

Lesson plan: Languages

Languages

Studying a language at degree level can lead to a wide variety of different occupations.

If any students are considering taking a language at University this exercise is a good way of helping them to explore their options regarding where they might study and the careers that previous language graduates have entered into.

To start with click on the orange 'Explore by subject areas' tab in the middle of the home page to be taken to the degree section.

1. A-level

Choose French Studies from the list of degrees.

As soon as degree selection has been made a line graph will appear to the right of the list. Choosing the degree option French Studies will prompt a key to appear in the bottom right hand corner. Each degree is given a different shape and colour to mark its position on the line graph.

The line graph highlights the average lifetime earnings of each degree at age 30, 40, 50, 60, 70.

To get the exact average weekly pay for each age hover the mouse over each point on the graph.

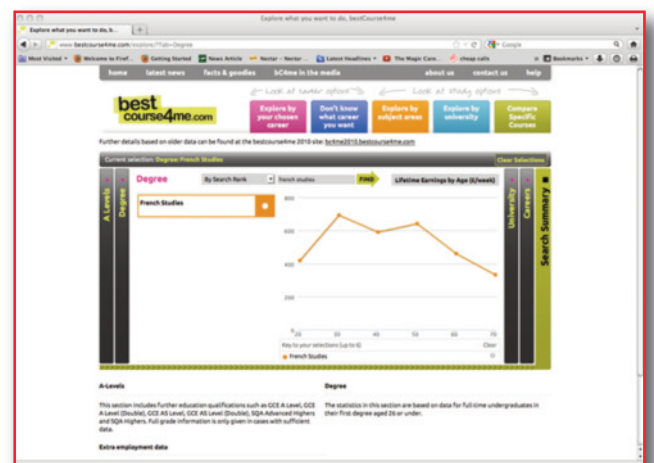
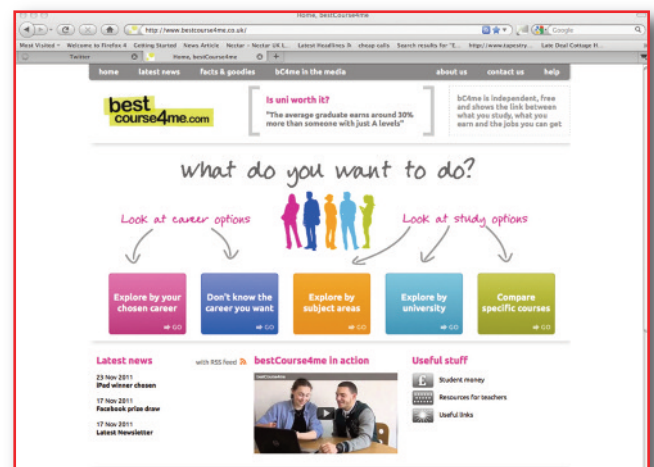
Example: Hover the mouse over the fourth orange point on the graph.

Q. Ask students to identify what this point on the graph represents.

A. Average weekly salary for French Language graduates aged 50 years old -£641 per week.

Once a degree selection has been made, the data relating to A Level subjects will automatically change.

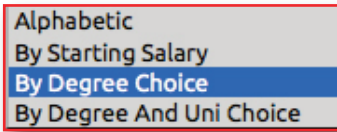
Click on the vertical **A-Level** tab to see how the data changes having made a degree selection.



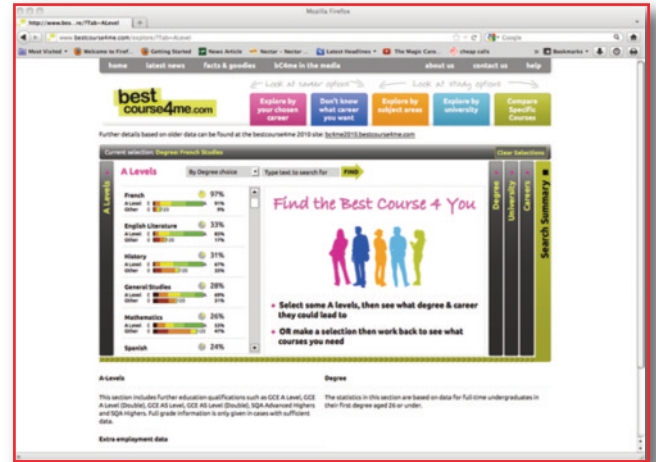
Once a degree selection has been made, the data relating to A Level subjects will automatically change.

