

What's on offer?

Types of Courses

Generally, courses can be divided into two broad categories. You may choose to study for a degree that will lead to a definite career outcome - referred to as a 'vocational' degree. These courses are geared towards training graduates to enter a specific profession. They are often particularly attractive to students who are returning to education with a specific career goal in mind or who have undertaken related study or work previously. Of course, graduates from these courses can also go on to other careers if they so wish.

Alternatively, you may choose to study a course that can lead to a range of career options from the start. Examples might include Business Studies, Public Relations, Sociology and Marketing. Graduates from these courses are likely to go into a broad range of occupational areas (although some will make specific use of their degree subject). According to the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services approximately 60% of advertised graduate vacancies are open to graduates of any discipline (AGCAS, Your Degree What Next., 2005). These employers are looking for graduates with good transferable skills rather than for specific subject knowledge.

While having an employment goal in mind can be helpful when deciding on a degree course, it isn't always essential. Many students, of all ages, change their mind about what they want to do after

graduating. Studying for a degree can open all sorts of new doors and it isn't always possible to predict in advance what areas of employment might appeal to you later on.

If you would like to know more about the types careers graduates move into, check out: www.prospects.ac.uk. This site contains a lot of useful information for current students and graduates but which is also very helpful for those making decisions about what to study.

Remember that you can also ask admissions tutors about job opportunities and the destinations of past graduates when you come to the University for an open-day/visit.

Full-time or Part time?

Most QMU undergraduate level courses are available on a full-time basis with a smaller number being offered part-time. If you are interested in part-time study it's best to check this option out with us at an early stage. Most full and part time courses commence in early to mid September each year and finish in mid May. Students usually have a long summer break, although a small number of courses do require students to undertake placements over the summer months.

