



Section 2



Choosing an appropriate major



2.1 What subjects interest you most?



Think about

*What subjects did you learn at school?
Which subjects did you like best?
Why did you like those subjects the best?*

When choosing a major to study you need to think about:

- The subjects that interest you and you are good at.
- The career you would like to follow after you graduate.
- The kind of career that would suit you as a person. (If you are bad at science you shouldn't choose a career as a doctor; if you are afraid of speaking out and expressing your opinions you'd find it difficult to be a politician.)

This section will give you more information on course options, plus get you to reflect on yourself and your skills and interests, to help you make the right choice of major to study.



Self reflection

Different majors and careers require you to be good at, and interested in, different subjects. Think about the subjects you have already studied at school or are interested in studying. You can choose more than one answer for each of these questions if you need to.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. What subject(s) were you best at in school? | 2. Which subject(s) did you enjoy most at school? |
| Science
English
Burmese
Maths
History
Geography | Science
English
Burmese
Maths
History
Geography |
| 3. Which subject(s) did you enjoy least at school? | 4. Which subject(s) would you most like to learn more about? |
| Science
English
Burmese
Maths
History
Geography | Science
Art
Maths
Languages
Social studies |

2.2 Personality test

Think about

What is personality?

Why might different people be more suited to some professions than others?

Personality tests are tests designed to help people understand the type of person they are. That might sound strange; who could know you better than you know yourself? But personality tests ask questions about yourself that you would not normally consider.



Self reflection

Try answering the questions below. In table A you have two choices for each statement. Tick the answer that you think is most true of you. In table B you have three choices. Again tick the answer you think is most true of you.

A

I work best...	in a group / team		on my own	
I prefer...	busy situations		calm and quiet	
Given the choice I would choose...	a job that is stable and pays well		a job that offers variety /travel, even if it pays less	
I tend to be more...	factual than creative		creative than factual	
I tend to...	listen more than I talk		talk more than I listen	
I make decisions...	from my head		from my heart	
When I communicate...	I express enthusiasm		I do not show enthusiasm	

B

When faced with a decision I am most likely to...	choose quickly		analyse all the options with care		Become indecisive	
Responsibility is something ...	do not do well with		do minimally well with		do very well with	
I deal with high stress situations...	not very well		somewhat well		very well	
I am interested in numbers and figures...	not at all		a little bit		a lot	
I want to help people less fortunate than me...	not at all		a little bit		a lot	
I am assertive / speak my mind...	not at all		a little bit		a lot	
I am compassionate...	not at all		a little bit		a lot	
I have strong analytical skills...	not at all		a little bit		a lot	
I am nurturing / like the role of care-giver...	not at all		a little bit		a lot	
I am out-going / socially active...	not at all		a little bit		a lot	
I enjoy debates and group discussions...	not at all		a little bit		a lot	
I take deadlines seriously...	not at all		a little bit		a lot	
I am patient...	not at all		a little bit		a lot	

Look at the answers you have chosen. What do they tell you about your personality? Are you someone who is outgoing? Do you prefer to work alone? Do you enjoy having responsibility? You need to keep the answers to these questions in mind when you decide the type of career you would like to follow.



Check your understanding

Look through the questions above and write four personality qualities that you think are required for each of the professions below:

Politician	Computer analyst
Nurse	Businessman
Teacher	Project manager
Counsellor	Journalist



Self reflection

Which of these professions best matches your personality?

Of course the professions above that best match your personality might not be professions that you are interested in. Or you might be interested in professions that don't seem right for your personality. Personality is just one factor to consider. Interests and skills are also important parts of choosing a career. This is just a test to make you think more about your personality.

2.3 Interest areas

Think about

What subject areas are available for study at university?

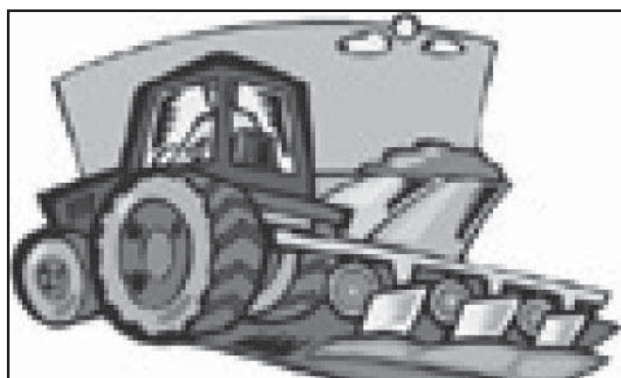
The range of degree majors available at universities is huge and it can be hard to decide which major to study. You need to decide which subject area you are most interested in and have the most ability for. Below are 11 categories of interest areas. Each interest area covers many majors.

