

The Big Exploration Week One: Welcome

Hello! My name is Emily and I look after Year 5 to Year 9 outreach at Oxford Brookes University.

Hi guys! my name is Will and I work for Oxford Brookes University.

Hi everybody, my name is Catrin and I'm a current student at Oxford Brookes University

And you're watching The Big Exploration - Week One: Welcome!

Hello there and a warm welcome to The Big Exploration! We're so pleased you can join us today!

Over the next few weeks we'll be learning lots of types of things you can do at university, as well as improving on your skills in something called research - a skill all budding university students need.

To do this we will build up towards you having the chance to complete your very own piece of research, hopefully finding out the answer to something you really want to know.

We'll also be asking you to send us questions about the different topics we're discussing each week, so get your curious brains fired up and we'll begin by looking at what university actually is!

So, a university is a place where people go to keep learning, once you've finished school.

Most people go to university when they are 18 (although there is actually no minimum or maximum age range!)

Lots of people choose to move away from home when they are picking a university, although it's important to say that you definitely don't have to. The really exciting thing is that you get to choose where you want to study, and you can go home as often as you want.

We have 2 good universities here in Oxford - The University of Oxford is spread out across the city centre and our university, Oxford Brookes University, is based in Headington, a short walk up the hill. Most big towns and cities have at least one university, and there are over 150 different universities spread right across the country.

Now, universities can look and feel quite different. Some have buildings which are spread out all over the city, like University of Oxford, but today we are going to look at a 'campus' style university, like Oxford Brookes, where everything you need to live is all in one place - a bit like a village! Most universities will have their own libraries, shops, banks, restaurants, cafes, and even sports centres.. And some even have their own hairdressers!

But why do people even go to university?

That's a really good question! Going to University is a chance to learn about something you are really interested in, and because it takes three years to finish, you get the chance to investigate it in lots of detail. Across the next few weeks you'll have the chance to learn about all the different things you can investigate, and start thinking about what you might want to study at university!

Now, university research is the detailed study of a particular subject, and it helps us all understand things better - you may have heard that the government has asked universities to help find a cure for the coronavirus for example!

But Universities also research all kinds of weird and wonderful things, some of which you are going to find out about over the next few weeks.

If you have something you are curious about, university is where you might find the answers. And there's no reason not to start now!

Another reason people go to university is they have an idea about what job they want to do. I'm sure you've all dreamed about what you might do in future (and that it's changed several times!)

In fact, some jobs actually need a university qualification before they allow you to do them - for example, you need to go to university if you want to be a doctor, a nurse, a vet or an architect, amongst other jobs.

For our activity today, we are going to look at what actually goes on at university.

As a lot of people live here, it's not just about studying! University is a mix of learning, meeting new people and importantly, having fun.

In fact, people do all kinds of different activities living on a university campus - from the boring and routine (like brushing your teeth and washing up), to the essential (like eating, reading books, going to lectures and seminars - these are two special names for classes at university) but not forgetting the fun (like spending time with your new friends - meeting up to do a new hobby or go shopping).

For our very first activity, you'll need to have a look at our campus map, to work out which building different items belong in, so you can complete your daily activities as a student. Take some time to look at different buildings on campus before starting, as you might be surprised to see what's there!

So, here are your week one instructions!

You will need to complete the worksheet, which you can find on our website, by matching each item to the building you think they might belong to.

Hint: there are a couple that can go in more than one location!
If you're enjoying yourself, there's another activity for you to do too.

When you're finished, you can use the form on our website to send your work to us. There's also the chance for you to ask one of your curious questions, which you could see answered in a future video.

We'll see you next week, but in the meantime have fun and let's get curious!