and students can attend if they wish; or it can act as a week where students can focus solely on work they need to complete.

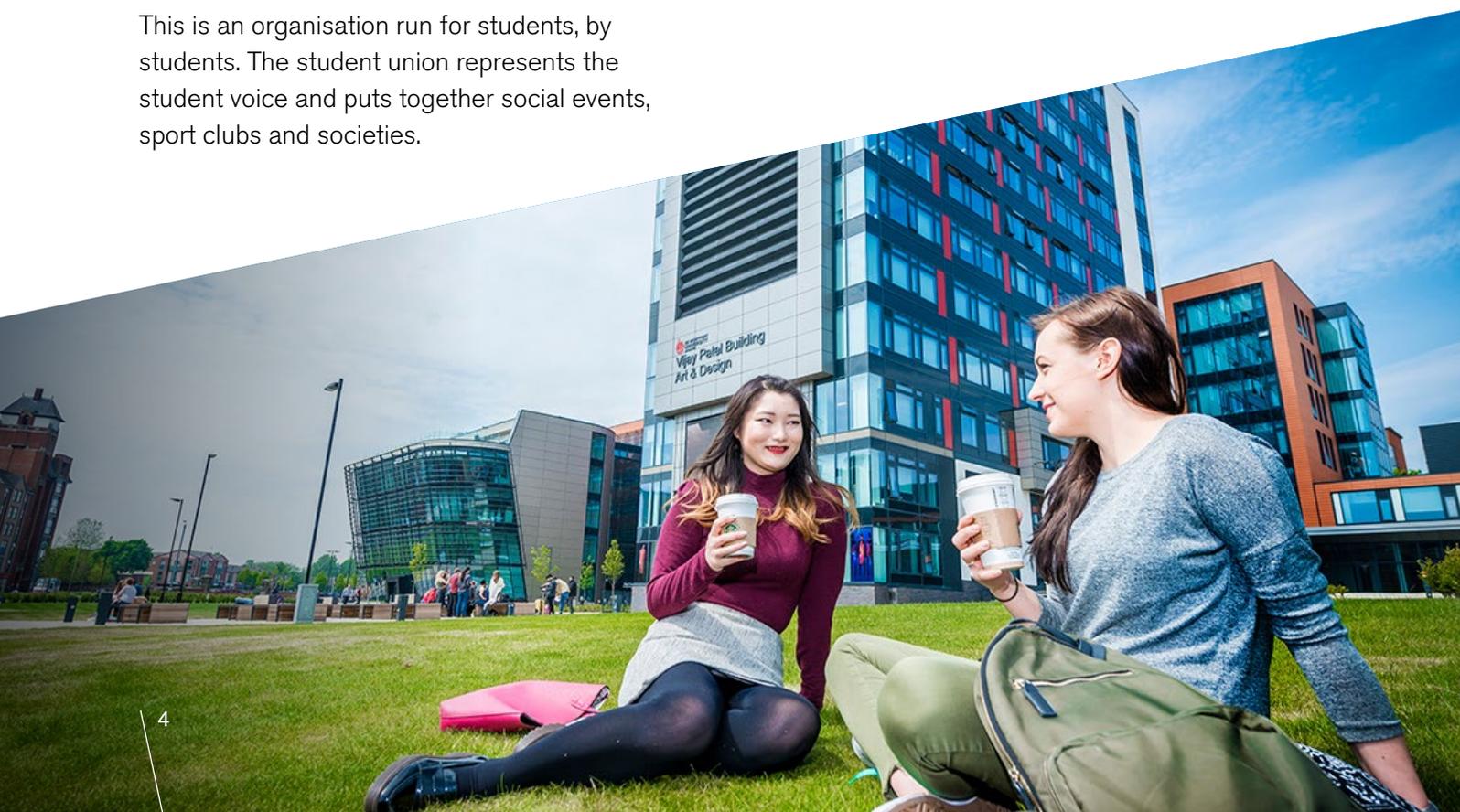
## Lectures

A lecture typically refers to a member of staff giving an educational talk to a group of students, in which they can make notes.

Lectures are usually delivered to a large group of people, unlike a seminar.

## Seminars

A seminar is where a member of staff and a small group of students will discuss the lecture and the reading it is based around, in more depth and detail. It is there to give the students an opportunity to discuss the lecture and reading, to gain a deep understanding on the topic, to help with assignments or gain a knowledge base on the subject area.



## Modules

Modules are a breakdown of the course into specific subject areas, to help gain a specific knowledge base to help the student complete their study; for example, a Journalism degree course may have modules such as History of Journalism and News reporting. Modules can last for a term or for a year, and can often be told apart by how many credits it is worth.

## Credits

Students will gain a number of credits per module. Students will have a fixed number of modules to complete each term/year. A short module (a module only lasting a term) would be worth 15 credits, whereas a longer module lasting the entire year would be worth perhaps 30 credits.

# FINANCE

## Tuition Fee Loan

Money borrowed from Student Finance England to cover tuition fees, paid directly to the university.

## Maintenance Loan

Money borrowed from Student Finance England to help fund all aspects of university such as accommodation, food and travel costs.

## Means-Tested

Money that is assessed based on the income of the household.

## Scholarship and Bursaries

These are non-repayable grants to support students through university. Scholarships are usually awarded in recognition of excellence and achievement and bursaries are usually awarded in relation to personal circumstances.