Agriculture and Environment

Agriculture is the largest and most diverse industry on the planet. The demand for qualified employees in the agriculture and food production industry is quite high.

Agriculture is the scientific study of the interaction between humans, natural resources, and livestock.

The agriculture major may be designed for students who desire careers in production, research, nutrition, commercial agriculture, or management positions in farm-related industries, among others.



Environment students study processes on the earth, and in its atmosphere and oceans, to learn how the systems combine and interact. In this way we come to understand how our planet works, its past history, and its likely future.

Increasing pressure by the public about air and water pollution, nuclear waste disposal, the ozone hole and global warming, has opened up many new career opportunities.

Arts and Music

A major in art is for those who are interested in becoming professional artists, teachers or scholars focusing on artistic media such as painting, sculpture, film studies and photography.

Art is an important means for creating and relaying ideas, and for reflecting culture.

Artistic individuals able to draw, paint or design are primary candidates for this major. An art major may also include music, theatre, cinema, dance and photography.

Art is a useful medium through which the diverse cultures of Myanmar can be expressed.



Business and Management

A career in business is more varied than most people think. It can involve the obvious functions such as management and marketing, but more and more there is a need for business major specialists to apply their skills in government, international commerce, health care, arts, and non-profit organizations.

A business education is the backbone for economic, political and social systems at all levels.

Management is the process of getting work done through people. It is management's responsibility to run a business or organisation.

Majors in management are designed for careers in general management, or in the specialization of human resource management.

Traditionally, management includes planning, organizing, leading, and controlling.

Communication and media

In the communications field, ideas are transmitted through mass media. Communications professionals seek to inform, educate, persuade, or entertain masses of people, using books, newspapers, magazines, radio, TV, film, advertising and public relations.

Communication and Media graduates find opportunities in a wide variety of careers in business, education, government and the non-profit sectors.



Radio and TV, advertising and public relations, publishing, sales, financial services, and university student services are but a few of the many areas in which these graduates find employment.

Computers and IT

If you major in computer and information sciences you'll be learning about computers and computer technology, with an emphasis on the applications of such knowledge.

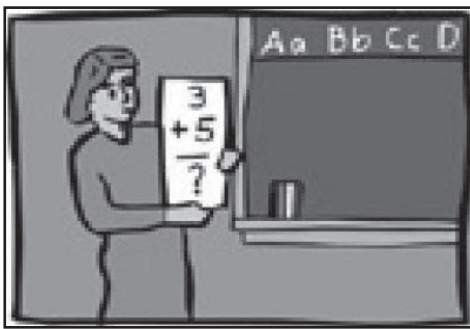
IT is defined as the study, design, development, implementation, support and management of computer-based information systems, particularly software applications and computer hardware,



Those who work in information technology provide a crucial link between technology and those who use and depend on it.

Education

As an education major you'll learn the skills you need to become an effective and qualified teacher.



A teacher's job is all-important in our increasingly fast-paced society because the knowledge and attention each student needs is constantly increasing.

Choices usually include some variation of early childhood education, primary school, secondary school and special education (special education is centred on the education of behaviourally difficult, mentally disabled and physically disabled students).

Engineering and Architecture

Engineering is the application of scientific or mathematical principles to develop economical solutions to technical problems, and to create products, facilities, and structures that are useful to people.

Engineers use imagination, judgment, and reasoning together with science, technology, mathematics, and practical experience.

Engineering specialties include computer engineering, chemical engineering, electrical engineering, bioengineering and mechanical engineering.

Architecture is the art and science of designing buildings and structures.

A wider definition would include the design of the total built environment, from the macro-level of town planning, urban design, and landscape architecture to the micro-level of creating furniture.

Those wishing to major in architecture should have a good knowledge of physics and mathematics.

Health

Health studies are concerned with the development of knowledge and programs related to health and well being.



