



TSR INSIGHT

# TSR Asks: Are Year 11s thinking about university and what information do they need?

Methodology: Quantitative online survey  
Year 11 students in the UK, aged 16+

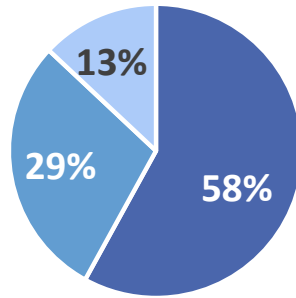
Base: 248 responses (1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023)

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## Are they planning to go to university?

We surveyed Year 11 students aged over 16 considering university. At this point 58% of our respondents were definitely planning to go to university in the future, while 42% were still deciding.

*Q: Are you currently planning to go to university in the future? (Single response)*

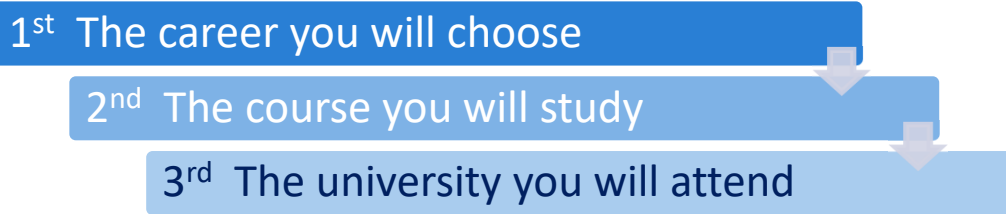


- Yes, definitely
- Yes, maybe
- I haven't ruled it out

## Which decisions are made first?

These Year 11 respondents were most likely to consider their future career first, then think about the course they would need to study before looking at universities.

*Q: Which of the following did you consider / do you think you will consider first? Please rank from 1 to 3, where 1 is the factor you will consider first. (Ranking Question)*



## Which subject areas are they considering?

Respondents who had considered the subjects they may study at university were fairly evenly split across STEM and non-STEM subjects.

*Q: Which if any of the following subjects/subject areas are you planning to study or considering studying at university? (Multiple Response)*



**30%**  
Non-Clinical  
STEM



**29%**  
Clinical



**24%**  
Arts and  
Humanities



**24%**  
Social  
Sciences

## What excites Year 11s about starting university?

Almost all Year 11 respondents were enthusiastic about starting university, selecting an average of 5-6 different aspects of university life which excited them.

Respondents were most likely to be excited about becoming more independent (75%), learning more about a subject that interests them (71%), and taking the next step towards the career they want (71%). Making new friends (62%) and trying new things (57%) were also among the top five and selected by more than half of respondents.

Q: What excites you most about going to university? Please select all that apply (Multiple Response)



