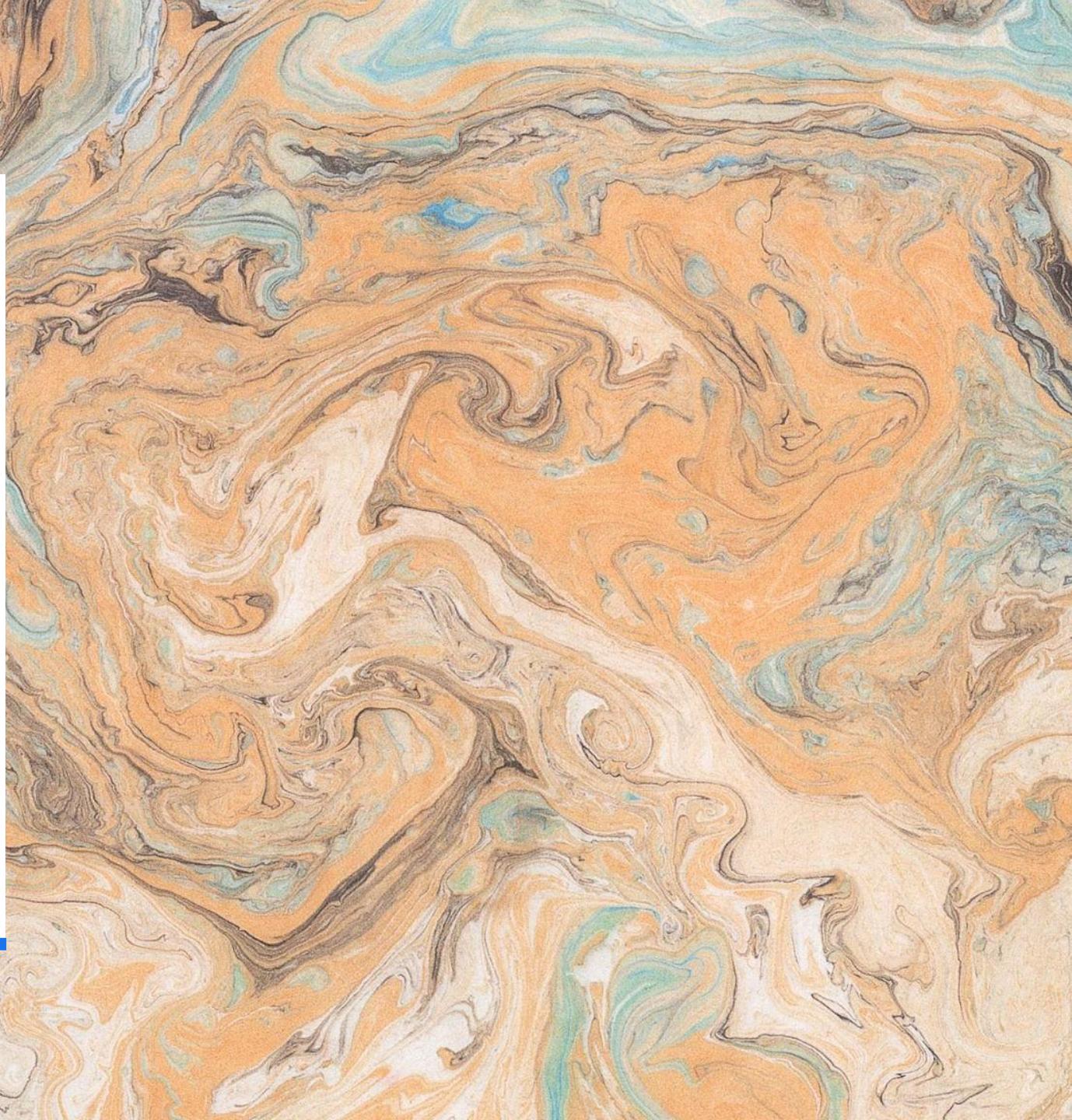


Which Uni should I go to?

STEPS TO FIGURE OUT WHICH
ENVIRONMENT YOU THRIVE IN!





You're not alone!

The most important thing with trying to figure out which university you want to attend is realizing that you are not alone!

There are lots of Year 13's and students who are about to start uni who are so unsure of where to go from where they are.

Many universities offer the same course, and it can be challenging to then figure out which university environment would work best for you.



It's common to focus on 'top' universities

Many students feel pressure to choose a university based on reputation, rankings, or where others are going. This is completely understandable especially when you're surrounded by opinions, advice, and expectations.

However, choosing a university isn't just about the course itself, but it's also about the environment you'll be learning in every day.



Environment Matters more than you think

Two universities may offer the same degree but feel very different once you're studying there. Class sizes, teaching styles, support systems, and campus culture can all shape how confident and supported you feel.

An environment that suits one person may not suit another...and that's okay.



A personal reflection

What I learned from my own experience.

- When I started university, I didn't fully realise how much learning environment mattered to me. Over time, I discovered that I personally learned better in a smaller, more supportive setting, where asking questions felt easier and support was more accessible.
- That realisation helped me feel more confident and engaged in my studies — and it changed how I thought about what a “good” university really means.



Questions worth asking yourself

Instead of asking “Which uni is best?”, try asking:

- Do I feel more comfortable in smaller classes, or large lectures?
- Do I learn better through hands-on, practical teaching or theory-focused learning?
- How important is easy access to academic and wellbeing support for me?
- Do I feel motivated by independence, or by structure and guidance?
- What kind of campus culture makes me feel like I belong?

Practical next steps

How to explore your options thoughtfully:

- Attend multiple open days, even for universities you hadn't considered (Tip: AUT and UoA do their open day on the same day each year so take a walk across the road and check out both universities!)
- Talk to current students about their real experiences. This is something you can do on a University Open day, as there are lots of second and third-year university students walking around to guide you. Ask them as many questions as you can so you can get a better idea of things.
- Explore student support pages, not just course descriptions. Look on Universities' social media, or the clubs they have on offer, as well as the 'What's on?' pages which show you the events that unis hold each year.
- Ask yourself: *Would I feel comfortable asking for help here? – Does the environment look welcoming for my learning style?* There will be lots of lecturers walking around on Open Days so keep an eye out and talk to them! Introduce yourself and ask questions about the course, what the experience is like at that Uni – it will really help you open up.
- Taking time to reflect now can make a big difference later.