This field contains many majors including medicine, nursing, physiotherapy, and pharmacy. Some majors focus on identifying practices that directly improve patient health. Others focus on the physical activity, biological, behavioural and socio-cultural mechanisms and processes that affect health status.



A health major prepares students for work in medical settings, schools, businesses, and the community as health educators.

Humanities and Social Science



Humanities (also known as social sciences or studies) are a group of disciplines that study human aspects of the world and emphasize the use of the scientific method in the study of humanity.

Humanities are a wide field of studies including majors such as: foreign languages and literatures, geography, history, anthropology, international relations, international studies, philosophy, political science, peace studies, psychology, and sociology.

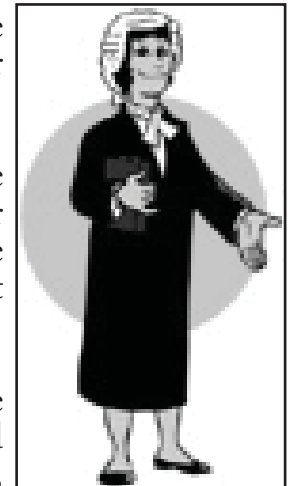
Humanities involve critical thinking more than other majors. In order to understand course material and develop skills, students should be able to train their minds to critically analyse theories and give their own opinions about facts.

Law

Studying law has an obvious appeal to anyone considering a career in the legal profession. A Bachelor of Laws degree provides a firm foundation for students wishing to train as solicitors or barristers.

However, it is important for prospective students to realize that there are a whole range of careers outside of private legal practice as a solicitor or barrister. Such careers include acting as State Prosecutor, working in the courts service, national and local government law departments and specialist areas of law.

The study of law improves powers of reasoning, clarity of thought and the ability to analyze and express complicated ideas. Such skills are in demand in a wide variety of areas including commerce and industry, social services, politics, and the media.



Science and Technology



Science is a rational way of gathering information and understanding about how the natural world works.

Most science majors will involve some amount of research and laboratory work. You'll learn how to gather and analyze data and how to present your results in papers or presentations. You'll also learn how to interpret others' research results and how to critically read scientific literature.

Usually students choosing a science related major have a natural curiosity to learn how things work and like doing experiments and laboratory research.

2.4 Choosing an interest area

Think about

What interest area are you interested in studying?

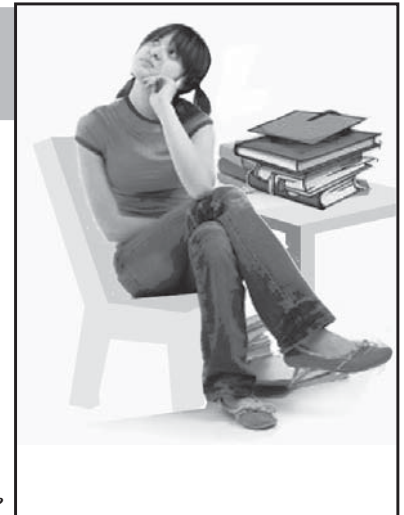
When you are deciding which major to study, it helps if you can narrow down your choices. One way to do this would be to identify which interest areas you are most interested in studying. You may be interested in more than one interest area.



Self reflection

Which of the interest areas above are you most interested in?

* You can find more detailed information on interest areas on the Myanmar Study Abroad website.



2.5 Career types and skills

Think about

*How many different types of career are there?
What skills are required for each career?*

Some people know which career they would like to follow, others find it difficult to decide. Once you have identified subjects and areas that interest you, you can start to think about which career you might like.

Many people choose a career without really knowing what it involves. For example, when asked about the work a doctor does, one student replied “tells the nurses what to do”. This student was interested in becoming a doctor without knowing what a doctor does. When he learnt that doctors work long, hard hours, clean and dress wounds, have to not mind the sight of blood, and patiently listen to and treat people who are sick, he was not so keen on the job.

Here is a list of careers, there are many other careers not included in this list. Read through the list. How many of these careers do you know what a person actually does?

