

Now that the A levels appear to have been abandoned, you are free to do some entirely self-indulgent reading and research around a subject you enjoy. (Hopefully you'll enjoy it, as you have chosen to study it at university!)

This document will provide you with some tips for getting started and for making the most out of the time you have now before the start of the year. This first page has some general tips and advice, and then you will find more subject-specific content later on.

Some general tips

- Use this time to read, research, listen to and watch lots of different things relating to your subject – you have an unprecedented opportunity to explore the areas of your subject that interest you most.
- Take a look online at what the first year of your proposed course covers and put together a basic database as background.
- All of this should give you a bit of a head start on your studies and probably also give you some ideas of which modules or subject areas you may want to specialise in at a later date.
- You will get out of practice at writing quickly, so – particularly if you are undertaking an essay-based subject – make sure you keep writing. Even short pieces of writing responding to your research will help keep you ticking over until Autumn.
- We recommend that you focus on taking effective notes whenever you are reading or accessing content online – play around with different styles of notetaking and find out what works best for you. There are some templates you may want to use available with this pack.

There are two very good MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) that are well worth you looking at to help you prepare for university. Click on the links below to access them.

- [Critical thinking at University](#)
- [Preparing to learn online at University](#)

A quick note on university numbers

It has been announced (in late March) that university numbers may be capped and this may cause concern.

The number, however, will be capped at the **same** level as the past year, so this means there should be sufficient capacity for all who will qualify.

It is also very likely that there may be **spare** capacity as many overseas students may now not apply or withdraw applications. Do not be panicked into accepting an offer that is not one of your top choices just so that you get a place somewhere. If you get such an offer, contact any of your preferred choices to see if they'll match it.

You can find suggested content for the following subjects overleaf:

- Engineering
- English
- Geography
- History
- Maths
- Medical Sciences (including medicine, dentistry, veterinary and biomedical)
- Law
- Politics, Philosophy & Economics
- Sciences

For Engineering

Things to watch

[Ted.com](https://www.ted.com) has lots of brilliant talks that you can watch on a whole range of different topics relating to engineering.

A couple to get you started are:

- [Epic engineering: building the Brooklyn Bridge](#) by Alex Gendler
- [When bad engineering makes a natural disaster worse](#) by Peter Haase
- [Engineering a better life for all](#) by Cat Laine

You will find many more!

Keep a look out for documentaries that you can watch on TV or online. For example, there is a 30-minute Panorama documentary on BBC iPlayer called 'Boeing's Killer Planes' which may be of interest to potential aeronautical engineers!



Websites to explore

- [Discovering Engineering](#)
- [Royal Academy of Engineers](#)
- [I want to study engineering](#)
- [Webopedia](#)



You may also want to look at the websites for the professional bodies of each brand of engineering, as they will all have some free content for you to access:

- The Institute of Civil Engineers
- The Institute of Mechanical Engineers
- The Institute of Structural Engineers
- The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers

Maths

Don't forget to keep your maths skills sharpened – focus on practical maths rather than pure maths.

Statistics is often overlooked when people prepare for engineering degrees, so familiarise yourself with this subject if you have not studied it formally at school.

Consider researching some online courses to help keep your skills sharp.



Online courses

Completing short courses is a great way to stay engaged with your subject at this time. Browse through websites such as [MOOC.org](https://www.mooc.org) and [Futurelearn](https://www.futurelearn.com) to find something that interests you.

Some ideas to get you started are:

- [An Introduction to Energy Systems Integration](#)
- [Building a Future with Robots](#)
- [MedTech: AI and Medical Robots](#)