Click on the vertical **A-Level** tab to see how the data changes having made a degree selection.

After clicking on the A-Level section make sure that the sort by criteria 'By Degree choice' has been selected from the drop down menu above the list of A-Levels.



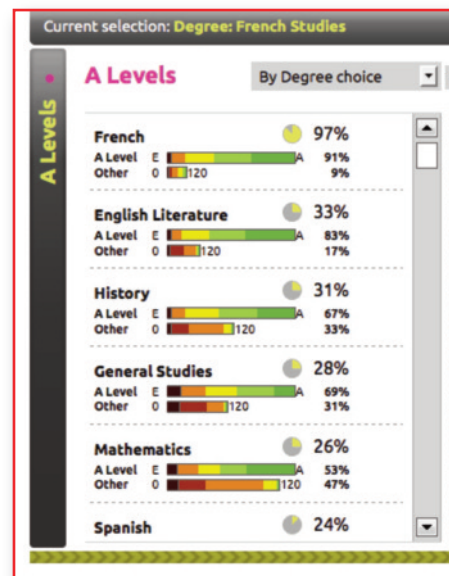
Example: With the degree course 'French Studies' selected from the list of degree options you will now be able to see a list of A-Levels taken by students who studied French Studies at University, in order of popularity.



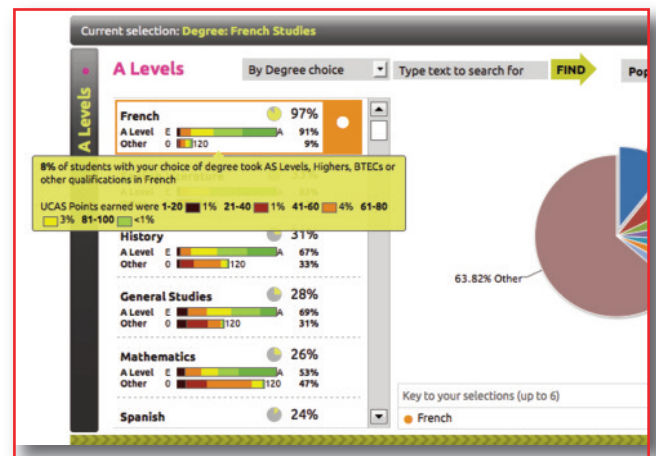
Q. Ask students to identify the three most common A-Levels taken by students who went on to read French Studies at University.
 A. The list will show that 97% of undergraduates who studied French Studies at University took French at A-Level, 33% had an A-Level in English-Literature and 31% took a History A-Level.

As well as listing all the A-Level subjects taken by students who studied **French Studies** at University, each subject listed also has a thermometer. This thermometer depicts the grades French Studies degree students achieved at A-Level for each subject.

Hover the mouse over each of the grade thermometer to reveal the colour key and show the exact percentages.



Q. Ask students to identify the percentage of people who studied French Studies at degree level and received a grade B and above in their English Literature A-Level.
 A. 68%



2. Degree

Click back on the degree section by clicking on the vertical Degree tab.

At this stage direct the students attention to the line graph that will be displayed on the right hand side of the page. This line graph displays data relating to the average life time earnings of graduates who studied the degrees that have been selected; in this case French Studies graduates.

Example: Hover the mouse over the third point of the graph.

Q. Ask students to identify what this point on the graph represents.

A. The point represents the average weekly pay for French Studies graduates aged 40 years old- £591. (Note as salaries of graduates tend to increase in to their fifties, this amount is less than the average weekly pay for French Studies graduates age 50 as seen earlier.)