Biochemist	Biologist	Environmental Scientist
Farm or Ranch Manager	Natural Resource Analyst	Artist
Digital Artist	Fashion Designer	Graphic Designer
Website Designer	Art teacher	Photographer
Musician	Dancer	Actor
Accountant	Bank Officer	Advertising Director
Manager	Market Researcher	Editor
Journalist	Public Relations Specialist	Sales Representative Computer
Hardware Technician	Computer Graphics Design	Information System Manager
Computer System Developer	Child Care Worker	School Administrator
Guidance Counsellor	Professor	Teacher
Architect	City Planner	Engineer
Physiotherapist	Scientist	Researcher
Nurse	Paramedic	Pharmacist
Doctor	Language teacher	Translator
Lawyer	Legal researcher	Barrister
Politician	Pharmacist	Chemist

Now look at the list of skills below. Which of these skills do you have?

Critical Thinking skills

Typing skills

Networking skills

Technical skills

Perception

Initiative and leaderships skills

Presentation skills

Writing skills

Organizational skills

Planning skills

Tolerance

Linguistic skills

Listening skills

Interpersonal skills

Research skills

Accountability

Coping skills

Mathematical skills



Self reflection

List the skills that you think you have.



Check your understanding

Now choose four careers that interest you and for each choose four skills that you think are important to that career. Write them in the spaces below.

You might need to research on the internet to find out what the careers entail.

1. _____ Skills: _____

2. _____ Skills: _____

3. _____ Skills: _____

4. _____ Skills: _____

Which career(s) best match your skills?

Which skills do you need to develop for careers you are interested in?

2.6 What does a ... do?

It is likely that for many of the above careers you do not know what work is involved. This makes it very hard to identify a career you would like to follow. But this is not a problem, once you get to university and start to study you will learn more about the career opportunities available for your major. And many people change their minds when they get to university and learn more about options available to them.



Research Practice

What does a ... do?

For this activity you need to have access to the internet. If you do not you could try to complete the activity by asking someone who works in the careers you have chosen, or write down what you think the answers should be.

From the list above choose two careers that interest you. For each career, answer the following questions, you will need to research on the internet to find some answers:

The website <http://www.careerplanner.com/Job-Descriptions.cfm> may help you with your research

Career:

1. Which interest area(s) does this career belong to?
2. What does someone in this career spend most of their day doing?
3. What are the main responsibilities of someone in this career?
4. What personal qualities and skills are needed for this career?
5. What major(s) should you study if you want to follow this career?
6. What qualifications do you need to study this major?

2.7 Matching interest areas with careers



Check your understanding

Below are the 11 interest areas plus a list of careers.

For each career write the relevant interest areas – note some careers might be relevant to more than one interest area.

Agriculture and Environment
Business and Management
Computers and IT
Humanities and Social Sciences
Science and Technology
Law

Art and Music
Communication and Media
Education
Health
Engineering and Architecture

- Biologist _____
- Graphic Designer _____
- Child Care Worker _____
- Accountant _____
- Nurse _____
- Editor _____
- Computer Graphics Design _____
- Environmental Scientist _____
- Physical Therapist _____
- Legal researcher _____
- Fashion Designer _____
- Teacher _____
- Natural Resource Analyst _____
- City Planner _____
- Paramedic _____
- Bank Officer _____
- Journalist _____
- Politician _____
- Pharmacist _____
- Chemist _____

2.8 Male and female career roles

Think about

A father and his son were involved in a car accident. The father was killed and the boy injured. The boy was taken to hospital where he needed surgery. The doctor performing the operation saw the boy then said “I can’t perform this operation. This boy is my son!”

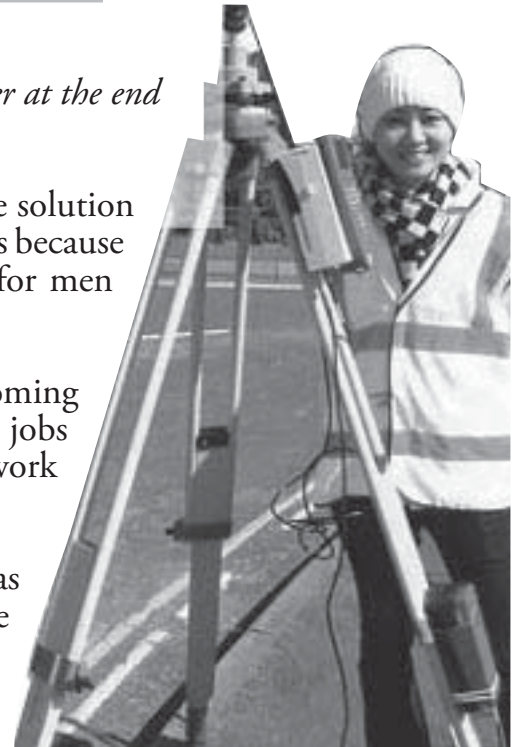
How can this be?

