

One in five students reveal they regret their university choice

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New research by The Student Room reveals that one in five students feel they've made the wrong choice of university.

The survey, from The Student Room, the world's largest online student community, asked more than 1,800 current university students about their opinions on their university and the reasons behind their choices.

The results revealed that, given the choice again, over 20% of students would not choose their current university. With more than 500,000 students starting a university course in 2016, this correlates to thousands of students across the country trapped in courses they no longer wish to be studying.

One of the main reasons students would not pick to attend their chosen university again came down to the experience in general, with 18% of respondents claiming university overall was not really for them. Other factors influencing students' regret included not researching the university properly before applying (18%), picking a university too far from home (17%) and pressure from other people influencing their choice of institution (15%).

When asked about their course, 18% of students confessed they wouldn't choose to study it if they had their time again. Almost half (41%) said the content of their course wasn't what they had expected, with almost a fifth (19%) claiming they had realised their course wouldn't help with their future job prospects. A further 12% said pressure from other people influenced them too much in their choice.

Worryingly, almost half (45%) of students didn't know how to complain or didn't know that it was possible to complain if they were unhappy with the course or university.

Hannah Morrish, community manager at The Student Room, commented: "Our research is really concerning, as it shows just how many students are making the wrong decisions at such a crucial point in their life.

"Students should thoroughly research their prospective courses by reviewing the module content, assessment methods and even browsing some of the core textbooks before making a decision. Look for courses that will give you core skills in leadership, teamwork and even basic administration to help with future employability. Courses that include a placement or internship can also give students a competitive edge following graduation.

"Universities should think about how they structure their courses to ensure students are better prepared for today's job market, and clearly outline the benefits of studying courses in relation to potential career opportunities.

"There is plenty of information available on sites such as The Student Room, which has forums where you can chat with current students or the universities themselves. Don't be afraid to talk to universities and ask them very specific questions about their courses, career services and employability of their graduates. It's better to ask questions now than regret your decision later."

**The Student Room surveyed 1,805 students currently at university, from 24 to 31 Oct 2016.*

ABOUT THE STUDENT ROOM

Founded in 2001, The Student Room is the world's largest online student community and the UK's no.1 education website according to ComScore data. The Student Room has over 3 million registered members, primarily aged between 14-24 and attracts over 8 million visitors a month. It provides student-to-student advice on studying, educational career choice and lifestyle issues. The Student Room works directly with most UK universities as well as a wide range of leading brands and companies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, INTERVIEWS OR CASE STUDIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

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KEY STATISTICS

If you were given the choice again, would you choose to study at your university?

Yes 79.80% (1,035)

No 20.20% (262)

Why wouldn't you choose to study at your university again?

I've realised university isn't really for me 17.62% (46)

I didn't do enough research 16.48% (43)

It's too far from home 16.09% (42)

I only chose it because of pressure from other people 15.33% (40)

If you were given the choice again, would you choose to study your course?

Yes 82.29% (1,064)

No 17.71% (229)

Why wouldn't you pick your course if you had the choice again?

The course content wasn't what I expected 40.97% (93)

I don't think it will help my future job prospects 18.94% (43)

I only chose the course because of pressure from other people 12.33% (28)

If you were unhappy about the standard of teaching you received at university, would you know how to complain?

Yes, I understand 54.83% (676)

No, I don't understand 25.14% (310)

I didn't realise you could complain 20.03% (247)