Remember for future reference up to 6 degree selections can be made to compare different courses.

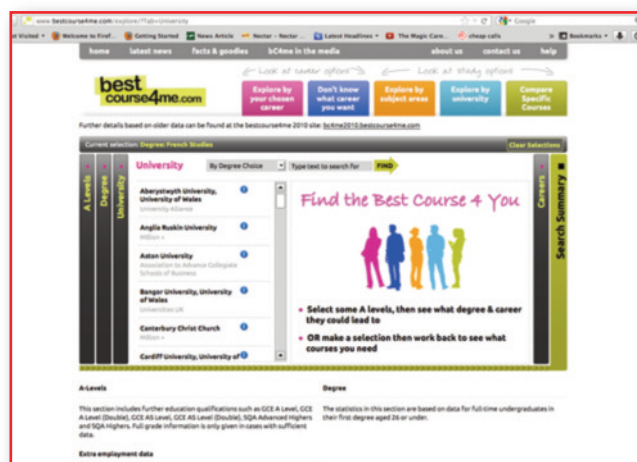
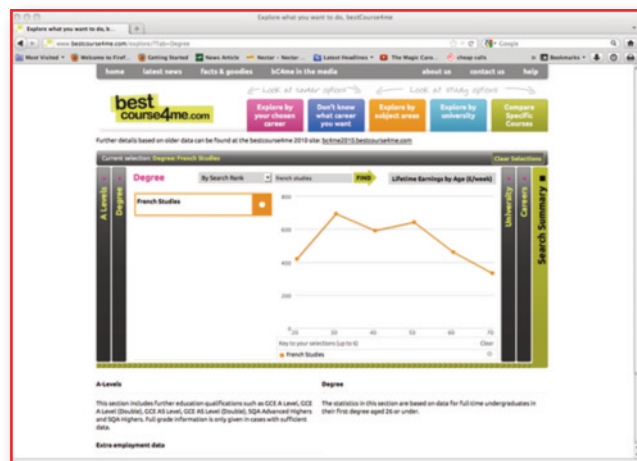
To deselect any of the choices either click on the grey arrow to the right of the selection in the key below the pie chart, or find the degree choice in the list and click on it.

3. University

Ask students to click on the next vertical tab labelled **University**. Moving to this section will prompt a list of Universities to appear on the left hand side. This is a list of all the Universities offering the degree courses selected. In this case a list will appear of all the Universities that offer French Studies as an undergraduate course.

- Students could be reminded to include a mix of local universities as well as institutions further a field so a comparison can be made between the different types of institutions.

- Along with taking locality into account students could also be encouraged to choose a range that includes perhaps a mix of different types of institutions for example a mix of Russell group, million +, 1994 group and University Alliance institutions (see the Glossary on the 'Help' section of our website for definitions.)



Ask students to choose three Universities, for example: University of Leicester, London Metropolitan University and University of Warwick.

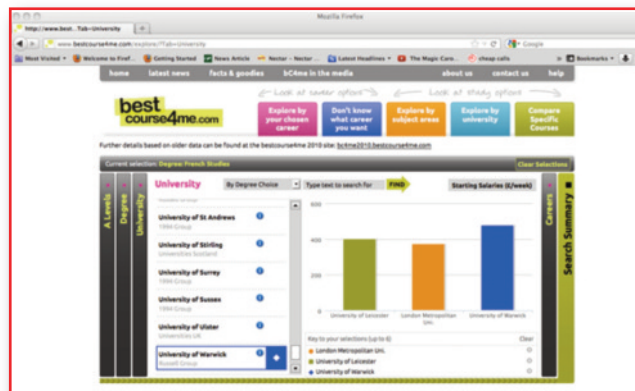
Remember that if students have a particular University in mind they can make a quick search by typing their choice into the search box and clicking the green 'find' arrow.

You can choose up to 6 selections in future investigations.

As soon as a selection is made a graph will appear to the right hand side of the list. This graph represents the average starting salaries for graduates from each of the universities selected.

Hover the mouse over each bar gives the exact figure for each.