Try to solve the puzzle for a few minutes, then check the answer at the end of this section.

Did you solve the puzzle? Many people cannot think of the solution to this puzzle because they assume the doctor is a man. This is because society has traditionally recognized some jobs as suitable for men and other jobs as suitable for women.

But in the world today this is changing. Women are becoming doctors, lawyers, and politicians. And men are working in jobs that were traditionally seen as female roles. All are able to work equally as effectively.

So if you are interested in a career that is traditionally seen as appropriate for the opposite sex, don't let people discourage you. If you have the right skills and ability then there is no reason to stop you following that career.



2.9 Jobs and community connection

Think about

*Which university degrees would be of most benefit Myanmar?
What work could you do after you graduate to benefit your country?*

One of the reasons for studying at university is because an educated population improves the products and services within a country, plus produces a population of people who are more socially aware. This means that after you have completed your degree you will have a lot to offer Myanmar. Your education is very important for improving your country.

Each interest area includes careers that are very relevant in Myanmar. For example:

Agriculture and Environment

Agriculture is the most important part of the Myanmar economy. Myanmar has a long history of agricultural production and currently 70% of the workforce is engaged in agricultural employment. 50% of the Gross Domestic Product can be attributed to agriculture.

In Myanmar, environmental issues are of great concern. Current environmental issues include the damming of rivers for hydroelectric power, deforestation due to illegal logging, habitat destruction, and industrial pollution of air, soil, and water.

Art and Music

In Myanmar, there is a diverse range of ethnic groups and therefore an amazing variety of art and music. This art and music, reflecting the traditions and cultures of the ethnic groups, can be used to bring people of different cultures together, build bridges and promote understanding.

Many academics are concerned that cultures are being erased. This is certainly true in Myanmar, and one way to preserve indigenous cultures in Myanmar may be through an interest in the arts and music.

Business and Management

Myanmar has a thriving market scene and the potential for much economic growth. As Myanmar modernizes, businesses and organizations must become more efficient to be able to compete in the international market. This creates a need for people with business and management skills.

The growth of business and the economy will bring in money that is much needed for the development of Myanmar. Plus, many of these skills and practices will be equally important to non-profit and community-based organizations.

Communication and Media

Communication and media are in their infancy in Myanmar. Out of approximately 47 million people, as recently as 2005, there were less than 700,000 phones (including both land lines and mobiles). Less than 80,000 people use the Internet. There are less than five TV channels and radio stations.

In the future, people will need to step in and create modern media companies and organizations. Until that happens, students with media or communication degrees can easily work with public relations departments of companies and organizations in the private sector.

