

# Higher Ideas - 2011/12

Plan your journey into Higher Education

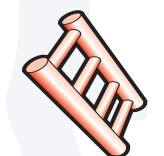
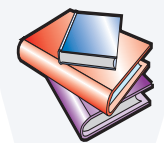
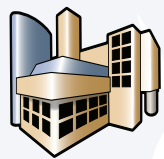
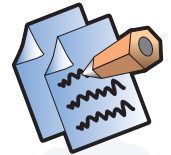


## The Higher Ideas introductory tour

Higher Ideas inspires students by showing how opportunities in higher education relate to their interests, school subjects, and career ideas. It helps them see what they could do, and plan for how to get there.

Got a few minutes to find out how Higher Ideas works? Here are some things to try:

1. From the Higher Ideas main menu page, click on the light bulb picture to get started with the **ideas generator**.
2. Tick up to three interests from the list. For this tour, try selecting *crime* and *information technology* and then click on the *search* button.
3. Higher Ideas now shows a list of suggested **study areas** relevant to your interests. Higher Ideas organises its 42,000 courses by grouping similar courses together into one or more of its 700 study areas.
4. Now choose a study area from the list of suggestions in the ideas generator. Choose *computer forensics* for this example.
5. This takes you to the **study area description**. The blue sections in the text are hyperlinks to notes or other study areas. Click on them to find out more, and then use the *back button* to get back to this study area.
6. The study area description tab is one of five tabs of information about this study area. The next tab along is the *qualifications* tab. Click it now.
7. The **qualifications** tab shows what school subjects you may need to do to get onto this type of course. On the right side of the page is a selector to choose the qualification route relevant to you: A-level, BTEC, 14-19 Diploma, and IB.
8. The next tab along is the **courses** tab. Click it now. This shows a list of courses in this study area, grouped by the institutions that offer them.
9. To find out more about an **institution**, click on the institution name from that list. This takes you to a page of information about this institution.
10. Click on the **view study areas** link if you want to see all the other study areas offered at this institution. Then click on the *back to institution* link when done.
11. The institution details page also includes a link to **look on the web** to find out more. It also has links to **create an email** or **create a letter** asking the institution for more information. Try them to see how they work. Be careful with the email generator – it sends your email as soon as you click on the *send* button.
12. At the top left of the institution details page is a *back to list* link to get back to the list of courses. Click on it now to return to the courses list.



Continued overleaf

13. Each course is displayed with its UCAS code. Click on the *course code* to see more about the course, including **UCAS application details**. Click *back to list* when done.
14. Back on the **courses** tab, there is a yellow map of the UK. Click on regions of the map to include or exclude those regions from the list. Try it now.
15. Now try the next tab along, called **combinations**. Most subjects can be studied in combination with other subjects. The combinations tab shows the combinations that this subject is available in. Click on any combination to go to that combined study area and see the courses on offer.
16. The last of the five tabs is the **more ideas** tab. If you liked this study area, you might like some of the other areas listed on this tab.
17. Click on the **main menu** link on the right of any page to get back to the Higher Ideas main menu.

Higher Ideas offers several ways of searching for ideas. As well as using the ideas generator described above, you can also do searches based on the **school subjects** you are studying or intend to study, and on **career choices**.

18. To do a **career search**, click on the *careers link* (ladder icon) on the main menu page.
19. From the career groups list, click on the career group that interests you. For this example we'll select *engineering*.
20. Then from the list of careers, click on *aerospace engineer*, to bring up the career details page.
21. The **career details** page tells you about this career, and explains how studying at degree level is relevant for it. On the right of the page are links to study areas that are useful for this career.
22. Also on the career details page is a **look on the web** link to find out more about this career on the Careers Gateway. The Careers Gateway has links to more information relevant to this career.
23. If you also subscribe to Careersoft's **Job Explorer Database (JED)**, this page will have a link to the relevant job in JED. JED contains lots more information about this job including pictures and videos.
24. Also on the career details page is a link for **creating a letter** to ask for more details from the relevant contact. Try this link to see how it works.
25. When done, use the *main menu* link to get back to the main menu page.
26. To do a **school subject search**, click on the relevant qualification type shown on the main menu page. For this tour, choose the *A-level* search.
27. From the list of A-levels, choose the subjects that you are studying or hope to study. For this tour, try *statistics*, *geography*, and *ICT*, and then click on *search*.
28. Higher Ideas shows a list of study areas relevant to your chosen subjects. Click on any listed study area to find out more about it.

That's a brief initial tour of Higher Ideas. It is simple to use, so clicking things is the best way to find out what else it can do. From the right side of the main menu page, try the **help** and **review** links. From the bottom of the main menu page, try the three **indexes** listed – they help when you know what study area, course, or institution you want to look at.

We hope that you and your students enjoy using Higher Ideas as much as we have enjoyed making it. Careersoft are on hand if you have any questions or feedback, and we are willing and able to help with your training requirements. We look forward to hearing from you.