Example: Hovering the mouse over the bar representing Warwick University.



Q. Ask students to identify the average starting salary for graduates of Warwick University.

A. Graduates from University of Warwick receive an average starting salary of £476 per week.

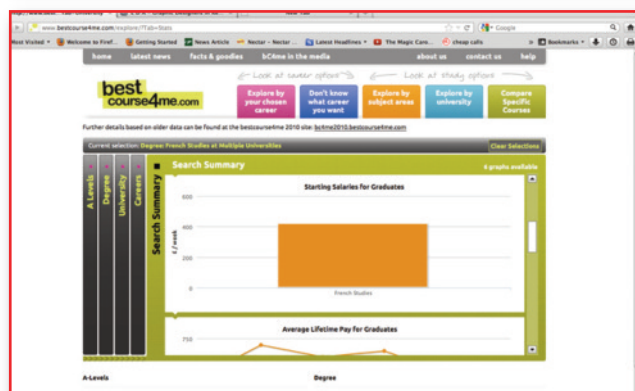
Discussion point: Ask students why they think differences in salaries might occur?

Note: differences in earnings will arise partly due to wages varying across the different regions of the UK and partly due to differences in the way that employers value degrees from different types of universities and degree courses.

Note: To see a graph depicting the average starting salary of graduates, taking into account both degree course and University go to the **Search Summary** section. This is useful if students wanted to know the average starting salary of for example French Studies graduates from University of Leicester.



To investigate this click on the **Search Summary** tab and scroll down until you find the graph titled 'starting salaries for graduates of French Language' and hover the mouse over the bar labelled 'London Metropolitan University'. You will see that the average starting salary of French Studies graduates from London Metropolitan University is £480 per week.

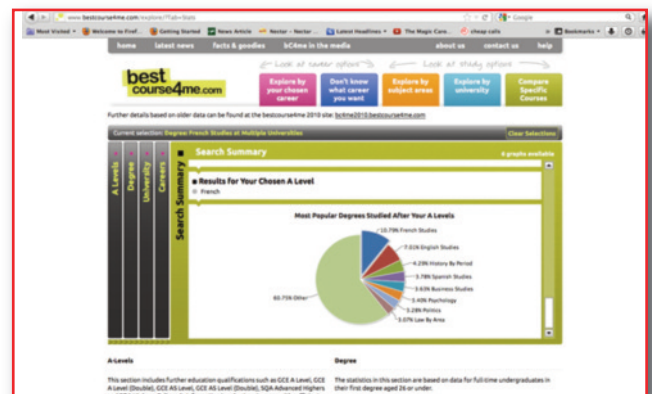
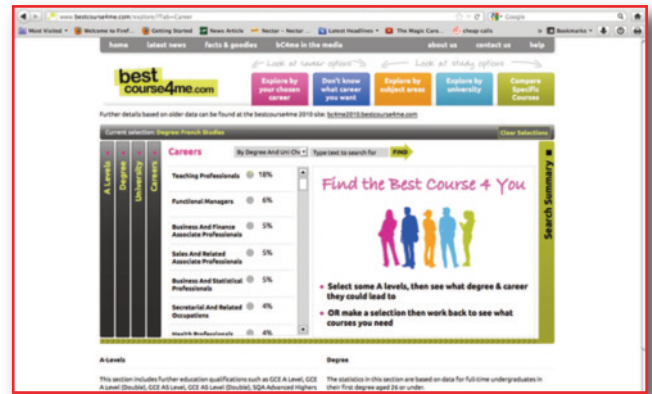


4. Careers

Once a degree course has been selected the next tab labelled **Careers** will give students the opportunity to investigate the kinds of careers that follow on from any degree choices that have been selected.

Having selected **French Studies** as a degree choice the careers sections will give a list of all the occupations people with a degree in French Studies have gone on to do.

Example: 18% of French Studies graduates become teaching professionals.



The final tab **Search Summary** gives a list of all the graphs that compare the data from the selections made, this is useful for students to compare a number of different variables clearly on one page.