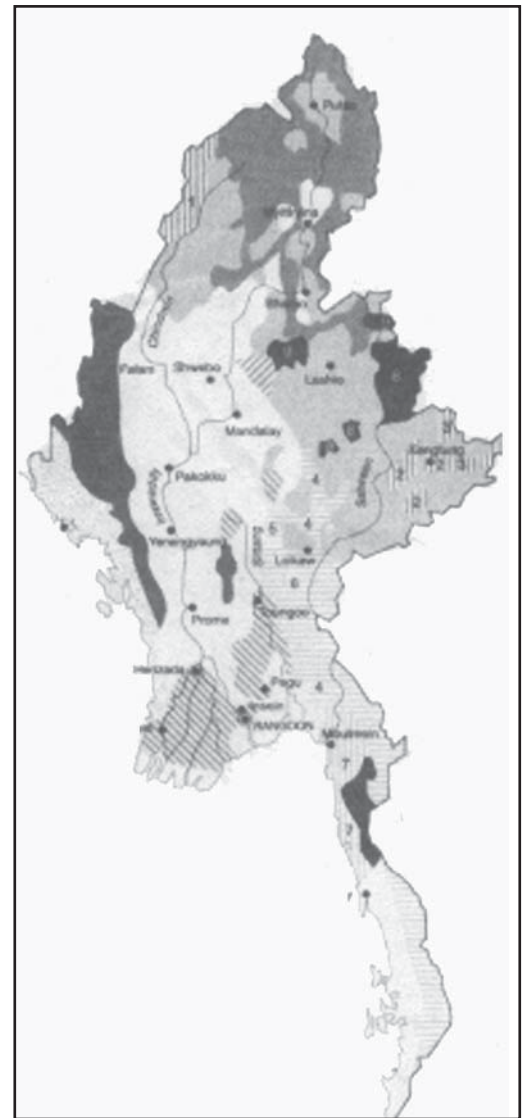
Computers and IT

As computer usage in Myanmar increases, businesses and organizations will steadily adopt technology in their business practices. This means that there will be a growing demand for staff needed to start and maintain electronic information and networks.

Computer technology will be especially important as schools try to fill the demand for students who are knowledgeable and capable to work in offices using computer technology. People who graduate with these degrees will be able to do computer or IT work as their degree has taught them, or they will be equally valuable as teachers in computing and IT.

Education

Education is essential to the development of Myanmar. The education system in Myanmar needs to embrace new teaching methods to replace rote learning. Therefore, teachers need to be qualified as teachers as well as knowledgeable in their subject areas.



Graduates with education degrees can contribute greatly to the development of Myanmar by instilling new critical thinking skills in young minds. This will certainly contribute towards ethnic reconciliation, modernization, and general peace and prosperity in the country.

Engineering and Architecture

Engineering and architecture contribute to the standard of living in a country. Many people live in city slums or rural villages without proper sanitation which leads to the spread of disease. By improving infrastructure pollution can be reduced, and sanitation and safety can be increased, creating a healthier country.

Engineers can work for businesses designing products or manufacturing systems which are an important part of growth for the Myanmar economy; or they can work in the public sector building a better infrastructure including transport, communication, power generation, and sanitation networks.

Health

Approximately 25% of people live below the poverty line in Myanmar. Many live in unsanitary conditions where diseases spread rapidly and there is a very small health infrastructure. The number of physicians and nurses per 1,000 people is less than one.

Not surprisingly there is a great need for health professionals across the country. There is more demand in rural areas where access to health service remains significantly lower than in cities. Additionally, across the country, there is a great need for health education in areas including sanitation, reproduction, and disease prevention.

Humanities and Social Sciences

This is the most diverse interest area and covers many essential professions that are needed in Myanmar. Graduates can become leading economists, historians, teachers, politicians, geographers, and philosophers — just to name a few professions!

Humanities and social science majors are important for Myanmar because they provide understanding that will become the basis for progress. People study humanities majors and learn to integrate information, ideas, and opinions from a variety of sources and perspectives.

Law

In Myanmar as in many other countries, the rule of law has always been difficult to uphold. Following the rule of law is not common practice in Myanmar, and instead it is often ruled by those who have the most power or influence.

Myanmar needs new thinkers, with a legal understanding, who will be able to bring into effect new laws and ways of thinking about the law, to develop a fair and effective legal system in the country.

Science and Technology

Since the Myanmar economy is based on extractive industries such as mining and oil and natural gas exploration, there will continue to be a demand for graduates of the hard sciences including geologists, chemists, and physicists.

Biologists, ecologists, researchers, and biochemists will be essential to assess the potential for future projects, as well as their impacts on the environment. As the economy of Myanmar

grows, there will be a demand for more electricity, including hydroelectricity, as well as oil and natural gas. Trained professional scientists will be needed to assess the potential of these future projects.

A growing manufacturing industry would bring financial benefits to the country, and people with the technical expertise to develop this sector will be much in demand.

2.10 Career decision making

Now take time to reflect on what we have discussed in this section and to answer the questions below.

This Is My Life

The best thing I have done in my life so far is...

In the next five years I would like to...

If I could do anything as an adult it would be...

If I could have a career doing what I really enjoy doing most it would be a job in...

The three things I would most like to achieve in my life are...

The interest area(s) that most interest(s) me is / are...

The university major(s) that most interest(s) me is / are...

The career(s) that most interest(s) me is / are...

The major(s) / career(s) most suited to my academic ability is / are...

The major(s) / career(s) most suited to my practical skills is / are...

The career(s) most suited to my personality is / are...

The career where I could be most effective bringing improvement to Myanmar is...