76%

Becoming more independent



75%

Learning more about a subject that interests me



71%

Taking the next step towards the career I want



62%

Making new friends



57%

Trying new things



47%

Discovering a new town / city



44%

Meeting people like me



39%

Moving away from home



36%

Meeting people from different backgrounds



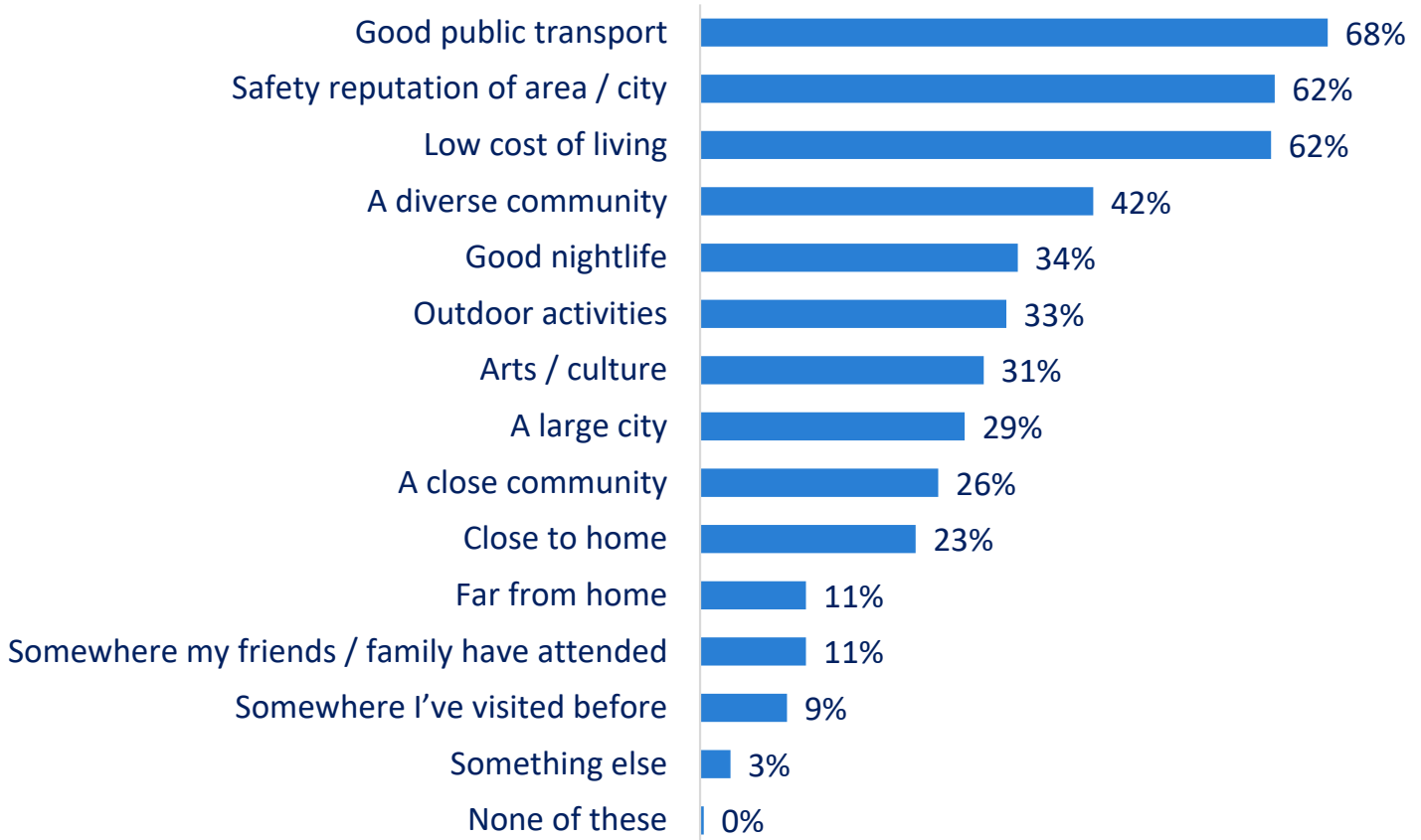
34%

Joining societies / spots clubs

## What are Y11s looking for in a university town or city?

Good public transport (68%), a low cost of living (62%), and safety (62%) were the priorities for respondents when looking for a university city. A diverse community was important to two-fifths while one in three wanted a good nightlife (34%) or outdoor activities (33%).

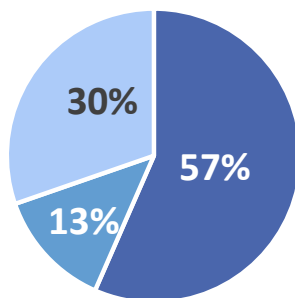
*Q: Which of the following do you think you will look for in your university city / town? (Multiple Response)*



## Are they planning to move away for university?

More than half of Y11 respondents planned to move away for university (57%), while almost a third were still unsure. At this stage, 13% planned to stay at home to study.

*Q: Do you plan to...? (Single response)*



- Move away for university
- Stay at home for university
- I'm not sure yet

# What information do Year 11s want from universities?

The majority of Year 11 respondents (96%) wanted some information from universities at this stage in their journey.

Most often their information requirements related to steps they could take now to support their university applications, including work experience that would be helpful (73%), GCSE requirements for degree courses (73%), support in choosing A level/ equivalent subjects (64%) and any additional qualifications (60%) or extra-curricular activities (58%) that would be advantageous.

Opportunities to find out about University life (60%) or taster days (56%) were also popular.

More than half (53%) at this stage were already seeking information on the financial support available.

**Q: What information, if any, would want to hear from universities now? Please select all that apply (Multiple Response)**