Do you now have an idea of what you might like to study at university and which career you might like to follow in the future? Or are you still unsure? Maybe you are interested in two or more options and are not sure what to choose.

Remember, when you choose a university major you are not just choosing a course of study for the next four years, but a career too! Don't rush your decision, give it plenty of thought.

2.11 Choosing an appropriate university

Think about

*Which countries are you interested in going to study in?
Why? Which university would you like to go to?*

Once you have decided on a major you would like to study you need to decide where to study. You need to think about which country you would like to study in and also which university.

Maybe you already know which country you would like to study in, maybe you already have friends there, or are interested in the country, or have already decided on a university. There is a section on country information later in this book which will give you some information on countries in Asia.

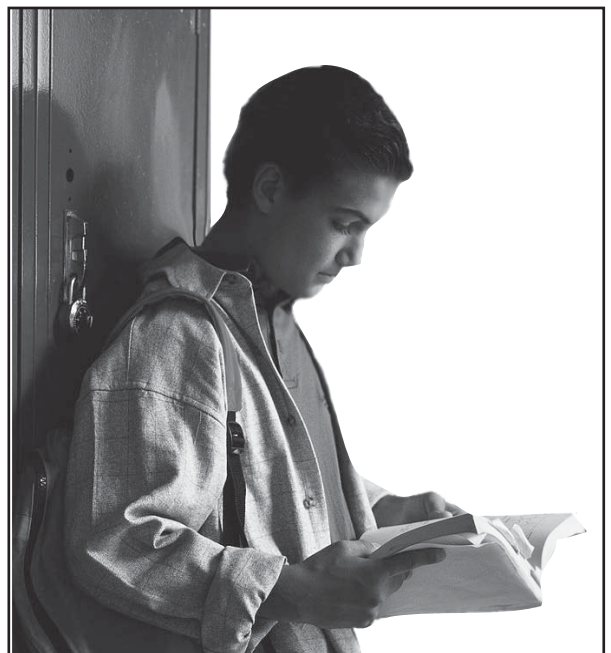


When you are deciding which country to study in, consider the following:

- Is there a university that provides the course you would like to study in English?
- Can you afford to study in the country? Remember, Western countries are very expensive.
- Can you get a visa for the country?
- If you need one, can you get a scholarship to study in the country?
- Do you know anyone already in the country?
- Are there other Burmese studying there?
- How would you feel if you were the only Burmese there?
- Are you interested in the culture of the country?
- Can you adjust to the climate, food etc of the country?

Of course you may feel that choosing the right course for you is more important than the country you go to.

You need to research to find universities that provide the major you would like to study. You can research this on the internet by searching for the course and country you are interested in. You could also talk to other students who have studied overseas.



Try to find out:

- The content of the course. Universities may offer courses in the same major, but the content of these courses can vary. Choose a course that most interests you.
- Course fees. Some universities are more expensive than others. Can you afford to study at the university, or can you get a scholarship to study there?
- Entry requirements. Some universities have higher entry requirements than others. Do you have the necessary entry qualifications?
- Reputation of the university. Does the university have a good reputation? Are the tutors competent? Are the courses taught to a high standard? If you are going to invest four years of your life studying at university you want to make sure you can get a good standard of education.
- Language. Is the entire course taught in English? Some universities provide international courses, but the lecturers will revert to the language of that country if their or the home students' English skills are not adequate.
- Attendance. Not yours but the tutors'. Do the tutors have good attendance records? At some universities lectures are often cancelled, which is frustrating for the students.

Research Practice 1

For this activity you need to search for university websites. You can also use the www.myanmarstudyabroad.org website to help you.

1. Choose a course that you are interested in studying.
2. Find four universities in Asia that offer the course and teach it in English.
3. Select one of these universities.
4. What are the entry requirements to study your course at this university?
5. What is the cost of studying your course at this university?
6. When is the application deadline for applying to this course?

Research Practice 2

For this activity you need to search for university websites to find the answers to the questions below.

1. What type of work does the Biological Science course at Mahidol University prepare you for?
2. What subjects would you study if you took a bachelor degree in Engineering at the University of Pune in India?
3. What are the entry requirements to study a master degree at the Asian Institute of Technology?
4. What are the core courses for the second year studying South-east Asian studies at undergraduate level at the National University of Singapore?
5. How many credits do you need to complete a degree in Nursing Science at Assumption University?

6. Are tuition fees higher at Bangkok University or Assumption University?
7. Using the Wikipedia website find out which university has the higher world ranking, Hong Kong University or Chulalongkorn University.

Note - Assuming you can afford to, it is fine to apply to more than one university at a time. Applying to more than one university improves your chances of getting accepted to one of them.

2.12 Assessing the quality of universities

If you are going to spend three or four years studying at university you want to be sure that the university you choose to study at provides a high quality of education. Getting feedback from previous students is one way of finding out about high quality universities. Another way is to research the universities you are interested in on the internet and use the information you find to assess quality.

A good source of information on universities is the on-line encyclopaedia 'Wikipedia'. Wikipedia contains a comprehensive list of universities around the world plus information on each university. This information has to be neutral, and can be updated by anyone who uses Wikipedia if they feel the information is not correct. Wikipedia also provides links to the universities' own websites.



Research Practice

To find the list of universities on Wikipedia:

1. Type "university" into the search box of the Wikipedia site
2. Go to the 'universities around the world' section of the article
3. Click on the link 'list of colleges and universities by country'
4. Select a region, then a country, where you are interested in studying
5. Select three universities from the list of universities in that country.

Read the articles. Use the criteria below to decide which of the three universities you think is the best.

There are several criteria to consider when assessing the quality of a university and whether the university is suitable for you. These include:

How long the major has been available:

Is it a well established course that has been run many times? This would suggest the course is popular and successful.

How long the international program has been running:

International programs that have been running for a long time will be better developed, and therefore able to provide more support for international students.

The number of international students:

An international program with a large number of international students suggests that the program is popular internationally, plus will offer you with a good network of students who are in a similar situation to you.

Prominent alumni:

What work have past students gone on to do? Has the program produced many successful or prominent alumni?

Academic staff:

What qualifications do teaching staff have? How much experience do they have? (You may not find this on the Wikipedia site for all universities, but should be able to find it on the university sites.)

Quality of the website:

Has the university produced a well designed and informative website? The quality of the website may reflect the quality of the university.

Website information about the international department:

Does the university's website provide information on the international department? What support and facilities are available for international students?

Rankings:

Is the university ranked as one of the best in the country? Or even in the world? Has the course you are interested in been ranked?

Also look at the introductory summaries of the universities on Wikipedia. These should give you an idea of the reputation of the university. Wikipedia will also refer to popular academic programs within universities, and programs that have international recognition.

2.13 Entry levels

Think about

What level of study are you planning to study?

Do you have the necessary qualifications to study at this level?

In Section One, we looked at the different levels of study available at university. When choosing a course it is important you choose the right level of study for you. It is very unlikely you will be accepted in a course that is above your level. If you are accepted in a course that is too high for you, you will not understand the course and will not enjoy your time studying.

University entry requirements ensure students have the academic ability to study the courses.

When studying a Masters or PhD course the university will often state *work experience* as an entry requirement. This is because students are often expected to reflect on their work experience as part of the course. Students who study for a Masters without any relevant work experience often find they do not have much to contribute to the course.

Make sure you are prepared for the level of study you have chosen. It is better to take a bit longer to prepare, and really understand the course, than to apply before you are ready, and struggle throughout the course.

2.14 The Myanmar Study Abroad website

The Myanmar Study Abroad website is designed to help students in Myanmar who wish to study at university in other countries.

The website can be found at: <http://www.myanmarstudyabroad.org>.

The website contains information on recommended universities and courses, scholarship programs, equivalence and English exams, and the different levels of university study. It also contains information on the different subjects available for study and the career opportunities they can lead to.



Research Practice

Go to the website <http://www.myanmarstudyabroad.org>, and find the following information:

1. What are the different categories of scholarships?
2. Why is it beneficial to have work / volunteer experience?
3. What free services does the 'Student Support Service' provide?
4. What undergraduate majors are available if you are interested in studying law?
5. Which universities are recommended in the 'Distance Education' section?
6. How does the 'Thinking about your Finances' section suggest you can cut costs while at university?
7. How can 'international student advisors' help you?
8. What challenges may you face studying abroad?
9. Which university is recommended in Bangladesh?
10. What are the durations of foundation courses?